

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7.04pm.

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

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 153/01 Co-option of new councillor and receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office  
Council RESOLVED to approve the co-option of Mr Andy Jones who duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Council.
- 153/02 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members  
Cllr Linda Clayton – family commitment  
Cllr Harold Deane - work  
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – Cllr Gwilym Butler in attendance.
- 153/03 Declarations of Interest  
Cllr Humpage and Cllr Cook declared an interest in Agenda items 153/09 (b) (ii) and (iii) as they are involved with running activities at the Hall.  
Cllr Jones stated he worked in Building Control.
- 153/04 Public Participation Session  
There were no members of public present for the meeting but several parishioners had attended the CPR and Defibrillator refresher training prior to the Council meeting.
- 153/05 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were taken as read and signed.
- 153/06 Matters Arising  
There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.
- 153/07 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports  
i) Clerk's Report  
**Vehicle Activated Signs**  
Following a delay with installing the poles due to a query over land ownership in Doddington, Shropshire Council have written for permission. Hopefully this will be granted and the remaining poles can be installed by the contractors.  
**Highways**  
Shropshire Council, via Fix My Street, have confirmed they have filled the hole near to No.3 Crown Cottages but it has only been partially filled. The reported blocked drains and gullies will be completed in their upcoming programme of maintenance. All cases are now closed but the problems remain which is concerning as there is no indication of when the work will be carried out.  
The main road from Doddington to Hopton Wafers will be surface-dressed next summer (May to August). The white lines and cats' eyes are unlikely to be replaced before then as it is not cost efficient. There has still been no update about the WSP surveys of the A4117.  
**Waste collection service for residents off New Road**  
A meeting of all residents affected by the proposals to change the waste collection service is to be arranged for Monday 28th November. Cllr Jones will try and get costings prepared for stone etc.  
**Proposed bus shelter at Doddington**  
Following a site visit at Doddington last week we also looked at the proposed site for a bus shelter. The proposed location is used for parking by church users, has been driven over onto the common, lacks visibility of vehicles approaching from Clee Hill and may be better located further away from the cattle grid. However, having looked at the parish map the new location is deemed to be in Coreley parish. The Clerk has contacted them about this and will advise with some feedback.  
**Parish Defibrillators**  
Thank you to Liz Quickenden for the defibrillator training. Mr Watkins has informed the Clerk that he has handed over the weekly checks of the defibrillator at Hopton Wafers Village Hall to Mr Hodge.

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

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## 153/07 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

- ii) There was no Lengthsman Report.
- iii) Cllr Buffery reported on the SALC AGM. It was held online over Zoom with 60 participants. The Guest Speaker was the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police, Pippa Mills. She was very good and mentioned that parish councils should get a visit from their local police at council meetings at least once every three months. The President Katrina Baker was re-elected. There was a balance of £102,967.43 carried forward in the bank. For next year, there will be no change to the admin fee but SALC's fee per elector increased to 42.5p and NALC's fee increased to 7.71p per elector. The Clerk will request the draft AGM Minutes to be supplied promptly as last year's took nearly 10 months.

## 153/08 Financial Matters

- i) Council discussed the outstanding actions in the Parish Plan. One of the main points we could offer help with is to have the village halls used more and Council felt the Clerk could contact each hall committee and offer financial help for marketing or even membership on their committee. It was resolved to keep the remaining £941 in ear-marked funding for Parish Plan actions for the time being.

## 153/09 Payments

### (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (November) - £299.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (November) - £74.80 (Cheque)
- iii) M Humpage – Save Our Shropshire Training Fee (reimbursement) - £55.00 (Cheque). Cllr Humpage declared an interest in this item and did not vote.

### (b) Council discussed the following S.137 payments:

- i) Cleobury Mortimer Community First Responders – Donation - £100 approved (Cheque)
- ii) Hopton Wafers Village Hall – installation of broadband - £360.00. Council was supportive of the principle of broadband which would benefit users of the Hall and also enable wi-fi calling which would help with the issue of poor mobile phone signals. Airband has offered free broadband in this area and this has been forwarded to the applicant to pursue. There was no forward plan to pay for the broadband in future years and concerns were raised that the Hall is currently not solvent according to the accounts provided. It was agreed to progress the Airband offer first, request written quotes for installation and information on how the broadband would be paid for in future.
- iii) Hopton Wafers Village Hall – repairs to retaining wall - £500.00. Council felt building repairs are not in the spirit of these community payments which are aimed towards supporting community activities.

