

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th September 2019 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Chairman: Cllr Roger Hayward / Cllr Barry Buffery

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Roger Hayward, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr John Price, Cllr Peter Cuthbert, Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr Sue Turner and Cllr Tim Evans.

Welcome and Chairman's opening remarks.

Cllr Hayward welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our new councillor Tim Evans and wished him well in his new role. Cllr Hayward stated that he wished to clear up any confusion over an allegation made at the last meeting regarding what was said in a private telephone conversation with Mr Woodward. This conversation had been recorded and the transcript sent to Cllr Hayward. With regard to this Cllr Hayward attended a mutually agreed meeting to apologise unreservedly to Mr Woodward. As Mr Hodge was also present, he apologised to him also. Cllr Buffery accompanied Cllr Hayward as a witness. A condition of the apology was to dispel any doubt in the minds of those present at the last Parish Council meeting that Mr Woodward had made a false declaration. Cllr Hayward hoped that this had now been achieved and that a line could be drawn under the whole affair. Cllr Hayward hoped Council members will accept this and Mr Woodward could confirm his acceptance of the apology in the public participation session. Council confirmed their acceptance of the apology. Cllr Hayward expressed his distaste over the whole episode and that with regret, he gave his resignation with immediate effect and thanked fellow councillors, unitary councillors and the Clerk for their support during his time as Chairman. Cllr Hayward gave his written resignation notice to the Clerk and left the meeting.

Cllr Buffery introduced himself and stated that he would take the Chair until a new Chairman is elected. Cllr Buffery stated that he was sorry to hear of Cllr Hayward's resignation and wished him all the best, hoping he will attend parish council meetings in the future as a parishioner. Cllr Buffery informed everyone that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with Standing Orders and Public Participation and adhere to the Agenda. Councillors must direct their comments to the Chair. The Public will only be permitted to speak on Agenda items. Council will hear their comments and will formulate a response if one is required but not necessarily at this meeting.

116/01 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Cllr T Evans
Cllr T Evans signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

116/02 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Cllr Harold Deane – recovery from recent accident.

116/03 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Buffery declared an interest in Agenda Item 116/07 (b) – Payments (travel expenses) to SALC meeting.

116/04 Public Participation Session
There were ten members of public present. The Chairman asked if there were any points parishioners wished to raise relevant to the Agenda, anything else to be put in writing.
Mr Woodward read a statement in reference to recent matters concerning the Village Hall. Mr Woodward felt that the Village Hall Committee were subjected to unnecessary questions about the hall management at the last Parish Council meeting and felt it reprehensible that he was not told the matter would be in the Parish Council minutes. Mr Woodward stated the Village Hall is owned by an independent charity which the Trustees are obliged to run. The car park can be used on permission of the trustees and, since 2011, they can charge for use of the car park when the Hall is not being hired.
Mr Hodge read a statement regarding Agenda item No.7. He stated it was his legal right to challenge the accounts regarding the S.137 payments to the church. Mr Hodge explained he had written to the Clerk who confirmed Council was aware of the anomalies in legislation regarding S.137 payments but would continue with current procedures until advised otherwise. Mr Hodge felt that NALC has given advice on this matter and that the 1972 Act does not override the 1894 Act. The external auditor PKF stated that the practice of giving money for churchyard maintenance is definitely not unlawful. A legal challenge would be a waste of taxpayers' money. Mr Hodge urged Council to consider all these points next time the PCC applies for money.

116/05 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019 were taken as read.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

116/06 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Report

Highways - Cllr Deane has confirmed with our contractor and Lengthsman that ditching work will start in the next few weeks on Crumpsbrook Road and Stockhall Lane.

Development – The Clerk is working on arranging a meeting for the Council Chair and herself to meet with Shropshire Rural Housing Association possibly w/c 23rd September.

SALC – training and meeting dates

Councillor Training -Thursday 26th September at The Sambrook Centre, Telford. 10-4.

Fundamentals for Councillors – Thursday October 3rd at Lord Hill Hotel. 5-7.30pm.

AGM & 70th Celebration – Friday 15th November at Lord Hill Hotel.

BT Phone Boxes - BT have written to Shropshire Council to say that they intend to carry out a large-scale consultation about the potential removal of the service to approximately 135 of the payphones in the Shropshire area. Please look out for notices which are being posted in the kiosks involved.

ii) Community Speed Watch Report and Highways update - Cllr Buffery reported that three more sessions of Speed Watch have taken place in Doddington since 12th August. In one session nine vehicles were recorded as travelling between 46 and 51mph with one vehicle being untaxed. Mark Booth from the Safer Roads Partnership and the local SNT will be coming out to assess Hopton Wafers soon. This Thursday, Cllr Buffery is meeting Andrew Keyland regarding the proposed new bus shelter at Doddington and will also be requesting speed checks for all vehicles.

iii) SALC area committee meeting report - Cllr Buffery attended this meeting on Thursday 5th September. There were 20 councillors present. APT gave an interesting presentation on their services covering healthy spaces, heritage, ecology, planning, building design and affordable housing. Presentation materials were given to the Clerk to hold if anyone would like to read them. Unitary Cllr Butler's presentation will be covered later under item 116/10. SALC gave an update on Brexit preparations, their financial report and appointed substitute representatives to the Executive Committee. As time was running short full details will be sent to the Clerk to forward on.

