

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

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

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

140/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

140/02 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Clayton declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 140/08 (a) (ii) Planning Application for Dantra House.

140/03 Public Participation Session

There was four members of public present.

The Chairman asked Council to suspend Standing Orders as items to be raised were not specific to this Agenda. This was agreed.

The Chairman proposed that following the Public Participation Session the Unitary Councillor item was brought forward as Cllr Harris had another meeting to attend this evening. This was agreed.

The Chairman read an email from the applicant of the Planning Application for Dantra House which states that the proposed extension is a Garden Room and Terrace to protect themselves from being overlooked by the proposed development over the road should it go ahead.

Mr Hodge made comment on the Parish Council's July Minutes where the under use of the village halls was mentioned and he wished to correct any mis-representations regarding the Trustees. The Hall was used 38 times in 2019, nine times in 2020 and so far, has 23 bookings for 2021. The Trustees are not required to run events just provide the Hall facilities. There are only three Trustees but please ask if there are any questions. Repairs and redecorating are on-going utilising Covid grants. Up to £25,000 is required to fix the conservatory roof and the play equipment. They have no reserves and need £1,500 per year just to cover their costs. They are putting on a Max Keen Comedy Event on Saturday 27th November and asked for community support.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions to Mr Woodward or if he would like to speak regarding recent licencing matters. The Parish Council is not a statutory consultee but were happy with the amended times for the Audio Farm event. Mr Woodward stated he did not want to upset residents but bring fun and employment to the community. There had been some criticisms but they only had three months to prepare and there will be improvements for the next event. They have appointed someone to cover PR and are monitored by Shropshire Council. If anyone has any concerns or questions then please ask him.

140/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Harris said he felt it important to share his view on the situation with Afghan refugees in his report. Shropshire Council is looking for quality accommodation for up to 11 Afghan families in Shropshire. Cllr Harris encouraged everyone to get vaccinated as most Covid patients in hospital are unvaccinated. Save Our Shropshire are running a Climate Change Course to explain carbon terminology. Cleobury Youth Partnership met this morning after 18 months of inactivity and agreed to continue their work in supporting youth activities. The Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, Steve Charmley visited the division recently to look at Highways with Cllr Harris and Cllr Butler. The proposed Ambulance Station closures will be discussed by Full Council on 23rd September. Shropshire Council are keen to engage with rural communities and have a mobile contact centre going around the county; one stop will be at Ludlow Library. Council raised concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Ambulance Stations and asked Cllr Harris to represent these concerns to Shropshire Council at their meeting next week. Local Village Halls could be available for ambulance staff and would reduce the wait time in rural areas. Cllr Buffery asked Cllr Harris to chase up the reinstatement of the cats eyes and white lines on the A4117. This is a high priority as we come into winter due to poor visibility from fog and low levels of daylight.

140/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th August 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th August 2021 were taken as read and signed.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

140/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors’ Reports

i) Clerk’s Report

Bus Shelters

Proposed bus shelter at Doddington - the Clerk has chased the architect for the detailed location drawings and for him to liaise with Midland Quarry Head Office. Other sites in Doddington are being looked at in the meantime ie opposite the Village Hall or near the entrance to No’s 6-10 Doddington. Proposed bus shelter at Crumpsbrook - there will be a site meeting with Shropshire Wildlife Trust on Wednesday 15th September at 12.30pm to agree the location and look at the plans.

Environmental Maintenance

Mr Bargman has strimmed round the Hopton Wafers Community Speed Watch area and Phone Box. He has also checked and improved the bottom hinge on the big gate at Doddington Cattle Grid, repaired the rails, cut back the hedge round the pedestrian gates either side of the cattle grid and removed the litter. He has also cleaned out drains at Woodhouse, Stockhall and Catherton Lanes. The Clerk had reported the hedge which has overgrown the pavement near Doddington Church and also asked for the cattle grid to be cleaned out to Shropshire Council.

There have been some concerns regarding people having barbeques on Catherton Common. If anyone feels there are any dangerous or illegal activities then please phone the police on 101. Mr Bargman will ask Shropshire Wildlife Trust to put back the bollards to stop people driving onto the concrete pad which has been used for barbeques in past.

Outstanding Highways Concerns

Cllr Harris has been helping the Clerk chase highways regarding the A4117 road survey on Hopton Bank near the Shote and the Feasibility Study using CIL Local funds. Some information on who does what with regards to Highways has been received but it is not overly clear.

