

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Tim Evans and the Clerk Mrs D McBride.

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

150/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Paul Blakeway – absent.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – Cllr Butler in attendance.

Cllr Derek Bytheway has tendered his resignation due to ill health through a letter of resignation from Derek's family. Derek wishes the Council all the best for the future and hopes we will look after the parish of Hopton Wafers in his absence. The Chairman felt it was appropriate to recognize Derek's service to the Parish Council. His first meeting was 13<sup>th</sup> April 1970. Since then, he has served for 52 years and represented the residents of the village admirably during that time very rarely missing meetings and always keeping in touch and remaining very active even throughout the COVID months of online meetings. Derek was always very passionate in raising issues and canvassing on behalf of the Parish and its residents and his presence will be missed. In the last year he was an active member of the Hopton Wafers Speed Watch team. Everyone wishes Derek well and would like to thank him for his amazing service to our parish. A thank you card will be sent to Derek and Council will look at some form of recognition of his long service through SALC.

150/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest raised at this point.

150/03 Public Participation Session

There were three members of public present.

Mr Ellwood spoke about his planning application to open up and widen the driveway to his property. He was not aware he needed planning and has already done the work. After speaking with the Planning department, he has improved the visibility splays and created a full turning area on site.

Residents of New Road raised concerns that their waste will no longer be collected from New Road due to the condition of the lane. All bins are to be permanently located on the pavement at Foxwood from 25<sup>th</sup> July. This is a most unsuitable proposal not only due to the location, the distance for residents to take their rubbish but some residents are disabled and unable to move their waste at all. Bins will not only block the pavement but could easily be blown over or knocked into the main road causing a major hazard for traffic. Residents are trying to work with the Commoners Association and improve the lane. Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler had been notified of the concerns and had been in touch with Paul Beard who confirmed it is not Shropshire Council's responsibility to improve the lane as it is a private track but if the lane is improved then Veolia will continue to collect the bins from the usual collection points. There have been similar issues locally and a central collection point has been created near the main road for all the bins. Cllr Evans suggested that every resident contributed £50 and this would cover the costs of filling in the potholes. There was a Residents Association previously but not all residents were willing to join the group and contribute to maintenance. The Parish Council will liaise with the Unitary Councillors and Shropshire Council and feedback to the residents. As this is a private track it is for everyone to work together on making some improvements as soon as possible so that Veolia will continue to use the lane.

150/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were taken as read and signed.

150/05 Matters Arising

Cllr Buffery asked for an update on the installation of the Vehicle Activated Signs. The Clerk has spoken with Traffic Engineering who confirmed they are aware of the order for the poles but are struggling with resources. The Clerk and Cllr Butler will ask for an estimated timescale for the poles to be installed by Shropshire Council and bring back to Council for further consideration. The Parish Council could install the poles but it could cost around £1,500 due to the requirement for approved highways contractors, traffic permits etc.

Cllr Buffery asked if there was any update on the proposal to move the post box at Doddington. There has been no response from Royal Mail so the Clerk will write back to Philip Dunne MP to chase this up.

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

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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## 150/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

### i) Clerk's Report

#### **S.137 funding for church events**

There have been further communications with Mr Poyner (Churchwarden of Hopton Wafers parish church) regarding financial support towards a fund-raising event this summer. The Parish Council were unable to support the event as it was a chargeable ticketed event and not 'free to attend'. There was a suggestion that we may be able to support the hire of equipment/printing costs towards free entry to the event but this was too late as tickets have already been sold.

#### **Pavement in Doddington**

Further to the previous meeting about hedges overhanging the pavement, some work has been carried out. Cllr Blakeway has confirmed he will deliver letters to residents and ask them to cut back the hedges to improve pedestrian safety and public amenity.

#### **Audit & Finance**

All audit papers have been completed with relevant items sent to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn and documents published on the website. The VAT reclaim has been made and the money has been received into the bank. The Bank Mandate has just been approved. There had been no confirmation from Lloyds Bank since March but when telephoned they said it has been received and actioned. We would normally review the banking arrangements each year so this will be on the next Agenda following Cllr Bytheway's resignation.

#### **Presentation on Caring for God's Acre/Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project**

Janet Cobb is willing to attend our September meeting and make a presentation starting at 6.30pm. Council was supportive of this proposal. We will invite community groups and publicise the event.

## 150/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve proceeding with the adoption of the BT Phone Box at Crumpsbrook. Cllr Humpage will put an item on Facebook asking for people to volunteer to help refurbish the phone box and also offer suggestions for its future use ie defibrillator or book store. Comments to go to Cllr Deane. The Clerk will follow up the adoption process with BT.

## 150/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
  - i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (July) - £299.60 (Cheque)
  - ii) Mr C Bargman – Lengthsman's Wages - £40.00 (Cheque)
  - iii) HMRC – PAYE – (July) - £74.80 (Cheque)
  - iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's quarterly admin expenses - £116.37 (Cheque)
  - v) Shropshire Council – 2021 Election Fee - £100.00 (Cheque).

Cllr Turner declared an interest in Agenda Item 150/09 (a) (i) and took no part in this item when discussed.

## 150/09 Planning Matters

### (a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 22/02873/AGR (validated: 21/06/2022) – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:  
Address: Holly Farm, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire  
Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building for storage and fodder.  
Applicant: Mr N Turner.  
Outcome: Council were not required to make comment and had nothing to raise on this application.
- ii) Reference: 22/02447/FUL (validated: 22/06/2022)  
Address: 3 Crown Cottages, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NB  
Proposal: Application under section 73a of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the widening of existing driveway.  
Applicant: Mr Paul Ellwood (3 Crown Cottages, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0NB)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
- iii) Reference: 22/02662/FUL (validated: 23/06/2022)  
Address: Moonstone Cottage, 27 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HR  
Proposal: Erection of replacement conservatory  
Applicant: Mr James Hilton (27 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HR)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

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

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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150/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors' July report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Butler added that there had been a finance review which noted a £2.5m overspend on last year's budget of £568m but there was £4m additional income due to improved collection of fees/Council Tax. This meant a surplus of £1.5m to start the current year but £9m extra is required on top of the predicted deficit of £30m. Cllr Butler said there may be some planings from the main road resurfacing in Cleobury Mortimer which could be used on New Road. There is a huge shortage of care workers, especially domiciliary care staff in the county which means that some people are going into care homes rather than being able to stay at home. Cllr Butler stated there would be no Unitary report next month.

150/11 West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's Town & Parish Council Survey  
Council went through the Annual Survey on policing which the Clerk will submit.

150/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Humpage asked if anyone knew about the proposal for building dog kennels on Hopton Bank where the new fencing was being installed against the main road.
- ii) Cllr Humpage asked if the Lengthsman can strim the grass at the top and bottom of the old escape lane to improve visibility. There will be further Speed Watch sessions in both villages in the next few weeks.

150/13 Future Agenda Items  
There were no further items raised.

150/14 Date and Time of Next Meeting  
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.09pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 151/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

***M Humpage***  
Signed.....Chairman

***8<sup>th</sup> August 2022***  
Date.....