

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th April 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, Cllr Tim Evans 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.

The Chairman spoke about the incredibly sad news of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and offered our condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family. The Chairman then asked everyone to stand and observe one minute silence.

134/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Cllr Derek Bytheway and Cllr Harold Deane – internet issues.

134/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

134/03 Public Participation Session
There were seven members of public present. Mr D Fellows commented on the Planning Appeal (Agenda Item 134/08 (c)) and thanked Council for allowing him to speak. Mr Fellows expressed concern that contact details of one objector have not been disclosed by Shropshire Council. The Planning Hearing had been arranged due to local concerns and public appeal and Mr Fellows hoped Council would support the appeal and welcomed our involvement at the Appeal Hearing.

134/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th March 2021
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th March 2021 were taken as read and will be signed as soon as practicable.

134/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors' Reports

i) Clerk/Lengthsman Report

Proposed Bus Shelter at Doddington

The Clerk has chased the architect for the required drawings and has been assured they will be ready this week.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch can now restart. The Lengthsman, Mr Bargman will work with a local contractor to get the standing area in Hopton Wafers finished as soon as possible now Covid restrictions are easing.

Cattle Grids - Catherton Common

Since the last meeting the Clerk was asked for three cattle grids on Catherton Common to be cleaned out and for the fence at Riddings Gate to be repaired. The grids have been cleaned out and repairs will be carried out soon. The Clerk has since been notified that the Hillhouses cattle grid has been inspected and is unsafe. It will need to be replaced and the road was closed with immediate effect. The Clerk notified Farlow's Clerk and Commoners Association Chair. Cllr Shineton commented that she had been notified earlier this evening that someone has taken the barriers down at the cattle grid and she would be contacting Shropshire Council about safety concerns of such action.

BT Phone Box in Hopton Wafers

After chasing the Historic Environment Team and also directly contacting BT we have been informed that the Phone Kiosk was adopted by Community Heartbeat Trust some years ago. They are willing to pass it onto us for £25 + VAT and the community can use it as per BT's terms and conditions for a community facility. Council agreed to go ahead with the adoption and community volunteers can start tidying up the phone kiosk in the meantime. The BT Phone Kiosks at Doddington and Crumpsbrook are once again earmarked for disconnection and the community can also request that they are saved.

Council meetings after 7th May

The Clerk reminded Council that Government legislation does not allow Council to meet virtually after 7th May and future meetings must be held in person.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

134/06 Financial Matters

Council approved the purchase of Litter-Picking equipment for community use up to £250.00. The equipment should last many years with the refuse bags being the only disposable items. The Clerk will purchase this equipment immediately as it is urgently needed for our community volunteers. Additional equipment may be available through Shropshire Council which the Clerk is looking into.

134/07 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (April) - £336.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (April) - £37.80 (Cheque)
- iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Admin Expenses - £151.07 (Cheque)
- iv) SALC – Elections Training - £60.00 (Cheque)

The cheques will be signed as soon as practicable.

134/08 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 21/01069/FUL (validated: 17/03/2021)
Address: Glasshouse Cottage, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0QH
Proposal: Erection of detached self-contained residential annexe, ancillary to main house
Applicant: Mr M Burbridge (Glass House Cottage, Hopton Bank, DY14 0QH)
Outcome: Council felt unable to comment on the application at this time due to a lack of drawings showing dimensions, elevations and materials.
 - ii) Reference: 21/01177/FUL (validated: 08/03/2021)
Address: Cherry Tree Cottage, Doddington, Shropshire, DY14 0QE
Proposal: Erection of single storey log cabin for ancillary use to main dwelling
Applicant: Mr Reg Chapman (The Ragged Edge, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8D)
Outcome: Council felt they could not support this application having concerns with the size of the cabin, queries whether it is in-keeping with the local environment and issues with the site location being very remote having poor accessibility. Council also queried the home care requirements quoted in the application yet the applicant would be further away from the amenities and services of Cleobury. Concerns were also raised that the cabin could become another market house.
 - iii) Reference: 21/01174/FUL (validated: 22/03/2021)
Address: Pot House Farm, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HN
Proposal: Erection of a workshop with combined tack / feed room and wash room
Applicant: Mr David Seckerson (Pot House Farm, Hopton Bank, DY14 0HN)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
 - iv) Reference: 21/01185/FUL (validated: 23/03/2021)
Address: The Nunnery, Stockhall Lane, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0EH
Proposal: Erection of machinery store
Applicant: Mr A Parberry
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
 - v) Reference: 21/01364/FUL (validated: 16/03/2021)
Address: Site Of 24, Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of a general purpose steel portal framed agricultural building
Applicant: Mr N Broome (The Old School House, Hopton Bank, DY14 0ND, UK)
Outcome: Council felt they could not support this application. Concerns remain from the previous application regarding the size of the proposed building, not being proportionate to a site on open Common land.
- (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
- i) Reference: 21/00519/HHE (validated: 29/01/2021)
Address: Tylers Hill, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0NR
Proposal: Erection of a single storey kitchen extension to the rear of a detached property dimensions 5.0 meters beyond rear wall, 3.70 meters maximum height, 3.70 meters high to eaves.
Decision: Refused.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

- ii) Reference: 20/04983/FUL (validated: 08/12/2020)
Address: The Old Coach House, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0ND
Proposal: Conversion of redundant stable block to ancillary domestic accommodation.
Decision: Grant Permission

- iii) Reference: 21/00258/FUL (validated: 27/01/2021)
Address: 4 Doddington, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NR
Proposal: Erection of a detached garage with a storage area in loft space
Decision: Grant Permission

- (c) Planning Appeal
 - i) Appeal Reference: 21/02903/REF
Address: Proposed Glamping Site to the north of Hopton Wafers, Shropshire.
Description of development: Change of use of land including existing access route and pathways to provide a six pitch seasonal use glamping site; existing hardstanding to provide parking; retention of temporary toilet/washing facilities and septic tank; provision of a reed bed.
Appellant's name: Mr Christopher Woodward.
Outcome: Council noted that concerns were expressed on the original application regarding site management and impact on the woodland environment. However, Council expressed no objections to the second application. Council agreed to support the Appeal for the Glamping site to go ahead.

