

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th March 2023 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7.05pm.

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

Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage welcomed everyone to the March meeting.

157/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Harold Deane – unwell.
Cllr Paul Blakeway – unwell.
Cllr Sue Turner – work commitment.
Cllr Tim Evans – work commitment.

157/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

157/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

The following Agenda item was brought forward.

157/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their written report earlier this month. Cllr Butler asked for some feedback on a recent WSP report regarding work proposed from Clee Hill to Doddington. Shropshire Council has been awarded £4.2m to help with the Cost-of-Living Crisis for residents in Shropshire and as such have been proactively informing residents about this funding and other support available. They have also been encouraging people to apply for the £200 alternative fuel payment if it has not been automatically received. Application forms for the Childe Endowment Trust will be available soon. Last year around £7,000 was given out to young people attending college and apprenticeships.

157/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 were taken as read and signed.

157/05 Matters Arising

Cllr Clayton raised concerns that despite assurances from the applicant for the development at Doddington that they would meet with residents, no meeting has taken place yet.
Cllr Buffery noted that the Post Box from the Common has been relocated near the Doddington Cattle Grid without any notification. This is not a suitable location for the many residents of Doddington Heights.

157/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Highways issues

We have been awarded the full £1,500 Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2023-24.

There has been an update from WSP regarding work to be carried out from Clee Hill to Doddington and they would like some feedback this week. Council agreed to invite the WSP officer out to the May Parish Council meeting with a site visit prior to the Council meeting. WSP confirmed there has been some issues regarding land ownership regarding the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) poles. Unitary Cllr Harris and the Clerk have both been chasing Nick Newton for a response regarding the installation of the remaining VAS poles. One pole was installed at Doddington two week's ago but we are still waiting for the other two in Hopton Wafers. The work was agreed 15 months ago and should be in the system to be installed and not need further officer approval.

The Clerk has also reminded Shropshire Council of the agreement with the resident at No.4 Doddington, where Shropshire Council are supposed to be clearing back the pavement against the main road through Doddington. It is not safe enough for volunteers to do, or even a Lengthsman (who is not meant to work on any A and B roads anyway) and has asked when this work will be done.

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157/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports (cont'd)

Footpaths

The Clerk has reported the blocked bridleway 0537/UN2/2 at Doddington to the Outdoor Access Team who have acknowledged this and passed the issue to their Maintenance Team. They have added it to their clearance schedule but advised people can use 0537/UN2/1 and 0537/UN2/4 as an alternative until they can clear this route. They are going to try and establish who the landowner is as most of the growth is inward which would be the land owner's responsibility.

Another resident has raised concerns regarding the overgrown pavement at Doddington. There has been no response or action from Highways to clear this (one section especially urgent as it is part of the agreement for the vehicle activated sign) so perhaps the Parish Council considers using some of the Environmental Maintenance Grant to clear it if not done by Shropshire Council.

Website

The website and Ionos account have been transferred over successfully to the Clerk. The website domain costs £5/month, emails £3/month and SSL £27.50 for the first year. The SSL is to be applied to the website by Ionos. The outgoing Clerk will continue to manage the website until the new Clerk is in post and then a handover will take place.

157/07 Financial Matters

- i) The Chairman signed the approved budget for 2023-24.

157/08 Payments

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

- i) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's Wages (March) - £328.80 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (March) - £82.20 (Cheque)
- iii) SALC – Training Course - £37.50 (Cheque)
- iv) Mrs D McBride – reimbursement for Bleed Control Kits - £372.93 (Cheque).

Council agreed to invite Mrs Quickenden to the Annual Parish Meeting to provide a refresher on CPR and use of defibrillators but primarily to explain how to use the Bleed Control Kits.

157/09 Planning Matters

- (a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 23/00694/FUL (validated: 20/02/2023)
Address: The Glass House, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0QH
Proposal: Erection of a two-storey rear extension (revised scheme)
Applicant: Ms M Phipps (The Glass House, Hopton Bank, Shropshire, DY14 0QH)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.
- ii) Reference: 23/00642/CPE (validated: 16/02/2023) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
Address: 6 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0EP
Proposal: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of the Timber Building shown marked red on the Block Plan for domestic purposes in association and in conjunction with the No 6 Crump Brook being the original stone built dwelling place.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Andrew and Elaine Howells.
No comment is required.
- iii) Reference: 23/00460/FUL
Address: Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of a first floor extension to form a home office with roof terrace and other minor works.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.
- iv) Reference: 23/00453/FUL
Address: Foxhollow, 15 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension to form an annex and other alterations.
Applicant: Mr S Williams.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.

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- v) Reference: 23/00899/PMBPA (validated: 01/03/2023)
Address: Proposed Barn Conversion South of A4117, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to form one residential unit
Applicant: Mr T Whiting (C/O Agent)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposal primarily due to the effect of another residential dwelling and the resultant increase in vehicles turning in/out of the junction of the main road - A4117. The junction is on a double bend on a steep hill and has been subject to a number of accidents in recent years.
We are already well over our 'quota' for market housing and would like to see some of our rural barns and sheds preserved for agricultural purposes rather than them all being converted to housing. This particular shed is very large and does not lend itself easily to becoming a family home and the size and materials would not fit aesthetically for a residential property.
- (b) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):
- 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
Decision: Refuse

157/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Humpage informed the meeting that there were two applications for the Clerk's vacancy and Council resolved to delegate the task of recruitment to the Staffing Group. There are currently three expressions of interest for the Lengthsman vacancy but the closing date is not until 21st March. Cllr Humpage reported Community Speed Watch was underway again and a session in Hopton Wafers recorded 17 vehicles speeding in the one-hour session.
- ii) Cllr Buffery expressed his utmost disappointment with Fix My Street, the lack of response from Shropshire Council and the deteriorating condition of Earls Ditton Lane. There is no work planned on this section of road but it needs urgent attention as it serves over 70 homes at Doddington Heights alone. Cllr Buffery has raised his concerns with Philip Dunne MP to see if he can elicit some action. If no positive action is undertaken by Shropshire Council, Cllr Buffery proposed raising a petition to Richard Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Highways. It was noted that the pot hole on Hopton Bank by the Shote has still not been repaired. The traffic lights at Doddington Cattle Grid will remain in place until the Cattle Grid can be fully repaired.
- iii) The local policing priorities were agreed as Speeding, Anti-Social Driving and Rural Crime. The police will be invited to the Annual Parish meeting too.

157/12 Future Agenda Items

There may be a new application for grant funding for Doddington Village Hall for loft insulation.

157/13 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 17th April 2023, 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. Cllr Clayton gave her apologies as she will be on holiday.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.