

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 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 Tim Evans, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

As the Chairman and Vice-Chair were going to be late due to attending a training course Cllr Sue Turner took the Chair and opened the meeting.

141/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Maria Cook – holiday.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – as Cllr Gwilym Butler is attending.

At 7.02pm Cllr Barry Buffery joined the meeting and took the Chair.

141/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

141/03 Public Participation Session

There was four members of public and PCSO Beth Hinton present.

PCSO Hinton spoke about the new policing charter and the priorities raised by the Parish Council which were speeding, anti-social behaviour and inconsiderate driving. The police will be addressing these concerns with some operations and speed checks. The average speed they observed in Hopton Wafers last week was 29.7mph but they will do further checks on a random basis. Cllr Buffery asked what the highest and lowest speeds recorded were – PCSO Hinton will ask and report back.

At 7.06pm Cllr Mark Humpage joined the meeting.

Cllr Buffery explained that we have started Community Speed Watch in Hopton Wafers and asked if the police would come out and support us. PCSO Hinton confirmed they would, subject to operational duties. PCSO Hinton encouraged people to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters to receive alerts and advice from the police (this has replaced the Community Messaging System).

141/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were taken as read and signed.

141/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors' Reports

i) Clerk's Report

**Bus Shelter at Crumpsbrook**

There was a site meeting with Shropshire Wildlife Trust on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm to agree the proposed location and look at plans for a bus shelter at Crumpsbrook. Our contractor Anthony Harman is able to undertake the ground work and lay a concrete base. Mr Dean from SWT will check if there are any other considerations regarding the site but was happy with our proposals. We are still awaiting a site visit from Traffic Engineering to confirm the site in conjunction with the Highway. Cllr Buffery expressed concern at the amount of time it is taking to get Traffic Engineering out to look at locations for the bus shelters and Vehicle Activated Signs. Cllr Butler commented that he is also chasing up Highways to move this forward.

**Community Speed Watch**

There was a Community Speed Watch training session in Hopton Wafers on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. There are six volunteers available to undertake Speed Watch on a rota basis in both villages. More volunteers are most welcome and another training session can be held. Cllr Mark Humpage has kindly agreed to be the co-ordinator for the group going forward. Thanks to Cllr Barry Buffery for his work over the years as the previous co-ordinator.

Cllr Bytheway felt there was too much leeway with the speed limit permitted under this scheme.

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

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## 141/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council noted approval of Environmental Maintenance Grant application for Lengthsman work 2021-22 (£500.00).
- ii) Council noted approval of PCC's Community Fund (Safer Roads) Grant application towards two Vehicle Activated Signs (£3,000). Council agreed that if Traffic Engineering would support having four Vehicle Activated Signs, then the Clerk would ask the PCC if he could increase the grant to cover the purchase of additional signs. The quotations were reviewed and Council agreed to go with Coeval as they gave more information in their quotation.
- iii) Council RESOLVED to approve Mrs M Wood as Internal Auditor for the current year. Mrs Wood confirmed she is happy to continue with the work and commented on the neat and tidy work of the Council's accounts.
- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the six-monthly review of Risk Assessments.
- iv) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.

## 141/07 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (October) - £312.00 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (October) - £62.40 (Cheque)
- iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Admin Expenses and Re-imbursments - £179.88 (Cheque).

## 141/08 Planning Matters

### (a) New Planning Applications

- i) Reference: 21/04133/FUL (validated: 10/09/2021)  
Address: The Orangery, Hopton Court, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0EF  
Proposal: Change of use to a wedding venue and marriage ceremony in the Orangery  
Applicant: Mrs Clare Malysz (Bank House, Stockhall Lane, DY14 0EG.)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
- ii) Reference: 21/04500/FUL (validated: 16/09/2021)  
Address: Land Adj Ashcroft, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NB  
Proposal: Erection of 2 self build dwellings with detached garages  
Applicant: Mrs Jennifer R Perry (Hillocks, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 0EB).  
Outcome: Council noted that this application has been withdrawn and no comments are required.
- iii) Reference: 21/04514/REM (validated: 17/09/2021)  
Address: Proposed Dwelling To The East Of, Doddington, Shropshire  
Proposal: Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 18/03934/OUT for the erection of a dwelling and associated garage.  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Clifford (C/O Agent, Anchorage Avenue, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY2 6FG).  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

