

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th November 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 Maria Cook, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Unitary Cllr Simon Harris and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

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

142/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Tim Evans – working.

Cllr Linda Clayton – family commitments.

142/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

142/03 Public Participation Session

There was one member of public present.

Mr Ewan Gibb is acting Treasurer of Doddington Church and asked if there were any questions relating to the Planning Application to alter the layout of the proposed path in the churchyard. Work has currently stopped pending planning permission for the variation. Cllr Bytheway commented on the request for signage to promote the church and that this had been requested for Hopton Wafers some time ago and it was not received.

142/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021 were taken as read and signed.

142/05 Matters Arising – Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillors' Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Proposals for new Bus Shelters and Vehicle Activated Signs

There is a site meeting planned with Nick Newton from Traffic Engineering on Wednesday 10th November to look at the proposed locations for the bus shelters and vehicle activated signs. Council members who are attending will meet at Hopton Wafers Village Hall car park at 2pm.

Police Update

PCSO Lisa Thomas sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting but confirmed the police have undertaken more speed checks in Doddington and Hopton Wafers. Whilst the average speed was slightly over 29mph it was felt that their increased presence in conjunction with Community Speed Watch is helping address the community's concerns over speeding.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr Humpage confirmed there have been three successful Community Speed Watch sessions in Hopton Wafers and Doddington with 14 vehicles being caught over the permitted limit.

Cllr Bytheway felt there should be zero tolerance with the speed limits and asked if the Clerk could write to West Mercia Police to ask how they arrived at a tolerance level of 10% plus two miles per hour and if this is the same with all speed zones.

142/06 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (November) - £312.00 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (November) - £62.40 (Cheque)
- iii) SALC – Affiliation fees - £342.23 (Cheque).
- iv) Andrew Deptford – Defibrillator spares - £118.80 (Cheque)

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

142/07 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 21/04669/VAR (validated: 28/09/2021)
Address: St Johns Church, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 19/05038/FUL to allow revision to pedestrian path layout
Applicant: Parochial Church Council Of St John The Baptist, Doddington (C/o C Gibb, 8 Whatsill, Spring Cottage, Hopton Wafer, Kidderminster, DY14 0NX)
Outcome: Council resolved to support the application.
 - ii) Reference: 21/04890/VAR (validated: 13/10/2021)
Address: Proposed Barn Conversions At Earls Ditton Farm, Earls Ditton.
Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 7 (ecology) attached to planning permission 18/05835/FUL dated 31 March 2021
Applicant: MR VAN EEDEN (Earls Ditton Farming Ltd, C/O AGENT, PO BOX 4864, Shrewsbury, SY1 9PG.
Outcome: Council resolved to support the application.
- (b) Planning Decisions (for information only):
- i) Reference: 21/03934/FUL (validated: 11/08/2021)
Address: Dantra House, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NT
Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension
Decision: Grant Permission

142/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris had sent his report prior to the meeting. He was interested in Community Speed Watch for Kinlet parish and Cllr Humpage explained how it works. Cllr Harris spoke favourably about the work underway at Doddington churchyard. Cllr Harris is on the audit committee and they are currently reviewing Shropshire Council's accounts for 2020-21. Cllr Butler and others are currently working on next year's budget. Finances will be tight due to the increases in Adult Social Care and Children's Services which account for 80% of Shropshire Council's budget.

Cllr Bytheway and Cllr Buffery raised concerns that car parking spaces have not increased in size over the years yet vehicles have. Cllr Harris said this is a good point to raise for when the Talbot Car Park in Cleobury is re-surfaced. Cllr Buffery commented on the forthcoming consultation regarding car park charges and if charges were brought in to Cleobury people may start parking at the Medical Centre which is free. When the new Sainsbury's opens in Ludlow later this month their free parking may also impact other places across town. Cllr Harris commented that the Covid testing van couldn't get parked in Cleobury due to the number of vehicles not being moved from the free car park. The impact across town, if parking charges were brought in would be considered.

The Medical Centre's Practice Manager has said that Cleobury Patients Voice group need to get up and running again. Cllr Harris asked that our representative Cllr Clayton contact Cllr French at Cleobury Mortimer Town Council about pushing this forward.

Shropshire Council are meeting on 26th November and will make a decision on whether to divest the Pension Funds away from fossil fuel companies.

There has been an increase in enquiries to Citizens Advice over the last three years, mainly due to debt issues. Christians Against Poverty, based in Bridgnorth, are keen to assist anyone needing help.

Cllr Deane raised concerns regarding the appalling level of service from West Midlands Ambulance Service. Following a motorcycle accident at Crumpsbrook recently it took four and a half hours for an ambulance to arrive. The Ambulance service asked if a risk assessment had been done and the police even suggested taking the injured person to hospital in a car. There have been other incidents where an ambulance never came at all to a head injury. On another occasion they took almost five hours to attend after a missing man had been found. Ambulances waiting to unload patients at A&E is a factor too. Cllr Harris confirmed that Shropshire Council has discussed these issues with the health service.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

142/09 Parish Plan

Cllr Humpage informed the meeting that since the last discussion we have been further promoting what3words and published a page on the website regarding footpaths.

The items raised by Doddington Church are very important and most issues are being pursued by the Parish Council ie highways feasibility study for improvements to road safety to cover speed, signage, pavements and crossing points. The Environmental and Heritage concerns are duly noted. Information boards and signage will be progressed with Shropshire Council for permission. Mr Gibb confirmed that Doddington church are keen to work with us and the general community for improvements which will help everyone.

The mobile phone signal is still not very good. The Clerk to write to Philip Dunne MP and ask what is being done to improve mobile services in our area; also chase up the outstanding matter of moving the Doddington post box. Cllr Buffery would like an appointment to meet Mr Dunne at his next surgery too. Cllr Humpage will ask Cleobury Curate Joe Simons for more information on having mobile phone masts on churches.

Cllr Bytheway stated how he felt that people from Hopton Wafers were having to undertake Community Speed Watch in Doddington yet more people in Doddington had raised concerns about speeding in the Parish Plan. This led to a discussion on the delays of starting Speed Watch in Hopton Wafers due to Covid, providing safe locations for the volunteers to stand, training and availability of volunteers. A point of order was raised and the discussion ended due to divisive comments regarding residents of Hopton Wafers and Doddington.

142/10 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The Clerk has written to West Midlands Ambulance Service regarding the willingness of village halls to offer facilities for ambulance personnel.
- ii) The drain outside Crown Cottages is still blocked, also at the top of Stockhall lane near to the Pound House. These will be reported again and residents are encouraged to report issues directly to Shropshire Council as well.

142/11 Future Agenda Items

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

142/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th December 2021, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.14pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 143/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

B Buffery
Signed.....Chairman

13th December 2021
Date.....