

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr Paul Blakeway and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

Vice-Chair Cllr Sue Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

149/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Mark Humpage – holiday

Cllr Maria Cook - holiday.

Cllr Derek Bytheway – unwell. Council approved the ongoing absence of Cllr Bytheway due to ill health.

Unitary Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris – attending other Council meetings.

149/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Turner declared an interest in Agenda Item 149/08 (a) (iii) Payment and took no part in this item when discussed.

149/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

149/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were taken as read and signed.

149/05 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

149/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Vehicle Activated Signs

Shropshire Council have confirmed the size of the poles it will use for the Vehicle Activated Signs and this has been given to the VAS supplier. We are still chasing for installation of the poles.

S.137 funding for church events

Mr Poyner (Churchwarden of Hopton Wafers parish church) has written regarding financial support towards a fund-raising event this summer. There will be a Garden Party and Hog Roast on the 23rd July at his home and Mr Poyner hopes the Parish Council may be in a position to cover some of the costs ie hiring equipment, rather than a direct donation. Council discussed this but felt, as stated before, we have been advised by our county office that churches could apply for some funding towards open 'free to attend' community events such as a carol singing evening but not for chargeable ticketed events and therefore, concluded that they are unable to support this request.

Community thanks

- The PCC of St John's Doddington have written to thank the Parish Council for the grant towards their recent community events. The opening of the newly accessible path was well attended despite the rain, with several residents and their families from Doddington Lodge attending. The exhibition attracted a lot of attention and involved a good number of the community in providing their memories in writing, oral recording and items on display. It was visited by around 200 people and the feedback received was all positive. They will retain copies of all the new material displayed and use it to make Doddington Scrapbook No.5 to add to the four which Eric Russell put together. All the books will be on display at events and will be available on request to the custodian, currently the Churchwarden, Celia Gibb.
- Doddington Heights Park Homes have also sent their thanks for the grant towards their Jubilee event.
- Children from Crumpsbrook have sent a card to thank the Parish Council for installing the bus shelter at Crumpsbrook.

Pavement in Doddington

There has been a further complaint about the pavement through Doddington to Hopton Bank being overgrown in places. It was agreed that we drop letters to the residents whose hedges are overgrown and ask them to cut them back. Cllr Blakeway will drop the letters off.

Initials.....**MH**.....

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Festival at the Edge

The Community Co-ordinator for Festival at the Edge has invited all councillors to an event at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall on Saturday 18th June from 2-3pm. It is a preview performance of 'Letters Through Time', inspired by legendary local postman Simon Evans, created by storyteller Maria Credali and the children of Farlow C. E. Primary School.

Doddington Post Box

Cllr Buffery asked about the relocation of the Post Box at Doddington. There has been no response regarding the request for a site meeting to agree the best location for the post box. The Clerk will chase this up again.

Lengthsman's report

Mr Bargman has checked the cattle grid at Doddington again and the temporary post is very loose. He will have a go at a better repair if Council approve the purchase a post and couple of rails. The cattle grid is loose and shakes every time a vehicle passes over it – matter to be reported to Shropshire Council. The cattle grid at Riddings Gate also needs a couple of new posts and the fence repaired next to the grid. Mr Bargman will make some repairs to this with permission from the Parish Council to purchase the posts and rails. Council approved the purchase of posts and rails for both cattle grids.

Mr Bargman also raised concerns that some road closures are taking place with no prior notice or have poorly signed diversions which send people on inappropriate routes causing a lot of frustration and danger. It is felt that some of the repairs could easily have been done with traffic management rather than with road closures. The Parish Council will raise this with Shropshire Council and will ask for their consideration of whether to use road closures and at least better planning and warning notices if closures are needed.

149/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council noted receipt of the Precept - £9,000.00.
- ii) Council confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest with PKF Littlejohn LLP.
- iii) Council considered and resolved to approve the Internal Auditor's Reports.
- iv) Council considered and resolved to approve AGAR Section 1 - Annual Governance Statements 2021/22.
- v) Council considered and resolved to approve the audited accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ending 31st March 2022.
- vi) Council considered and resolved to approve AGAR Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/22.

149/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (June) - £312.00 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (June) - £62.40 (Cheque)
 - iii) Turners Gates Ltd – Crumpsbrook bus shelter - £3,156.00 (Cheque)
 - iv) Mrs M Wood – internal audit fee - £100.00 (Cheque)
 - v) Arthur J Gallagher - annual insurance premium - £471.47 (Cheque)

149/09 Planning Matters

- (a) New Planning Application:
 - i) Reference: 22/02190/VAR (validated: 09/05/2022)
Address: Plot 1 Brookfield, Land Adjacent The Dingle, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of 18/03718/FUL Erection of 2no detached dwellings 1no with garage and formation of vehicular access with visibility splay (Re-submission)
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hipkiss (178 Delph Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2TZ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the changes to the windows but did object to the increase in pitch of the house and garage roofs. The implied increase in elevation would make the house and garage too imposing over neighbouring properties. There should also be a condition on the garage that it is not used as a separate residence.

Initials.....**MH**.....

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(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 22/00881/FUL (validated: 07/03/2022)
Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ
Proposal: Conversion and erection of extension to pool barn to create one residential dwelling (resubmission)
Decision: Grant Permission
- ii) Reference: 22/00882/LBC (validated: 07/03/2022)
Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ
Proposal: Conversion and erection of extension to pool barn to create one residential dwelling affecting a Grade II Listed Building (resubmission)
Decision: Grant Permission
- iii) Reference: 22/01743/FUL (validated: 11/04/2022)
Address: Keepers Cottage, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0JL
Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension
Decision: Withdrawn
- iv) 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
Decision: Grant Permission

149/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors' June report had been circulated to all members who felt it was a much-improved report. Their full report and updates had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting. There were no questions raised.

149/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Deane reiterated the thanks from residents at Crumpsbrook for the new bus shelter. The site is somewhat marred by the poor state of the BT Phone Box where the door has still not been repaired. Cllr Deane asked if the Parish Council would consider adopting this phone box and putting it to a different community use such as housing a defibrillator once it had been refurbished. Item to be put on the next Agenda.
- ii) There was some discussion on the proposed new bus shelter for Doddington. The delay is down to being unable to identify the landowner and efforts will be made to seek permission for the bus shelter. Our contractor will be asked for a quote for a concrete base and the Commoners Association will be asked if they are still happy for us to install a bus shelter and perhaps help contribute in some way.
- iii) Cllr Turner asked if Mr Bargman can trim round the 30mph signs on Stockhall Lane near The Warren.
- iv) Cllr Buffery commented on the recent Speed Watch session in Hopton Wafers which noted 15 vehicles travelling at 46mph or more. There was some discussion on the different police force areas' tolerances for speeding. Cllr Blakeway felt the police vetting system for new volunteers could be managed better as they give no notice when arriving at people's homes to check their identity.
- v) The drains outside Crown Cottages have still not been cleaned out and the pothole has only been partially filled. These issues have been outstanding for a long time and will be reported again.

149/12 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Blakeway asked if we can pursue the matter of whether to install white entrance gates to both villages on the main road. He will measure the spaces available so that sizes and designs can be discussed.

149/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th July 2022, 7pm at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 150/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

M Humpage

11th July 2022

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....