

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Unitary Cllr Simon Harris and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

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

145/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Harold Deane – unwell

Cllr Tim Evans – unwell

Cllr Derek Bytheway – medical issue

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler did not attend as Cllr Harris attended.

145/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cook declared an interest in Agenda Item 145/09 (ii) Planning Application for Christmas Cottage.

Cllr Turner declared an interest in Agenda Item 145/07 (iii) Bus shelter at Crumpsbrook.

145/03 Public Participation Session

There were three members of public present.

Mr Metzger raised objections to the balcony being proposed for Christmas Cottage due to it being uncharacteristic in the village and would overlook his rear garden. High level electric cabling has already been installed on the outside of the house for lights and Mr Metzger raised concerns that there are bats roosting in three places on his house. Concerns regarding a lack of safety fencing around the site were raised also.

The Chairman read a letter out from the applicant, Mr Ensor who could not attend due to Covid. The edge of the balcony would be set back four metres from the rear property line of the neighbour and they have planted four blossom trees to give themselves privacy.

Mrs Broomfield also stated objections with regards to the balcony which would overlook their garden, the boundary materials and a lack of safety fencing.

145/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were taken as read and signed.

145/05 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

145/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

**Defibrillator at Hopton Wafers**

The replacement batteries for the light bulb in the cabinet did not last so a new set of lights have been purchased.

**SmartWater**

The We Don't Buy Crime signs have been updated and replaced by West Mercia Police. Large signs with the parish name for the main road have been ordered.

**Highways**

There is to be some major work on Hopton Bank from 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April consisting of Pre-Dressing Patching Works to Include Siding out, Patching, ironwork replacement, kerb resetting, kerb replacement, stud replacement, road markings.

There is a current pause of CIL projects whilst county considers its strategic infrastructure needs resulting from planned growth. As per Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler's recent report the whole of the A4117 is being surveyed from Clee Hill to Far Forest currently.

An entrance has been made onto the main road from beside Crown Cottages which was reported by telephone and an anonymous letter. This has been notified to highways to review as there was an existing gateway there but the entrance may not meet current highway standards if vehicles have nowhere to turn on site.

**Vehicle Activated Signs**

Shropshire Council needed some information about the signs and then will be able to install the poles for us.

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

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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## 145/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

### Post Box at Doddington

The Chairman has been in touch with Philip Dunne MP's office and is proposing writing a formal letter from the Parish Council to Philip Dunne MP to raise our concerns about the lack of response from Royal Mail about moving the Post Box from outside No.15 Doddington to a location on Earls Ditton Lane. A letter sent to the General Manager at the Royal Mail Sorting Office, Wolverhampton in January 2021 as per Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler's advice was not responded to. Cllr Butler said Royal Mail may just remove the box if we continue to press them as there is another post box nearby at Hopton Bank. Cllr Buffery stated that the current post box is up a track on the common, is difficult to access and as such is rarely used. There are more than 70 residents who live on the other side of the main road who would be able to use the post box if it was closer and more accessible. Council asked the Clerk to pursue the matter of moving the post box to Earls Ditton Lane through our MP.

## 145/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The recent Unitary Councillors' reports had been circulated to all members. Cllr Harris made no apology for his February report solely focussing on the Pension Fund and the decision made not to divest away from fossil fuel companies. He would be happy to discuss this further if anyone wanted. The Manager of Cleobury Medical Practice is leaving. When his replacement is in post the Patients Voice will get moving again as it is a statutory requirement. The Acton Scott Working Farm survey is now live and people are encouraged to have their say. Shropshire Council currently subsidize the Farm by around £160,000 per annum and feel this is not sustainable. Cllr Cecelia Motley is encouraging parishes to get involved with the boundary review process and let her or Graham White, Legal Services know of our views. Parliamentary boundaries are currently being reviewed and will be followed by division, then parish reviews next year. Shropshire Council will be considering its budget for 2022-23 at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Further to Cllr Butler's January report, Cllr Buffery asked Cllr Harris for Shropshire Council's view on cycle paths for the A4117 as the road is not safe. There are a lot of cycle paths in Worcestershire but the roads are much wider. Cllr Harris will take this up with Cllr Butler and report back. Cllr Buffery commented that recent changes to the Highway Code are not legally enforceable.

