

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Andy Jones, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Paul Blakeway and the Clerk, Mrs D McBride.

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

155/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Maria Cook – holiday.

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – Cllr Gwilym Butler in attendance.

155/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

155/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

155/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were taken as read and signed.

155/05 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

155/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

**Website**

All current emails will be lost when we take over the website management. Everyone will need to check to see if there are any emails which need saving. Once the changeover takes place, we will set up the same email addresses under the new management but we will not be able to access any 'old' emails. The changeover will take place next week.

**Environmental Maintenance**

Our Lengthsman is finishing on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Councillors felt it preferable to continue in a similar way ie employing a new Lengthsman for the smaller tasks such as cleaning signs, gullies, strimming etc and a contractor for the bigger jobs ie ditching. Cllr Butler confirmed that the Environmental Maintenance Grant Scheme will continue into the next financial year so we can plan future works in accordance with the scheme and our budget planning. Council agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting and prepare a job advert, job description etc.

**Royal Mail Post Box at Doddington**

Royal Mail have confirmed to Philip Dunne MP that their works licence has been approved by the local authority. They have contacted all utility companies who may have services in the area but no date for the work has been given. They have still not confirmed the new location or even acknowledged that we have asked for a site meeting. The Clerk has asked Mr Dunne to chase this up. Cllr Buffery re-iterated the importance of a meeting to discuss the new proposed site.

155/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the draft budget and precept proposals for 2023-24. The Precept is set to increase by £900 to £9,900.00 but the impact will be offset somewhat as there has been a small increase in the number of properties. The average Band D property charge will be £32.60 as compared to £29.84 currently. The Parish Council will continue to demonstrate care with expenditure.

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

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

---

## 155/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (January) - £328.80 (Cheque)
  - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (January) - £82.20 (Cheque)
  - iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Quarterly Admin Expenses - £126.60 (Cheque)
  - iv) ICO – Data Protection Fee - £40.00 (Cheque)

An invoice was received for hire of Doddington Village Hall which was also approved:

- v) Doddington Village Hall – Hall hire - £50.00 (Cheque).

As the Hall hire fees are increasing to cover the actual cost of electricity, the Parish Council may reconsider the frequency of its meetings.

## 155/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month. Cllr Butler encouraged people to participate in Shropshire Council's budget consultation and also the Division Boundary Review. The current proposal to split the Cleobury Ward directly through the centre of Cleobury Mortimer town was not well received. Shropshire Council will make representation to the Boundary Commission.

## 155/10 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) There were no new parish matters.
- ii) Cllr Buffery re-iterated concerns over the delay with installing the vehicle activated signs. Cllr Butler offered to chase up Highways. Cllr Buffery stated that the condition of Earls Ditton Lane is a disgrace and need assessing by Shropshire Council for major improvements. The Clerk will write to Highways and ask that this road is assessed and for a commitment from them to undertake full repairs and effective maintenance. Cllr Buffery will also report all the issues on Fix My Street.
- iii) Council agreed to arrange an event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Hopton Wafers Village Hall to promote energy efficiencies and support during the current Cost-of-Living crisis.
- iv) The reports and recommendations from the WSP survey were discussed. The Parish Council agreed with the recommendations but felt that the option for vehicle-activated traffic lights should be evaluated further as a more suitable option to improve traffic flow and safety at the junction of Earls Ditton Lane opposite Doddington Church. The Clerk will inform the Highways Officer that we are providing Vehicle Activated Signs along the A4117.

## 155/11 Future Agenda Items

- i) Cllr Deane asked if Council would consider providing a bleed kit for each defibrillator. The Clerk will ask the First Responder on the most suitable type and how to fit them into the cabinets. It was also suggested that tracking devices are put on each defibrillator as some have been stolen in other areas.
- ii) Cllr Deane asked for an update on the proposed bus shelter at Doddington. There is a lack of visibility at the proposed site and on-going issues with land ownership. Cllr Jones will speak with the Clerk of Coreley Parish Council and ask if they can assist.

## 155/12 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 156/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

*M Humpage*

*13<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....