

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th March 2021 using the Zoom on-line facility commencing at 7pm.

Present: Chairman Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Peter Cuthbert, Cllr Linda Clayton and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to please mute their audio and raise their hand if they wished to speak during the meeting. The Chairman will then invite them to unmute their audio to speak.

133/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr John Price and Cllr Harold Deane – internet issues.

133/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

133/03 Public Participation Session

There was one member of public present. No matters were raised.

133/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 were taken as read and will be signed as soon as practicable.

133/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors’ Reports

i) Clerk/Lengthsman Report

Proposed development near Doddington Village Hall

Shropshire Rural Housing Association has been in touch to say that a planning application will be out soon and offered to meet with the Chair and Clerk to discuss the proposals. At this point Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton declared an interest as she is a member of SRHA. The Clerk and Chair are preparing some questions to raise with SRHA and will report back to Council after the meeting.

Litter Picking in Hopton Wafers

Following the efforts of some parishioners with litter picking on the roads there has been a request for the Parish Council to supply some equipment. Cllr Humpage confirmed there is an active community group who have done a fantastic job on the roads and lanes and they only need some strong pickers and bags. Cllr Butler said Shropshire Council Cabinet debated this issue today and may be able to provide such equipment and will let the Clerk know if there will be a central supply to communities.

Proposed Bus Shelter at Doddington

The drawings for the bus shelter have been delayed due to the architect being ill and a family bereavement.

Post Box at Doddington

The Chairman asked what the Council should do next due to there being no response to our letter sent to the General Manager at the Royal Mail Sorting Office, Wolverhampton in January regarding proposals to move the Post Box from No.15 Doddington nearer to Earls Ditton Lane. Cllr Butler said Royal Mail may just remove the box if we continue to press them as there is another post box nearby at Hopton Bank. Council agreed for the Clerk to write to Philip Dunne MP and raise our concerns.

BT Phone Box in Hopton Wafers

There has been no update from Shropshire Council’s Historic Environment Team since our request to adopt the phone box in Hopton Wafers. They were going to action our request following last autumn’s consultation on phone boxes but there has been no progress.

ii) Parish Plan Update

Cllr Humpage reported on the draft Plan review. The draft Plan had been sent to all members to read through and there have been a few minor comments only. Some copies of the draft Plan were printed locally and the quality is fine although they will need to be A4 size for the adopted Plan. Some copies of the final adopted Plan will be printed and supplied upon request but it is proposed to encourage people to download it from the website or request an electronic version by email.

133/06 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk’s Wages (March) - £336.60 (Cheque)

ii) HMRC – PAYE – (March) - £37.80 (Cheque)

The cheques will be signed as soon as practicable.

Initials...**BB**....

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

133/07 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Application

- i) Reference: 21/00730/FUL (validated: 12/02/2021)
Address: Jenton, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0QP
Proposal: Erection of family room and porch
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Nigel And Paula Porter
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

(b) Planning Appeal Decision (for information only):

- i) Reference: 19/01742/FUL
Address: 14 Crumpsbrook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0EP
Proposal: Erection of one dwelling.
Decision: Appeal dismissed.

133/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Madge Shingleton had sent written reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be attached to these Minutes. There were no questions for Cllr Shingleton. Cllr Butler highlighted a meeting being arranged by SALC for all potential town and parish council candidates this Friday at 6.30pm. Cllr Buffery and Cllr Humpage attended the Elections Training on 3rd March. It was very interesting and encouraged parishes to promote the elections to encourage people to stand for election. It is important to have a Council who represent the demographic structure of the parish. Cllr Butler said that on-line technology does encourage people who are unable to attend meetings in person and hybrid meetings may be more common-place going forward. The boundary review is an opportunity for everyone to consider whether the current parish boundaries are appropriate and encourage the younger generations to get involved with the future of their communities. The Election purdah period starts on 15th March.

133/09 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting should be held by 1st June and current legislation only allows meetings to be held remotely until 7th May. Unless legislation is extended all meetings should be in person from that date. Due to the uncertainty regarding holding meetings in the Village Halls again Council agreed to defer this matter until the April meeting in anticipation of further guidance from central Government and NALC.

133/10 Parish Matters/Highways

Cllr Turner reported the state of the roads was disgraceful and asked what was happening with highway maintenance. Issues are being reported but little action is taken and only a few temporary repairs are being carried out. Cllr Butler stated that whilst Shropshire Council does receive money from central Government it is often for A and B roads. One issue affecting the roads is the increasing numbers of large agricultural equipment and land being drained with water getting onto the roads. Shropshire Council is lobbying for funding for unclassified roads.

Cllr Turner asked what can be done to improve broadband and mobile phone signal in this area and can Cllr Butler lobby Government for more funding for the rural areas? Cllr Butler suggested the Clerk contacts Ben Walker at Connecting Shropshire for an update as groups of residents suffering in one area could get funding for improved broadband. Cllr Butler said that once the Place Plan officers have finished with Covid grants they will be free to get back to the Place Plan. The Parish Council needs to ensure that broadband and mobile services are noted as infrastructure issues on it.

133/11 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Humpage asked to have the Parish Plan considered for approval on the April Agenda. Cllr Turner felt it was well presented and put together with good photographs. Copies will be sent to the Unitary Councillors. Cllr Humpage stated that once the Plan is adopted, Council must work through the actions and make plans to follow these through.

133/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 12th April 2021**, 7pm using the Zoom on-line facility. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 134/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

B Buffery

12th April 2021

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....