## 145/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council RESOLVED to approve the funding up to £847.50 towards the Hopton Wafers Jubilee Event.
- ii) Council noted receipt of the £3,000 grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner towards Vehicle Activated Signs.
- iii) Council approved the quotations for the bus shelter and ground works (subject to their being ramp access) at Crumpsbrook.

## 145/08 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (February) - £312.00 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (February) - £62.40 (Cheque)

## 145/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 21/05937/FUL (validated: 22/12/2021)  
Address: Old Miners Arms, Doddington, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NU  
Proposal: Proposed erection of a timber triple garage and relocation of existing timber building.  
Applicant: Ms D Hollebon (Old Miners Arms, Doddington, DY14 0NU)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.
- ii) Reference: 22/00247/FUL (validated: 31/01/2022)  
Address: Christmas Cottage, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NA  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony and porch to front elevation; works to existing driveway  
Applicant: Mr Neal Ensor  
Outcome: Council objected to the balcony due to privacy issues for both neighbouring properties. The rear extension appears to have footings and external lighting materials already in place. If the extension is permitted it must have a pitched roof and not a balcony. Council would support the porch but note the diagram does not represent the actual porch being built. Work has already commenced on the change of access, driveway and boundary finishes. There are safety concerns regarding these changes especially with the access onto the highway being moved without proper consultation.

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

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

## 145/09 Planning Matters

### (a) New Planning Applications (cont'd):

#### iii) Reference: 21/05002/FUL (validated: 04/02/2022)

Address: 6 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0EP

Proposal: Erection of a storage building for building equipment

Applicant: Mr A Howells

Outcome: Council noted the proposed building is for storing building materials yet apart from the roller shutter doors, the building's brick and tile features are very decorative more in the style of a residential dwelling.

### (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

#### i) Reference: 21/05298/FUL (validated: 19/11/2021)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land Adjacent Ashcroft, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of 2no. self build open market dwellings with detached garages

Decision: Refuse

#### ii) Reference: 21/05307/FUL (validated: 17/11/2021)

Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ

Proposal: Conversion and Extension of existing pool barn into residential dwelling

Decision: Withdrawn

#### iii) Reference: 21/05308/LBC (validated: 17/11/2021)

Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ

Proposal: Conversion and Extension of Existing Pool Barn into Residential Dwelling affecting a grade II listed building

Decision: Withdrawn

## 145/11 Code of Conduct

Council RESOLVED to adopt the new model Code of Conduct and Ordinary Registerable Interests forms.

Copies of the forms were given out for councillors to complete if they had any interests to declare. Councillors were asked to check that their current Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms were correct. The Clerk will put a link to the forms on the Parish Council's website.

## 145/12 Parish Plan

Council confirmed that the pavements in Doddington were now clear. Cllr Humpage is chasing for a response regarding mobile phone coverage and the possibility of installing masts on church buildings.

## 145/13 Annual Parish Meeting

Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm. The Clerk will book Doddington Village Hall if it is open, otherwise Hopton Wafers. There will be the usual format of community reports with refreshments.

## 145/14 Parish Matters/Highways

i) Cllr Humpage will restart Community Speed Watch in March. Mark Booth will be asked for training for the additional volunteers.

ii) Cllr Buffery commented on the new path and notice board at Doddington church which look good but the grounds and water butt needed attention around the back of the building.

## 145/15 Future Agenda Items

There were no further items raised.

## 145/16 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.21pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 146/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

*B Buffery*

*14<sup>th</sup> March 2022*

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....