

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th July 2021 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Tim Evans, Cllr Paul Blakeway and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

The Chairman, Cllr Barry Buffery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

138/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – another meeting.

138/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

138/03 Public Participation Session
There were four members of public present. Council temporarily suspended Standing Orders as a question not related to the Agenda was raised. Mrs Wood informed Council of a public site notice which had been found in the village regarding an application for a licence on behalf of Audio Farm to hold an event for five days from 2nd – 7th September. The times were concerning as the proposals are to finish at 2am on Thursday, Sunday and Monday evening and 3am on Friday and Saturday with 24 hours opening times too. Cllr Humpage had been made aware of this and posted a link on Facebook to the planning portal. The Parish Council has not been notified. There were mixed feelings on the event as these festivals are very popular and well organised but there were concerns about traffic management and late-night noise which could affect local residents. Concerns were also raised about the Glamping site which has been refused planning permission. There appears to be a lack of enforcement action as the site is in regular use. Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler said that enforcement could be requested by anyone but the applicant has the right to offer some camping but also follow the legal process and apply for planning permission to put things right. The Chairman commented that there has been a lack of enforcement action generally and people have circumnavigated the planning process by building first and only when Enforcement get involved, apply for planning and get permission afterwards.

138/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th June 2021
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th June 2021 were taken as read and signed.

138/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors' Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Proposed Bus Shelters

The Clerk has requested more detailed location drawings for the proposed shelter at Doddington and asked the architect to contact Midland Quarry Products (MQP) directly to ensure the drawings meet their requirements. Cllr Bytheway stated the land definitely belongs to MQP and this process is over the top. A resident has asked if there could be a bus shelter installed at Crumpsbrook – Cllr Deane will pop over and assess this request.

Website

The Clerk and Cllr Humpage are meeting Mr Bargman for a training/review of website on Wednesday. Councillors who do not have a profile on the website are encouraged to send something to the Clerk or Cllr Humpage as soon as possible together with contact details.

Policing Priorities

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team have just requested our three main policing concerns. Council asked the Clerk to report the following items in order of priority:

1. Speeding along main road.
2. Fly-tipping and littering.
3. Lack of visible police presence.

The Clerk will also invite the new PC to a future meeting to give a report.

138/06 To review Council Policies

Council RESOLVED to approve the Clerk's proposal to amend the review dates for all Council policies onto a four-year cycle except Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which will continue to be reviewed annually, subject to any legislative changes which will override this frequency. All policies will now be updated on the website and a Social Media Policy will be drafted for approval at the August Council meeting.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

138/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council to review Bank Mandate at the next meeting.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.

138/08 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (July) - £336.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (June) - £37.80 (Cheque)
- iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Quarterly admin expenses - £159.74 (Cheque).

138/09 Planning Matters

(a) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 21/01615/FUL (validated: 19/04/2021)
Address: Former Beauty Salon, The Birches, Cleeton St Mary, DY14 0QT
Proposal: Change of use of former beauty salon to a residential annexe
Decision: Grant Permission.

138/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris had sent reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Butler hopes the Local Plan Review is approved by Shropshire Council this Thursday as otherwise the five-year housing land supply will not be met. There are concerns around the number of houses for Bridgnorth though. Shropshire Council plan to pump more money into highways. £120m is needed to bring them up to standard but it will take time to get people and materials in place. Surface dressing can only take place in the summer months so there will only be patching work on the highways this year. More money will also be put into drainage and ditches. The proposal for a third wheelie bin, for recycling rather than using the tubs, will also go before Council this week. If approved, the programme should start to be rolled out before Christmas as leases expire on the current vehicles. It will not be compulsory to change to a new wheelie bin though. The capital programme of works will have to be reviewed due to these priorities and some 'vanity' projects such as swimming pools will be delayed. If Hopton Wafers Parish Council would like to support the Cleobury Youth Partnership in any way please let Unitary Cllr Simon Harris know as he hopes to get the group running again. Cllr Buffery asked about the mix of political parties at Shirehall. Cllr Butler stated there are 48 Conservative councillors, 14 Liberal Democrats and the remainder being a mix of Labour/Green/Independents. Cllr Clayton asked if the cats' eyes will be replaced on the A4117. Cllr Butler said they should be and that he is keen to work to reduce speeding along Clee Hill Common. He is aware that we have asked for a reduced speed limit from Clee Hill to Hopton Wafers village and encouraged us to inform the police about this priority too.

138/11 Parish Plan

Cllr Humpage has been through the recently adopted Plan and there are a variety of Actions which are on-going but some are marked for completion in 3-6months. Cllr Humpage explained that we need to ensure that all actions are carried out in a timely manner so he will prepare a list for the Clerk to distribute prior to the next meeting where Council will allocate the most urgent ones. The Clerk will order another 50 copies and ask the Hopton Crown and the three churches if they would be willing to have some copies for collection. The Parish Plan is on the website and Cllr Humpage will put a link on Facebook to the website. The Clerk will prepare an article for the Clarion to promote the newly adopted Plan.

138/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Buffery asked Council to consider the Audio Farm licencing issue raised in the public session. Council agreed that the Clerk should ask for a time limit on the music to end at midnight each night and that they ensure traffic controls are in place, preferably a one-way system through the village.
- ii) Cllr Deane informed the meeting that a parishioner had raised a proposal regarding the village halls. The resident had stated that the three village halls in the parish are underused and if Doddington and Cleeton Village Hall were dispensed with the money could be invested into Hopton Wafers Village Hall. Council noted all village halls are underused at present due to the pandemic but previously Doddington, in particular, has been very successful and well used. Cleeton Village Hall may be in our parish but is for the residents of Cleeton St Mary primarily. The parish is fragmented and having three halls enables easier access to events. It was agreed that the usage of the Halls needs to improve – it is noted as such in the Parish Plan. The Halls are for the benefit of the whole community and whilst not the business of the Parish Council we are keen to help support them all.

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

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138/12 Parish Matters/Highways (cont'd)

- iii) Council is pleased to note that work has started on the cattle grid at Hillhouses.
- iv) Council noted that everyone is encouraged to use the 'Fix My Street' app to report highway issues.

138/13 Future Agenda Items

Consider holding an 'Annual Parish Meeting' to bring community organizations together.
Review Actions required from the Community Led Parish Plan.
Cllr Clayton will raise the matter of the two proposed bus shelters at the next Commoners Association meeting and report back to the Parish Council in August.

The Chairman asked how councillors felt about wearing masks following the lifting of restrictions on Monday 19th July, if Government guidance does not require masks, case numbers are low and the room is well ventilated? Council members were all happy to continue wearing masks but review this matter on a monthly basis and advise members of the public attending our meetings accordingly.

138/14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th August 2021, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.17pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 139/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Signed..... B BufferyChairman Date..... 9th August 2021