## 153/10 Planning Matters

### (a) Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 22/04464/FUL (validated: 13/10/2022)  
Address: 3 Crown Cottages, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NB  
Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the formation of a new vehicular access (re-submission)  
Applicant: Mr P Ellwood  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.
- ii) 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  
Applicant: Mr. and Mrs. S. Ashraf (Pleasant View, Doddington, DY14 0NR)  
Outcome: Council had undertaken a site visit and recommended Council support this application - RESOLVED.

### (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- 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.  
Decision: Grant Permission.

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## 153/10 Planning Matters (cont'd)

- ii) Reference: 22/03355/FUL (validated: 20/07/2022)  
Address: Rectory Cottage, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, 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).  
Decision: Grant Permission.
  
- iii) Reference: 22/04254/LBC (validated: 23/09/2022)  
Address: Hopton Court, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0EF  
Proposal: Repairs to storm damaged roof and removal of chimney  
Decision: Grant Permission
  
- iv) Reference: 22/02190/VAR (validated: 09/05/2022)  
Address: Plot 1 Brookfield, Land Adjacent The Dingle, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire  
Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of 18/03718/FUL Erection of 2no detached dwellings 1no with garage and formation of vehicular access with visibility splay (Re-submission)  
Decision: Grant Permission

## 153/11 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month. Cllr Butler encouraged two-way communication with the parish halls. The recommendation to reduce the speed limit across Clee Hill Common was taken for the community rather than whether or not the police will support and enforce it. There are no details yet on when the work will be carried out. The junction of Ditton Lane with the A4117 is also covered in the WSP survey and the recommendations help with the on-going bus shelter issue. The Autumn Statement is awaited. Shropshire Council currently has a £21m black hole which would only be partially filled if the cap on Council Tax was removed. Even a 6% rise in Council Tax would only bring in £10m. There are currently 52 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children being paid for by Shropshire Council and Cllr Butler feels central government should cover this. At a meeting last week, it was announced the Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury and another one in north Shropshire are closing to take in asylum seekers. The responsibility for health and social care, education etc will all fall on Shropshire Council. Cllr Butler asked if Council would consider putting something in the next budget for Cleobury Mortimer Mens Shed as they are also subject to the increase in utility costs whilst helping with community projects at cost price/donations. The resurfacing of road from Cleobury Mortimer to Lem Hill has been postponed due to cost but also a utility company has indicated they are planning maintenance work on that road and would be digging it up again. The resurfacing is now in the capital programme for next year. Cllr Butler understands the concerns with Fix My Street clearing items off the app but urged everyone to keep reporting issues.

Cllr Humpage asked for a contact regarding the volunteers' request to work with Shropshire Council on the Restoring Shropshire Verges Project. Cllr Butler will follow this up.

Cllr Turner asked what can be done to improve the mobile phone service; is it possible to lobby for a mast?

Cllr Butler confirmed the mast in Cleobury has been upgraded recently. Shropshire Council is looking at various options for mobile phone service but have no responsibility for it and there is no commercial case to supply a mast for a small number of people such as in Hopton Wafers. The Parish Council is concerned that this will be a problem for many residents when land lines cease in a few years.

## 153/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) There were no new parish matters raised.
- ii) Council discussed the proposal for a drop-in surgery/coffee morning. As there are a lot of events on coming up to Christmas this will be held in the new year. The unitary councillors and local police team will also be invited. These events could be held in the different village halls, including weekdays and weekends to be accessible to everyone.
- iii) Cllr Buffery had spoken with Cllr Butler about the condition of Ditton Lane and options to improve the junction with the A4117. Cllr Butler has suggested vehicle activated traffic lights which would help with speeding and improve pedestrian safety.
- iv) Cllr Turner reported on the latest occurrence of the road edge erosion opposite Riverbreeze near Hopton bridge, where a large stone had been dislodged. The bank needs making secure to prevent further erosion and vehicle incidents.

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

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153/12 Parish Matters/Highways (cont'd)

- v) Cllr Humpage reported on Community Speed Watch. Most drivers being caught are not local residents so the police will attend more sessions to support the volunteers.

153/13 Future Agenda Items

There were no further items raised.

153/14 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

***Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Item 15 the public and press shall be excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.***

153/15 Employment Review

Following the recent NJC National Salary Award there was a review of the employees' payments.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.26pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 154/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-**

*M Humpage*

Signed.....Chairman

*12<sup>th</sup> December 2022*

Date.....