

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.05pm.

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

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

152/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Paul Blakeway – work

Cllr Maria Cook - holiday

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – Cllr Gwilym Butler in attendance.

152/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest raised.

152/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month. Cllr Butler informed the meeting that the Highway Communications Officer notifies him of capital resurfacing plans which he will forward on to the Clerk. There may be no Spending Review by central government until the next election. Inflation has added between £7 and £10m to expenditure this year. The number of children in care peaked at 652 but is declining. Shropshire Council has to pay towards the cost of 51 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and Cllr Butler feels central government should cover this. The reviewed pay award for staff is expected by end October. This will add another £7m to Council's expenditure this year and it is predicted that there will be a 5% increase next year too. Council Tax can only be increased by 1.99% so this will be a challenge. There are a lot of vacancies currently, including 12 planning officers (out of 40 posts). Cllr Butler is on the Local Government Association for strategic policy development and he is trying to get rural areas represented more fairly. Cllr Humpage asked for Cllr Butler's view on the Restoring Shropshire Verges Project, following the presentation last month. Residents are keen to do something in the villages. Cllr Butler confirmed that, in theory, Shropshire Council is very supportive but highway safety has to be considered. Cllr Clayton raised on-going concerns about the lack of white lines and cats' eyes between Hopton Bank and Doddington. Cllr Butler will follow this up with Highways too.

152/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

152/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th August 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th August 2022 were taken as read and signed.

152/05 Matters Arising

Council felt that the proposed site for the bus shelter at Doddington should be marked out with a notice to state what the proposals are. This would inform the community and provide an opportunity for any feedback.

152/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Councillor Vacancy

There has been one application. Council agreed to have co-option on the next Agenda.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The poles were being installed in early October but the ground crew met with opposition from a resident regarding the location of one of the poles. This is being looked into and we are awaiting an update from Shropshire Council.

Moving Postbox in Doddington

Due to no response from Royal Mail, the Clerk wrote to Philip Dunne MP again to ask him to chase 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. Royal Mail in London were also written to. They responded and apologised for the time this is taking but stated the site has been scanned and a planning application submitted to Shropshire Council on 5th September but there had been no response. Royal Mail has still not stated where the proposed location will be nor acknowledged our request for a site visit.

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152/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

Waste collection service for residents off New Road

There has been no progress in establishing who the owner of New Road is, however three residents have improved the lane at the end of August. Thank you to Cllr Evans, Mr Jones and Mr Harman for their work. Veolia inspected the lane on 30th August and were happy with the work. They will re-inspect the lane in November. There has been an offer of road planings and some residents offering support. It is proposed to arrange a residents' meeting and try and get everyone working together.

BT Phone Box at Crumpsbrook

BT confirmed our request to adopt the phone box and were starting the required 90-day consultation. They then said that the process is different and they need a letter from us to confirm there is good mobile coverage before they take the telephone equipment away. The various mobile providers have been checked and there is good BT service, variable EE service, Vodafone has 3G and Three has a weak 4G service but good 3G. Cllr Clayton will check the O2 service before Council considers sending a letter of confirmation. We know from BT records that the phone box is not used and it is not in an accident blackspot location. A new door has been fitted which is good news.

Asset and Insurance update

The Asset Register has been updated with the vehicle activated signs (VAS) and the Crumpsbrook bus shelter. The insurance company has been notified in case any further premium is due. The VAS will be added to the risk register once they are installed.

Defibrillator Spares

The spares ordered in March arrived in early October. We will need to order more spares in early 2023 if delivery lead times remain so long. Council agreed for the Clerk to arrange another CPR and defibrillator training session prior to the next Council meeting and suggested a donation to the Community First Responders in lieu of the training.

152/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council discussed the SAAA proposals for external audit from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and resolved to remain opted in to the current regime.
- ii) Council considered the external auditor's report for 2021-22 and noted there were no matters of concern and that the Parish Council was exempt from a review for the previous year.
- iii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the six-monthly review of Risk Assessments.
- iv) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation. It was agreed to discuss whether the money ear-marked for the Parish Plan is still required at the next meeting.

152/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (September & October) - £599.20 (Cheque)
 - ii) Mr C Bargman – Lengthsman Wages and Expenses - £143.97(Cheque)
 - iii) HMRC – PAYE – (September & October) - £149.60 (Cheque)
 - iv) PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee - £240.00 (Cheque)
 - v) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Admin Expenses - £122.40 (Cheque)
 - vi) Andrew Deptford – Defibrillator spares - £136.80 (Cheque).

152/09 Planning Matters

- (a) Planning Applications:
- i) Reference: 22/03585/FUL
Address: 4 Doddington, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NR
Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension following removal of existing extension.
Applicant: Mr P Summerfield.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
 - ii) Reference: 22/04254/LBC
Address: Hopton Court, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0EF
Proposal: Repairs to storm damaged roof and removal of chimney
Applicant: Chris Woodward.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

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

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152/09 Planning Matters (cont'd)

(a) Planning Applications:

- iii) Reference: 22/04417/AGR (For Information Only)
Address: Earls Ditton Farm, Earls Ditton, Kidderminster, DY14 0NH
Proposal: Erection of a new steel framed silage building.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Martin.
Outcome: Council noted this application. No comments are required.

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 22/02662/FUL (validated: 23/06/2022)
Address: Moonstone Cottage, 27 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HR
Proposal: Erection of replacement conservatory
Decision: Grant Permission.
- 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.
Decision: Refuse.
- iii) Reference: 22/01159/FUL (validated: 07/04/2022)
Address: The Glass House, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0QH
Proposal: Erection of a two storey rear extension
Decision: Refuse.

152/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Deane asked for the drain at the bottom of New Road to be cleaned out again and the main road swept. The side of the road from Hopton bridge towards the Lodge is unstable with stones and debris regularly slipping into the road.
- ii) Council had discussed the issues with the A4117 and Ditton Lane with Cllr Butler earlier.
- iii) Cllr Humpage stated there had been four Speed Watch sessions in September. There are fewer vehicles speeding in Doddington now but a lot being caught in Hopton Wafers. One session caught 18 vehicles in an hour. There were more but too many to record. The local police are informed of each session and will try to pop over from Ludlow to support us. A resident commented on the vehicle-monitoring cables across the main road in Hopton Wafers back in September but he has been unable to get any data results from Shropshire Council.
- i) PCSO Lisa Thomas joined the meeting when Council discussed the parish priorities for policing for October 2022 – March 2023. It was agreed that the priorities are speeding, anti-social driving and thefts from outbuildings. PCSO Thomas stated a new traffic officer is starting who will be focusing on anti-social driving. She encouraged people to report all issues to the police and sign up to Neighbourhood Matters to receive regular bulletins from local police.

152/12 Future Agenda Items

The Parish Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Buffery asked if there were any motions from the Parish Council which could be put forward to the SALC AGM. One item would be for Shropshire Council to improve communications with parish councils.

Cllr Turner asked members to think about ways to encourage more parishioners to attend our meetings. Ideas put forward were holding a social event where parishioners could meet all their councillors; send a card to every house with information on what the Parish Council does and all the councillors contact details or hold a coffee morning/Councillor surgery nearer Christmas. Matter to be discussed further next month.

152/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th November 2022, 7pm at Doddington Village Hall. There will be a refresher training session on CPR and defibrillators at 6.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 153/05) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

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

Date.....*14th November 2022*.....