Parish Plan

Copies of the Parish Plan are available at Hopton Wafers and Doddington churches, Cleobury Library and Hopton Bank Garage. There has been no response from the Hopton Crown to have some copies – Cllr Cook will follow this up. Mrs Gibb (Doddington Church) asked about the parking concerns, heritage / community support and signage which were raised in the Parish Plan. The Clerk has been chasing our Unitary Councillors for an update on the Highways Feasibility Study and asked Mrs Gibb to put together some proposals for the Parish Council to consider.

Policing

Since sending our top three policing concerns to PC Mellor the Clerk has invited the local officers to attend any of our meetings to speak about Neighbourhood Watch, informed them of our speeding concerns and that we support a reduction of the speed limit on the A4117 and both Commons. The application for PCC funding towards Vehicle Activated Signs has been submitted with quotes. The Clerk has arranged Speed Watch training for the volunteers on Friday 8th October at 11am in Hopton Wafers.

Litter Picking Equipment

The litter picking equipment from Shropshire Council finally arrived at the end of August.

- ii) Cllr Buffery attended the SALC Area Committee meeting on Monday 6th September. In addition to the SALC updates there was a talk on County Lines Exploitation and a resolution to continue meeting on Zoom and purchase an annual subscription. The Minutes will be circulated when they are received.

140/06 Financial Matters

- i) The updated Bank Mandate was signed by the relevant parties.
- ii) Council briefly reviewed the three quotations for the proposed Vehicle Activated Signs which the Clerk had obtained to be submitted with the grant application to the Police & Crime Commissioner. It was agreed to request a site meeting with the Traffic Engineer to obtain professional advice on siting the signs and consider how many signs are required.
- iii) Council reviewed two designs for the proposed new bus shelter at Crumpsbrook. A shelter with an apex roof was preferred but it was agreed to seek the opinion of Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

140/07 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk’s Wages (September) - £312.00 (Cheque)
- ii) Mr C Bargman – Lengthsman’s Wages and Expenses (August) - £67.05 (Cheque)
- iii) HMRC – PAYE – (September) - £62.40 (Cheque)
- iv) Cleobury Mortimer Community First Responders – Donation - £100.00 (Cheque).

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

140/08 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 21/03467/FUL (validated: 17/08/2021)
Address: Hunters Rest, 6 Silvington Hill, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0ER
Proposal: Formation of an outdoor manege
Applicant: Sandra Wright.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application but note that there is no description of the proposed surface materials for the manege. This information should have been provided before the application was validated for consultation.

Cllr Clayton took no part in the following item.

- ii) Reference: 21/03934/FUL (validated: 11/08/2021)
Address: Dantra House, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0NT
Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs D Wood (Dantra House, Doddington, DY14 0NT)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 21/01185/FUL (validated: 23/03/2021)
Address: The Nunnery, Stockhall Lane, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0EH
Proposal: Erection of machinery store
Decision: Grant Permission
- ii) Reference: 21/02438/VAR (validated: 12/05/2021)
Address: Land Adjacent The Dingle, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of Condition No.2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 18/03718/FUL dated 05/09/19
Decision: Grant Permission

- (c) Council discussed the local connections request for Ms Martine Lee for a possible affordable dwelling on land adjoining The Birches, Cleeton St Mary, DY14 0QT. Council felt insufficient information was provided and could not confirm the local connection according to the Policy Criteria. Council is aware of the situation regarding the Beauty Salon and as such felt that Shropshire Council would need to determine whether this 'connection' applies.

140/10 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The 40mph sign at the top of Earls Ditton Lane has rotted off and needs replacing. Also, 'roadwork' signs have been left in the grass verge and not removed.
- ii) The 30 and 40mph signs in Hopton Wafers are not very visible and hedges need cutting back.
- iii) The cattle grid at the top of Stockhall Lane needs cleaning out.
- iv) A question was raised whether blue orchids were a protected species and should not be cut. The Clerk will enquire with the Natural Environment Team.
- v) Cllr Cook asked if we could find out if there were any official complaints to Environmental Health or the police regarding the Audio Farm event to give us a better understanding for future events. Cllr Clayton had spoken with the organisers who stated they will do what they can to improve things for future events and would be happy to come to a Parish Council meeting and speak to the community.

140/11 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Humpage asked for the Parish Plan review of actions to be on the next Agenda.
Cllr Deane asked if Council would discuss the proposed closure of local Ambulance stations and write to the Village Halls asking if they would allow use by Ambulance Service Staff.

140/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th October 2021, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 141/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

B Buffery

11th October 2021

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....