- (d) Planning Committee Notification – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
 - i) Reference: 19/01329/FUL - Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of Doddington.
Proposal: Erection of 2no. detached dwellings.
The Clerk confirmed that she has written to the Committee Clerk to reiterate the Parish Council's strong objections to the proposed development. The Planning Committee meeting is on Tuesday 13th April. It is an on-line meeting and one can listen in to the proceedings but not participate.

134/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler had not sent a report and did not attend the meeting due to the election purdah.

Unitary Cllr Madge Shinton had sent a written report which had been forwarded by email prior to the meeting and will be attached to these Minutes. Cllr Humpage commented on the on-going saga of pot hole reporting having reported serious concerns following numerous vehicle incidents on Hopton Bank only to be told it was not urgent. Weeks later the marker paint remains around the holes but they have still not been filled. Vehicles are often driven across the central white lines to avoid the pot holes putting themselves and others at risk. Work has been carried out on the minor Caynham Road but not on the A4117 main road. Cllr Shinton confirmed that there have been enormous difficulties with Kier and their contract is being renegotiated with amended KPIs. Mark Barrow, Chief Executive of Shropshire Council has stated that Kier will undertake all the major highway work and Shropshire Council will now undertake all the smaller jobs ie pot holes. Everyone is urged to continue reporting issues and keep the pressure on. Cllr Shinton stated that she had also objected to the proposal for two additional houses in Doddington (Agenda Item 134/08 (d)) as she feels that it is back-yard development and has raised concerns about the incremental impact on the Earls Ditton Lane junction with the A4117. She is a member of the Planning Committee and cannot speak at the meeting as she has raised this objection. As this is the last meeting before the Election and Cllr Shinton is retiring, she thanked the Parish Council for their courtesy in inviting her to all the meetings regardless of differences in opinions at times. Cllr Buffery felt it was a great pity she is not standing again but understands and hopes she enjoys her retirement. Cllr Buffery appreciates what she has done over the years, attending our meetings and being open and honest even with some disagreements but is sorry to see her go and thanked her for her service over the years.

134/10 Annual Parish Meeting

Further to the previous meeting Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting during the last week of May. The Clerk will seek clarification regarding legislation not allowing for virtual meetings after 7th May and indoor gatherings are not permitted before 17th May. A date will then be set and the Clerk will let Council know as it will be too late to agree this at the May Council meeting. The Parish Council need assurances that, if the Village Halls are open again, they are Covid safe as Council does not want to put anyone at risk. Hybrid meetings would help but the Halls do not have broadband and mobile signal is not strong enough to host hybrid meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting format will be the same as the last meeting in 2019.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

134/11 Parish Plan

The Chairman felt the team had done an excellent job with the Parish Plan. Various people had been involved from inception to completion and he thanked everyone, especially Paul Barratt who had been involved from the start. Cllr Buffery proposed the adoption of the Community Led Parish Plan 2021, seconded by Cllr Humpage and resolved by Council.

134/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Clayton has had several complaints about the bridleway between No.7 and No.10 Doddington up to the common being blocked and the way marker signs have gone. Cllr Clayton will confirm the path number to the Clerk who will report this issue to the Access Team.
- ii) No further highway matters were raised.
- iii) Council discussed the request from Cllr Deane to create bus bays on the A4117 between Ashcroft and Hopton Wafers Village Hall grounds. Government funding is available to bid for to improve public transport infrastructure. The landowner of the verge on the south side of the road is willing to donate the land for a bus bay. Permission would need to be sought from the landowner on the north side of the road. Whilst Council were not opposed to the idea, they felt that having a more regular, reliable bus service is more important and that a survey on the usage of the bus service at this location should be carried out first. Cllr Turner will undertake the survey and bring back the results to a future meeting where Council can consider the findings. If Council then support the proposals, Shropshire Council Highways and Public Transport team as well as the bus company would then need to be consulted.

134/13 Future Agenda Items

There were no further items raised but Cllr Humpage expressed concerns that the Government guidance is very ambiguous regarding our meetings in the next few months.

The Chairman, Cllr Buffery stated, on behalf of the Council, that he was sorry that Cllr Peter Cuthbert and Cllr John Price were not applying for reelection and thanked them for their input and service to the parish over the years. Cllr Cuthbert thanked the Chairman and said he had been on the Council for a long time and has always been impressed with the Parish Council and thanked the team we have now.

134/14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is due to be held on **Monday 10th May 2021**, at 7pm. The venue will be confirmed due to on-going changes in legislation following the easing of Covid restrictions. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and stated that he looked forward to welcoming everyone especially our new members after the Election. Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 135/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

B Buffery

10th May 2021

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....