(b) Council noted that some additional information regarding keeping livestock has been received regarding the local connections request from Ms Martine Lee for a possible affordable dwelling on land adjoining The Birches, Cleeton St Mary, DY14 0QT. Council felt the fragmented application and lack of clarity with regards to the Local Connections Criteria made it difficult to make an informed decision. Ms Lee should re-apply and include all information required with clear relevance to specific Criteria.

(c) Council discussed the role of the Planning Committees in Shropshire with a view to responding to the formal Review. Cllr Butler explained that there were three Committees previously which were cut to two. This was to save money on the proviso that the situation was reviewed in two years. Cllr Butler feels that it is too soon to conduct a review due to the changes in working due to Covid restrictions and a lack of site visits. There is no data on how many applications went to the previous three Committees nor how many applications were determined in accordance with Officer recommendations. Cllr Butler stated there were 40 planning officers and five Enforcement officers currently and the backlog of applications is being reduced. Comments regarding the need for adequate affordable housing for local people rather than large open-market houses were noted. Cllr Butler suggested asking SALC for basic Planning Training for the Parish Council.

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

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141/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler has been in touch with the Planning Officer dealing with the proposed development near Doddington Village Hall. If the application is recommended for approval, it will be determined by Planning Committee not the delegated officer. The delay in progressing this application is because further information has been required from the applicant following comments on the planning portal. This additional information is expected by 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr Butler recommended everyone read the Cleobury Food Bank Annual Report. Not only do the volunteers assist with food parcels but they also do referral work for debt problems, addiction etc. More volunteers would be welcome to assist on a rota basis. There may be increased use of the Food Bank this winter. People are worried about losing benefits but there are lots of local jobs available. Interestingly 47% of people work for the state which if their wages go up it will be reflected in tax rises to cover the cost.

141/10 Parish Plan

Cllr Humpage informed the meeting that since the last discussion we have been promoting a link on the website and Facebook for what3words. People are encouraged to find out more about this app and tell their neighbours about it. A mobile signal is not required for the app to work.

The Clerk has produced a flyer regarding Neighbourhood Watch which explains the recommendation that these schemes need to be set up by groups of local residents.

Everyone is encouraged to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters to for alerts and advice from the police.

A page regarding footpaths has been prepared for the website with links to CMFA and Fix My Street. People should also let the Parish Council know of minor issues so that we can either deal with them directly or keep pressure on Shropshire Council to action.

The next steps are to look at issues for pedestrians in Doddington ie the pavements. Some residents have cleared part of the pavement near their properties but some may need some help from our Lengthsman.

We cannot do much about the volume of lorries travelling through the village but we will be active with Community Speed Watch. This is a voluntary undertaking and the Parish Council is very grateful for everyone's support.

141/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The drain outside Crown Cottages is blocked, also at the top of Stockhall lane past New Leaf Farm.
- ii) The hedges have still not been cut on Hopton Bank especially around the 40mph signs which are not very visible. The replacement cats' eyes and repainting the white lines and speed roundels are also outstanding. A tree has fallen over FP 0537/27Y/1 which needs removing. The bridleway FP 0537/27/3 is overgrown and needs clearing.
- iii) Council discussed the closure of local Ambulance Stations and agreed to contact all three village halls to enquire if they would be willing to offer facilities to Ambulance personnel.

141/12 Future Agenda Items

There will be further discussion on the Parish Plan review of actions.

141/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 142/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

**Signed.....B Buffery.....Chairman** **Date.....8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.....**