

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7.10pm.

Chairman: Cllr Barry Buffery

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Peter Cuthbert, Cllr Derek Bytheway and Cllr Tim Evans.

119/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members  
There were no apologies.

119/02 Declarations of Interest  
There were no declarations of interest.

119/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports  
Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler reported on the recent Community and Rural Strategy meeting where more than 70 people from councils and the voluntary sector met. Key issues identified were mental health and isolation. Cllr Butler stated that Shropshire Council need to save a further £20m next year to cover increasing adult social care and children's services costs. These services cost 46% of the Council's budget five years ago, next year it is projected to be 62% and Cllr Butler wants central Government to address this issue and pay for them. Increasing the Council Tax by 5% will not cover these services but also mental health and safeguarding all falls on local councils. There is a lack of joined up management with the NHS on these health matters. The Place Plan should now be live on Shropshire Council's website. Please report any changes to your Place Plan officers. There will likely be a parish boundary review in Shropshire after the 2021 election to address the issues where housing development has spread into neighbouring parishes who get the development money. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council has been asked to find £9K by the end of five years to support the Library. The money will be given to the Cleobury Country Centre and if it is not given it puts the staff at risk. The Centre provides business support as well as the Library and is used by outlying parishes too. Cleobury is minded to undertake a public consultation but will other parishes also do this and consider contributing perhaps £100 per year to support the Cleobury Country Centre and the Library? Cllr Butler suggested the Parish Council debate this on a future Agenda. Cleobury Men's Shed has been built with just the foul drainage, electrics and internal fitting to complete. Cllr Butler may write to the Parish Council for a further grant. The bus service tender window closed today. Cllr Butler is hopeful that Minsterley Motors will tender for it as they are a Shropshire company. The current service ends on 2<sup>nd</sup> January due to issues with maintenance and timetables. This is a major concern for those travelling to work or college. Cllr Buffery asked about the extension of the 20mph zone in Cleobury even though it is not enforced by Police. Cllr Butler recently found that Shropshire has not been involved in the governance of Community Speed Watch and felt this needs discussing with all partners as the issue is not just about the 20mph legislation but also levels of enforcement in 30mph areas. More police have been recruited and are much needed with the issues with thefts, dogs and drugs currently.

119/03 Public Participation Session  
There were two members of public present. No matters were raised.

119/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were taken as read and signed.

119/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Report

Casual Vacancy

Two people have expressed interest but no formal applications have been received to date.

Parish Plan

Paul Barrett has now analyzed and tabulated the data on all topics from the questionnaires. There are 54 pages of data from which a formal report can be made. The Clerk proposed a Working Group meeting with community volunteers to go through this and draft up results into an updated Parish Plan. Council agreed to invite Mr Barrett to the next meeting and discuss a way forward.

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## 119/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting (cont'd)

### SALC

The next SALC area committee meeting will be held at the Methodist Chapel, Craven Arms on 30th January. Cllr Buffery will attend.

### Community Speed Watch in Hopton Wafers

The Clerk has received application forms from two volunteers so far. Cllr Turner and Cllr Bytheway will also complete the forms. We ideally need six people to ensure a good rota basis for this so please encourage others to contact the Clerk for an application form.

### Hopton Wafers Village Hall

The Clerk has received a letter from the Secretary asking Council to consider a replacement Conservatory and Car Park retaining wall as CIL funded projects. Once these issues are addressed the Hall can be promoted and used to its full potential again. Council is mindful that other Halls have been replaced in recent years through external grants and fund-raising when they were in a poor state and that it would like to see fair use of CIL funds across the whole parish. The Clerk will enquire whether CIL Local Funds can be used to match fund grants from other external sources such as Lottery Funding. If CIL can be used, Council would need to see independent reports on the building's condition, various options for improvements as well as three written quotes.

- ii) Highways Maintenance report – Cllr Deane confirmed that the ditches along Crumpsbrook and Stockhall Lane will be attended to in the New Year.
- iii) Operational Improvements towards Zero Carbon Meeting Report – Cllr Buffery attended this event on 20<sup>th</sup> November and will compile a full report when the presentation notes have been sent out via SALC. There have been some interesting projects carried out regarding single-use plastics.

## 119/06 Financial Matters

- (a) Council noted the amendments and adopted the revised Financial Regulations.
- (b) Council reviewed the draft budget and precept proposals for 2020/21. Budget to be agreed at the January meeting once the household data has been received from Shropshire Council.
- (c) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
  - i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Salary (December) - £340.89 (Cheque)
  - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (December) - £8.40 (Cheque)

## 119/07 Planning Matters

### (a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 19/04971/FUL (validated: 12/11/2019)  
Address: Little Down, Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0ET  
Proposal: Extension and conversion of Barn/Fodder store to Holiday Let  
Applicant: Mr R J and Dr Hilary E Bentley  
Outcome: Council had NO OBJECTION to the proposals but would ask that a condition be set on the property that it cannot be used as a separate dwelling for permanent residential occupation.
- ii) Reference: 19/05038/FUL (validated: 18/11/2019)  
Address: St Johns Church, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire  
Proposal: Installation of replacement pedestrian path to include retaining walls and guard rails  
Applicant: Parochial Church Council of St John The Baptist (C/o Mrs C Gibb, 8 Whatsill, Spring Cottage, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0NX)  
Outcome: Council resolved to SUPPORT the proposals.

### (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 19/01629/LBC (validated: 11/04/2019)  
Address: Birches, Cleeton St Mary, Shropshire, DY14 0QR  
Proposal: Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling  
Decision: Refuse

### (c) To receive new updates on outstanding planning matters:

- i) 19/01378/FUL – Hopton View – garage and store - landscaping details submitted.
- ii) 19/04730/FUL – Woodlands Farm - conversion of outbuilding for ancillary use – new block plan with landscaping details submitted.
- iii) 19/01329/FUL - 2 new dwellings at Doddington – block plan with highway information submitted.

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119/09 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The drains down Hopton Bank are not taking the water and have not been cleaned out. The Clerk will chase this up again as a safety concern.
- ii) The contact at Royal Mail has asked for the post code of the preferred re-location of the Post Box in Doddington down Earls Ditton Lane. The Clerk will ask again for a site visit. Council members felt that the side of the main road near the bus shelter would be more suitable for passing traffic but also be easier for vehicles to pull in off the main road. Earls Ditton Lane was originally chosen as more residents live in that area.
- iii) Cllr Buffery asked if there was any progress with getting a definitive answer from Planning regarding the bus shelter. As there has been no response, the Clerk was asked to escalate this through our unitary councillors. Cllr Clayton stated we should take this to the press if there is still no answer.
- iv) Cllr Evans has obtained estimates for Vehicle Activated Signs for Doddington and Hopton Wafers villages. Mains powered ones can cost £1,400 and solar powered ones are around £2,000. Council felt that two signs for each village would be required. The Clerk will ask if CIL Local Funds can be used and Cllr Buffery will ask the Police and Crime Commissioner's office for support as a road safety project. If we can get funding for these signs, we will need permission from Highways to install them. Cllr Evans is happy to help install the signs and will also ask Midland Quarry Products for support with materials for the Community Speed Watch hard-standing area in Hopton Wafers.

119/10 Future Agenda Items

No additional items were requested.

119/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a fantastic Christmas and New Year and closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 120/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

<b>B Buffery</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
Signed.....Chairman	Date.....