

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Andy Jones and the Clerk, Mrs D McBride.

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the meeting.

154/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Sue Turner – unwell

Cllr Barry Buffery – family commitment

Cllr Harold Deane – unwell

Cllr Linda Clayton – family commitment

Cllr Paul Blakeway – work

Cllr Tim Evans - work

Unitary Cllrs Simon Harris and Gwilym Butler - Shropshire Council meeting.

154/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

154/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

154/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 were taken as read and signed.

154/05 Matters Arising

- i) Cllr Jones confirmed a meeting had taken place at Doddington on 28th November with some residents who live off New Road. It was a very positive productive meeting with a healthy debate on ways to improve the track for everyone's benefit. Mr Harman is keen to help with any future work and costings are being sought to purchase and spread more scalplings.
- ii) The Treasurer of Hopton Wafers Village Hall acknowledged the Council's decision about the grant applications and stated that the broadband offer from Airband was somewhat misleading as it was only free for 18 months, also that they have no fibre or line-of-sight connections in the area and no signal for a cellular connection either. There were no other quotes given. The Council has offered to assist with any marketing of the Hall as per the Parish Plan actions but this has not been taken up yet.

154/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

- i) Clerk's Report

Website

The Clerk met with Mr Bargman and has set up a new Ionos account for the Council. It will cost £5 per month and has to be paid from a debit card as there was no option for direct debit currently. Mr Bargman will then transfer the website to the new Ionos account. Once this is done, we will have management access to the website. Mr Bargman is looking into making the site more secure with a SSL Security Certificate which will ensure the site has increased protection against phishing, move it higher up search engines and show the padlock icon indicating it is a more secure site.

Mr Bargman also plans to finish as Lengthsman as at 31st March. Going forward it may be that Council looks to employ a new Lengthsman or just contract out the work. It is understood that the Environmental Maintenance Scheme will continue into the next financial year so we can plan future works in accordance with the scheme and our budget planning.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The Clerk met with Nick Newton from Traffic Engineering last week and confirmed a revised location for the Vehicle Activated Sign in Doddington. It will be a bit further towards the Care Home.

Highways will be asked to cut the verge back off the pavement as it is badly overgrown. The VAS which was going to be installed at the bottom of the old escape lane is going to be located just above the entrance to Augernik Farm (near the start of the 40mph zone). Kier are being instructed to install the remaining three poles as soon as possible.

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

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

154/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

Severn Trent – Mains Drainage at Hopton Bank

There has been another change of Project Manager who confirmed they have a completed outline design. The commercial team are currently involved in contractual negotiations and are hoping to have a Contractor onboard in the New Year who will then complete/confirm the detailed design and eventually complete the construction phase of the project which is forecasted to commence in early 2024 providing that contractual negotiations are completed in the New Year.

154/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council viewed the draft Budget and Precept proposals for 2023-24. Matter to be fully considered at the January meeting once we have received the tax base figures.
- ii) Proposals for taking over the management of the website was discussed earlier.

154/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (December and back-pay) - £520.80 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (December) - £130.20 (Cheque)
 - iii) SALC - Training Course - £112.50 (Cheque).

154/09 Planning Matters

- (a) Planning Applications:
 - i) Reference: 22/05220/FUL (validated: 24/11/2022)
Address: Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HP
Proposal: Proposed erection of a timber framed double garage
Applicant: Mr Simon Williams (Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, DY14 0HP)
Outcome: Council resolved to support the proposals.
- (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
 - 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)
Decision: Grant Permission

154/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month but were unable to attend this evening.

154/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The Clerk will check with West Midlands Ambulance Service with regards to contacting emergency services without a mobile signal.
- ii) The Doddington Cattle Grid is still loose and the railings have still not been replaced. The Clerk will report again.
- iii) Council felt it had no comment at the current time regarding the division boundary as part of the Shropshire Electoral Boundary Review. It is noted that there is a briefing this Thursday which may offer more insight.

154/12 Future Agenda Items

- i) Following his attendance on the Carbon Literacy Training Course, Cllr Humpage asked for a discussion on what the Council can do to encourage people to be more energy efficient. It was suggested we could arrange a drop-in event with a variety of stalls showcasing various energy saving measures as well as offering cost-of-living support and advice.
- ii) The WSP Highway survey reports and recommendations will be sent out to all members prior to a discussion at the next meeting.

154/13 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

Monday 9th January 2023, 7pm at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.03pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 155/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

M Humpage

9th January 2023

Signed.....Chairman Date.....