

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Andy Jones, Lengthsman – Anthony Harman, Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler) and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

166/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members  
Cllr Harold Deane (Illness), Cllr Linda Clayton (illness), Cllr Paul Blakeway (work commitment) and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris (Other commitment)

166/02 Declarations of Interest  
None

166/03 Public Participation session  
No members of the public were present.

166/04 Approval of Minutes  
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were taken as read and signed.

166/05 Matters' Arising  
Cllr Mark Humpage confirmed that he had written to Lezley Picton as discussed at the last meeting. No response received prior to this meeting.

166/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Chris Phillips of Med UK visited the parish at the start of December to assess the defibrillators as a result of an issue raised by the Guardian for Hopton Wafers Village Hall. He reported that cabinets at each of the three sites had evident of some water ingress. For the issues at Hopton Village Hall the fault with the device could not be rectified and the device was out of warranty and discontinued. As a good will gesture he has loaned us an alternative device. He believes the damage to the device is a result of the water ingress found in the cabinet. He has also noted that the Bleeding Control Kit in the cabinet at the garage does not meet the recommendations and would recommend replacing this.

- His recommendations are that we replace the cabinets as soon as possible. He recommends the DefibSafe2 cabinets which is warrantied for 10 years. The price is £440 each (exc VAT). He further recommends replacing the Bleeding Control Kit inside the garage cabinet at a cost of £95 (exc VAT).
- He also recommends replacing the defibrillator at Hopton Village Hall at a cost of £850 (exc VAT), however the current model is warrantied until August 2024.
- His final recommendation is to budget for a replacement defibrillator at Doddington Heights for when the battery and pads are due to be changed in June 2024. He does not recommend investing more funds into the device as they are likely to break down before consumables are used.

The total amount of the replacement cabinets for all three defibrillators is £1320, plus a new defibrillator plus the bleeding kit, come to a potential £2,265 plus VAT. Whilst this is not a guaranteed cost, it is potential. Clerk recommends one of the following actions:-

1. The Parish Council decommission the defibrillator at Hopton Garage, or
2. The Parish Council ask our communities to fundraise a percentage of the cost for the above, for example 50% of the £440 for the new cabinet in Hopton Wafers, etc.
3. The Parish Council put the above potential costs into the precept which will drive the increase per household up by over £9 per household

Actions – site visits; include a proportion of the potential costs in our Precept; discuss further at the next meeting.

Planning application discussed at the last meeting – Clerk has noted Council support.

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VAS – signs continue to work well. Data can only be downloaded via an android device. Clerk to bring a key for access at the next meeting.

Banking – Communication for Cllr Mark Humpage and Cllr Barry Buffery received. The Clerk now has access to view only the bank accounts.

ii) Lengthsman Report

Has dug a ditch and a trigger to divert flooding at Crumpsbrook for which an improvement has been noted. Gulleys and ditches have been cleared but some have refilled as a result of last week's rainfall. Gulleys have been pushed down from Pound House to the bottom junction of Stockhall Lane. Chairperson, Cllr Mark Humpage noted that he had walked up Stockhall Lane and has reported the potholes on FixMyStreet app. Work by Heath Hill Farm has now been completed, but has yet to complete the work at the Woodhouse. Has done some tidying work around road signs where hedges have been trimmed. Noted that the drains are blocked at Stockhall Farm, which Chairperson, Cllr Mark Humpage will report on FixMyStreet.

166/07 Financial Matters

- i) Consideration and approval of the third quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation – approved by all
- ii) Consideration of Budget and Precept proposals for 2024-25 – approved by all

166/08 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs S. Brown - Clerk's Wages (Jan) £316.95
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (Jan) £79.20
- iii) Funeral flowers for Cllr Derek Bytheway £40.00
- iv) Doddington Village Hall rent £75.00

166/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications – no new planning applications noted

166/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Budget consultation is online and easily accessible on the Shropshire website. It takes 5-10 minutes to complete and is open until 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It is likely that car park fees will increase in line with inflation. There are grants available for those affected by Storm Babet. Next council elections are in May 2025.

166/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) New Parish matters.  
Cllr Mark Humpage has spoken with a member of the Parish, Mr Yardley, about the multiple bins near Hopton Bank Garage. The bins are blocking the pavement resulting in users of the pavement to step into the road to pass the bins. Mr Yardley has been told that a member of the public came off their mobility scooter whilst trying to pass the bins. Action: Clerk to write to Waste Services to raise this concern.
- ii) New Highways matters  
None.

166/12 Future Agenda Items

No new future agenda items raised.

166/13 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

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

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

DRAFT