

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.01pm.

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

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

156/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – Cllr Simon Harris in attendance.

156/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

156/03 Public Participation Session
There were eleven members of public present.
Concerns were raised by some residents regarding a planning application for two further houses at Doddington. The size and style of the properties (proposed to match the two currently under construction adjacent to this site) were of concern, being very large, have a lot of glass, can be seen from the Common and overlook some properties raising privacy concerns. It was felt that the current construction and ground clearance had caused flooding on nearby properties and water courses and that the public path below the site had deteriorated due to excessive water coming off the building site. The road is already in a shocking state and the extra cars will make this worse as well as exacerbate the issues at the junction onto the A4117. The applicants were present and introduced themselves. The applicants stated that surface water will go into attenuation tanks and be released slowly into the stream. They have not altered any drains or ditches, nor caused additional water to go into the stream. They are happy to undertake planting to create privacy and improve the boundary hedge and also offered to contribute towards repairs to the road.
Cllr Buffery commented that the road is actually worse between the site entrance and Doddington Heights and the Parish Council is chasing Shropshire Council to improve the road and the junction onto the A4117. The best option would be for vehicle activated traffic lights at the junction.
Another resident asked the Parish Council what feedback has been received from Shropshire Council regarding an incident of a dangerous driver on Hopton Bank. The Parish Council confirmed it has not had any reports from Shropshire Council on such issues, only the WSP Highway Reports and Recommendations from their survey last Spring. The resident said he has all these reports including those regarding Community Speed Watch as he had put in Freedom of Information requests but he felt that Shropshire Council were not sharing full information on the highways. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council is doing everything it can regarding traffic concerns. Traffic police support our Community Speed Watch sessions and we are awaiting the installation of four vehicle activated signs. We agree that the speeds recorded on Hopton Bank are unacceptable and although the police and highways have limited resources, we are doing more than most parishes on these issues and will continue to do so.

156/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023 were taken as read and signed.

156/05 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

156/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Highways issues

Following reports of the road flooding near the Pot House, the Clerk had reported this to Highways. The ditches and cattle grid were full of water and water was overflowing across the road. Some ditching work has since been done but the pipes need jet-washing out as well as repairs to the road. Shropshire Council drainage officers were discussing concerns of water flooding the stream near the Nunnery. They will also look at the drainage along Stockhall Lane and report back with an update. Depending on the type of ditch this will either be the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or Shropshire Highways to maintain.

There is no update on highway maintenance work for Earls Ditton Lane. Cllr Harris is chasing this up.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

156/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

Vehicle Activated Signs

A Shropshire Council representative has been to look at the site for the Doddington sign with the landowner but the representative was not aware of when the pavement was being cleared back. This work was agreed with a Shropshire Council representative at a previous site meeting as being part of the agreement to permit the sign. The Parish Council is aware of this arrangement and has been chasing up Highways to get the pavement cleared back.

156/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month. Cllr Harris has been chasing Nick Newton regarding the poles for the vehicle activated signs. He has spoken with the Portfolio Holder for Highways and will also speak to the Leader of Shropshire Council about the time it is taking to install the poles. Cllr Harris is also chasing for a response regarding improvements to the top section of Earls Ditton Lane. Cllr Harris is concerned that CIL Local money was used to fund the WSP reports last year but no follow-up action has been notified. It is noted that the Parish Council supported the recommendations in the WSP reports and have actually implemented some of these recommendations, such as vehicle activated signs. Cllr Buffery asked if Shropshire Council puts aside money to improve unclassified roads and what work is scheduled for these roads. Cllr Harris will find out and report back. Cllr Buffery further stressed how disgraceful it was that the poles for the vehicle activated signs have not been installed after 12 months. Cllr Harris will continue to chase this. With regards to the Local Plan, Cllr Harris noted that the methodology of who determines the number of new houses to be built in each area will change and will now be under the remit of local government. Green Belt land in Shropshire has previously been given up for housing but this will not continue.

A questionnaire is due out soon for town and parish councils to comment on health levels of residents. This assessment will help plan services with a view to improve health levels across the county.

156/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council discussed the Environmental Maintenance Grant proposals for 2023-24 and resolved to approve an application for £1,500. The work will be carried out by a Lengthsman and Contractor. The Staffing Group will review the previous job description and work towards a vacancy notice for recruiting a new Lengthman. Cllr Jones agreed to join the Staffing Group.
- ii) Council considered the various options presented and RESOLVED to purchase a bleed kit for each defibrillator cabinet. A sign will be put on each cabinet to state there is a bleed kit available.

156/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (February) - £328.80 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (February) - £82.20 (Cheque)
 - iii) SALC – Training Course - £30.00 (Cheque)

156/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 23/00039/FUL (validated: 06/01/2023)
Address: Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of, Doddington, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of 2No. dwellings, formation of access and installation of package treatment plant
Applicant: Jonjo Power (C/o Agent)
Outcome: Cllr Cook, Cllr Buffery and the Clerk had attended a site visit earlier. Following some discussion, Council RESOLVED to support this application subject to the following points:
 1. A comprehensive landscaping and planting scheme is put into place to reduce the visual impact of these two properties.
 2. A drainage plan suitable for the scale of development and the ground conditions is approved prior to development commencing.
 3. All conditions applied to the adjoining plots in the 'access field' are discharged correctly including planting and drainage schemes.
 4. A full investigation of the land is carried out due to the concerns raised regarding previous mining activity in the area.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

156/09 Planning Matters (cont'd)

- ii) Reference: 23/00460/FUL (validated: 03/02/2023)
Address: Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0HP
Proposal: Erection of a first-floor extension to form a home office with roof terrace and other minor works
Applicant: Mr S Williams (15 Foxhollow, Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0HP)
Outcome: As a further planning application for this property has been received, Council felt that a site visit would be required to clarify all the work being proposed.

(b) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

- i) Reference: 22/04596/FUL (validated: 10/10/2022)
Address: Pleasant View, Doddington, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NR
Proposal: Erection of a two-storey extension including installation of dormer windows, roof windows, photo-voltaic solar panel array and external cladding to existing dwelling
Decision: Refuse.
- ii) Reference: 22/05220/FUL (validated: 24/11/2022)
Address: Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0HP
Proposal: Proposed erection of a timber framed double garage
Decision: Grant Permission.

156/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Clayton reported that bridleway 0537/UN2/2 has still not been cleared. The Clerk will report this again to the Access Team at Shropshire Council. Any blocked paths can also be reported on Fix My Street. Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association may also be able to help.
- ii) The pot holes on Hopton Bank will be reported again on Fix My Street.
- iii) Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting as part of the event on Saturday 20th May at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. The new manager from Cleobury Medical Centre will be invited to attend and give a short report on her work.
- iv) Cllr Blakeway asked for the existing bus shelters to be cleaned and repaired. Cllr Blakeway will speak to the landowner adjacent to the Foxwood bus shelter where the hedge has grown over onto the bus shelter and ask for it to be cut back. The Lengthsman will be asked to clean out all the bus shelters.

156/12 Future Agenda Items

- i) Cllr Humpage announced that he had received the Clerk's resignation. The Staffing Group arranged to meet within the next ten days to start the recruitment for a new Lengthsman and a Clerk.

156/13 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th March 2023, 7pm at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.