

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th August 2022 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

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

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

151/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – Cllr Simon Harris in attendance.

151/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest raised.

Council brought forward the following item as Cllr Harris had another meeting to attend this evening.

151/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports
Cllr Harris informed the meeting that the church clock in Cleobury was being removed for repair. Following the recent success of the England Ladies football team there has been a lot of interest from girls to play football but very few opportunities locally. There are some girls in the Cleobury U.13 team but the nearest ladies' team is in Tenbury. Cllr Harris is planning to put something in the next Clarion to signpost people to football facilities. A motion was passed at the last full Council meeting which will allow bereaved family members to stay in their Council house for four weeks instead of two weeks before having to move out. Veolia are changing their waste collection schedules in November. It is not yet known what the changes are though. Cllr Deane raised concerns that Veolia's proposal to stop collecting waste from New Road as they feel the road is unsuitable for their vehicles is unreasonable as everyone else driving small cars to lorries can use the road. The residents have not reached an agreement to improve the road and it will only get worse if it is not maintained. It is not known who the owner of the road is or if there are any agreements/requirements in residents' deeds to keep the road in good condition. The speed humps in the road were put in to control speed as well as manage water off the track and do not impede access. Council felt there should be an independent assessment of the road but also the Contract officer from Shropshire Council should attend a site visit as they issued the contract to Veolia to collect from these properties. There will be a greater risk to residents and waste collection staff to attend to 40 waste bins on a narrow pavement against the main road. Paul Beard – Waste Management Contracts Manager has confirmed Shropshire Council need to know if the road is going to be improved in time as Veolia have only extended the date for the changes to 31st August. He has not heard anything from the residents.
Cllr Harris said there are three current consultations concerning libraries, economic growth and empty homes. The Empty Homes Strategy would not include the Manor House in Cleobury which is a business. Cllr Blakeway asked how many void/empty Council houses there are and what is the average time between tenants. The national standard is two weeks but Cllr Harris will find out and report back. Cllr Harris said there were 267 people approximately on the priority waiting list but will try and find out how many houses Shropshire Council and Cornovii hold. There are seven sponsors of Ukrainian refugees in the Cleobury area and 832 refugees in Shropshire.
Cllr Humpage asked Cllr Harris to chase up Chris Taylor at Shropshire Council to help set up the process for data collection on mobile phone coverage which Cllr Humpage and Cllr Turner would undertake. Cllr Harris could raise a motion with Shropshire Council about mobile coverage across the county which should generate more action by raising the priority level on this issue.

151/03 Public Participation Session
There were no members of public present.

151/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th July 2022
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th July 2022 were taken as read and signed.

151/05 Matters Arising
The Village Hall hedge has overgrown the road signs at the side of the Crown. The Hall Committee will be asked if they can get the hedge cut back. The cattle grids at Cleeton and Doddington are loose. The one at Doddington also needs cleaning out as grass is growing through the grid and sheep can get over it. The posts need replacing again too.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

151/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Councillor Vacancy

Shropshire Council has confirmed that there was no call for a by-election so the Parish Council can co-opt as soon as practicable.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The installation of the posts is being actively chased within Shropshire Council by the Clerk and the unitary councillors.

Pavement in Doddington

Letters to residents asking them to cut back their hedges over the pavement in Doddington have been delivered by Cllr Blakeway.

Moving Postbox in Doddington

Due to no response from Royal Mail, the Clerk has written to Philip Dunne MP to ask that he chases up Royal Mail for an update (as promised in their letter to him) but also that they contact the Clerk directly to arrange a site visit to ensure the relocation site is suitable as this was the primary reason for moving the box.

BT Phone Box at Crumpsbrook

BT have confirmed our request and will start the required 90-day consultation. Provided there are no objections they will send a contract to us at the conclusion of the consultation. A replacement door will be requested from BT.

Defibrillator Spares

A replacement set was ordered in March but they have still not arrived. The spare set have been taken to replace those at Doddington Heights which had reached their expiry date. As deliveries are estimated as taking up to eight months for delivery the Clerk will look for alternative suppliers.

Policing

Since sending in the Town and Parish Council survey this year we have received a letter from Shropshire's Superintendent Stuart Bill informing us that they are relaunching the Community Charter. The police are keen to work together to help deliver the objectives for our communities.

151/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council RESOLVED to appoint Mrs M Wood as the Internal Auditor for the current financial year.
- ii) Council confirmed the Council's current banking arrangements with Lloyds Bank and agreed to update the bank mandate signatories.

151/08 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (August) - £299.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (August) - £74.80 (Cheque)

An additional invoice was received after the Agenda was published. Council approved the following payment subject to all the agreed work being completed:

- iii) A P Supplies – concrete base for bus shelter at Crumpsbrook - £1,200.00.

151/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 22/03355/FUL (validated: 20/07/2022)
Address: Rectory Cottage, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0ND
Proposal: Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1995 for the Erection of outbuilding to provide accommodation for gun dog breeding business to meet new space standard requirements of breeding licence (part retrospective).
Applicant: Lee and Jess Cooper
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
- ii) Reference: 22/03459/AGR (validated: 27/07/2022) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
Address: Woodlands Farm, Cleeton Lane, Cleeton St Mary, Shropshire.
Proposal: Steel frame extension to existing buildings to house existing livestock handling area.
Applicant: Mr Keith Bowen.
Outcome: Council were not required to make comment and had nothing to raise on this application.

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

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151/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Deane asked for the drain at the bottom of New Road to be unblocked and that the washed-out debris is cleared off the main road.
- ii) Cllr Deane asked for an update on the mains drainage project by Severn Trent for the next meeting.
- iii) Cllr Humpage confirmed the five new Speed Watch volunteers have been trained. There are now 11 volunteers so the plan is to do a Speed Watch session every week between the two villages.

151/12 Future Agenda Items

There were no further items raised.

151/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12th September 2022, 7pm at Doddington Village Hall. This is following a presentation on Caring for God's Acre/Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project by Janet Cobb commencing at 6.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.57pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 152/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

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

10th October 2022
Date.....