116/07 Financial Matters

(a) The Chairman confirmed that the external auditor's response regarding S.137 payments had been detailed by Mr Hodge earlier and re-iterated that PKF stated there is no defined legal ruling against this. Noted.

(b) Council resolved to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Salary (September) - £340.89 (Cheque)

ii) HMRC – PAYE – (September) - £8.40 (Cheque)

iii) B Buffery – travel expenses - £13.50 (Cheque)

116/08 Planning Matters

(a) To consider new planning applications:

i) Reference: 19/03178/FUL (validated: 17/07/2019) RECONSULTATION

Address: Hopton View, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0HE

Proposal: Change of use of land to domestic curtilage and the erection of two storey part open fronted 3-bay garage block to include external staircase with attached storage outbuilding.

Applicant: Mr And Mrs K Yardley.

Outcome: The Clerk confirmed that the previous application had been taken down from the Planning Portal and that this was a resubmission to add the change of use of land. Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals subject to there being a condition that the building is not used or converted to a domestic dwelling. Council noted the proximity of our bus shelter at Foxwood which has suffered flooding in previous years from the application site and state it is very important that suitable drainage is installed to ensure the bus shelter and pavement is not flooded, for the safety of pedestrians.

(b) Planning Decisions – For information only

i) Reference: 18/05739/FUL (validated: 14/12/2018)

Address: Proposed Dwellings East Of, Doddington, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of 2no. dwellings; formation of access and installation of package treatment plant and temporary siting of caravan.

Decision: Grant Permission. The Chairman stated that we had objected as this went against all our policies but it has been passed by Shropshire Council.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

(c) To receive updates on outstanding planning matters.

There were no new updates on the outstanding planning applications except to note that Planning Reference: 18/03718/FUL for two detached dwellings and one garage on land adjacent to The Dingle has now been permitted.

116/09 Place Plan Review

- i) Place Plan priorities. Cllr Buffery read the relevant sections of the Place Plan (v.2) covering local highway improvements and the Earls Ditton Lane junction. Following the meeting this Thursday then we should be able to finalise the new bus shelter. The Place Plan is live and on-going and further items can be added. There were no other suggestions or recommendations.
- ii) Projects suitable for funding from CIL or Neighbourhood Fund. Cllr Bytheway stated that the footpaths need sorting as some are in a dreadful state. Cllr Turner felt that welcome entrances to the villages with flower beds would be beneficial. Cllr Buffery said signage and safety gates could be obtained with grant funding from West Mercia Police and if necessary, top up from CIL and Neighbourhood Fund.

116/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Butler stated the Place Plan will be going live on the website soon and certainly we should think about the additional CIL money we will be from the four new houses recently permitted. The Earls Ditton Lane issue could be helped with reactive traffic lights at the junction. This would be up to Highways to see if it would work. It would not be a priority for Shropshire Council but if we contributed to this both he and Cllr Shingleton would try and help negotiate with Highways. On 1st July there was a rolling total of 3,500 potholes. Since the new system of reporting and monitoring came in there is now only 700. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council is keen to have LJC style group meetings. There is no budget for these now but could perhaps be held every six months around the parishes. The cost of the Library in Cleobury will have to be devolved to the local community and it is not fair that Cleobury takes the total cost as many people from other parishes use the library, not only for books but also computers and business support. Cllr Shingleton and he may be asking all local parishes if they will help contribute to this. The Cleobury Men's Shed is progressing well, the building is up and there will be an invitation to the opening when it is complete. Thank you for your very kind donation; we may want more. Cllr Butler gave a brief summary of his presentation made at the SALC area meeting. As Cabinet member for Communities and Place Planning, he knows we have been firefighting and that we in the south get forgotten against Shrewsbury – Oswestry. A rural strategy would help and better, fairer funding from central government. The Rural Services Network is lobbying MPs and members in the House of Lords to fight for rural equality.

116/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Clayton expressed thanks to Mr Bargman for cleaning the bus shelters.
- ii) There were no new highway matters raised.

116/12 Future Agenda Items

Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Further discussion of projects for CIL and Neighbourhood Fund. The public are encouraged to let the Clerk know of ideas for projects.

116/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 2019 at 7pm Doddington Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked Council and the public for their participation and closed the meeting at 7.59pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 117/06) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Signed.....	B Buffery	Chairman	Date.....	14th October 2019
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