

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th October at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.05pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Andy Jones, Cllr Barry Buffrey and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

175/01 Co-option of new councillors and receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Council RESOLVED to approve the co-option of Mr James Hinton and Mrs Tracey Wood who duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Council.

175/02 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Maria Cook (other commitments), Unitary Councillor Simon Harris and Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler, Lengthsman Anthony Harman.

175/03 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Linda Clayton declared an interest in Agenda items 175/01 as she is personally known to new Councillor, Tracey Wood.

175/04 Public Participation session

St John's Church, Doddington

- i) Community Activity Grant – St John's Church are running the Beacon on the Hill project. Part of that is to devise and perform a Song of the Hill. Community groups from schools to local choirs and the brass band, as well as individuals are involved. They are planning to record elements of it as well as to have a series of launch performances." Council will provide St John's Church with an application form along with our policy requirements in due course.

Cllrs Buffrey and Turner will draft a policy for grants for approval at the next meeting so that all applications are treated in the same way. Council looked at the available funds for grants and agreed that there was some leeway but that there was limited scope in the current financial year due to expected additional costs for Lengthsman and potential defibrillator replacement costs.

175/05 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2024 were taken as read and signed.

175/06 Matters' Arising

No matters arising.

175/07 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

- i) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting, the Clerk has made contact with Lacon Childe School and Shropshire School Transport regarding the children being dropped on the A4117 at the end of the school day. On 3rd October the Clerk heard from parents that the bus had started dropping children on the triangle outside the village hall. It has not been confirmed that this is the confirmed new route. The Clerk will ask Shropshire School Transport to confirm this new arrangement.

Correspondence from SALC regarding their AGM – Barry Buffrey will attend this on 30th October. Clerk to confirm his attendance.

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Correspondence received from Hopton Wafers Church asking for a grant for ground works. Representatives from the Church were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Clerk will forward form for their application.

Correspondence today received from Laura Howells from StreetScene advising that grass cutting has now stopped due to the wet conditions. Work will now commence on hedges. Any concerns regarding hedges should be reported via FixMyStreet.

ii) Lengthsman Report

Correspondence received from the Lengthsman. He has looked at the bus stop at the top of Stockhall Lane as sheep have been accessing this, therefore it needs cleaning.

175/08 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the six-monthly review of Risk Assessments.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.

175/09 Payments Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs S. Brown - Clerk's Wages (Oct)	£316.95
ii) HMRC – PAYE – (Oct)	£79.20
iii) Hopton Wafers Village Hall Hire	£120.00

175/10 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications

No new planning applications

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Reference: 24/03016/FUL (validated: 05/08/2024)

Address: Little Down, Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0ET

Proposal: Conversion of barn into annexe

Decision: Grant Permission

175/11 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Report attached to minutes.

175/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) New Parish matters.
Cllrs Mark Humpage and Sue Turner, together with the Clerk attended a meeting with Atlas Group to discuss improving mobile phone coverage in the parish. Atlas outlined the need for improved coverage including blue light services, and identified three possible locations for the masts. There are no costs to the parish. The footprint of the mast is 8m x 8m, with an expected height between 23-25 m. The process from start to completion is expected to be 18 months. Council RESOLVED to support this. Next steps are Atlas to contact land owners, planning application to be submitted.
- ii) New Highways matters
Concerns raised about fly tipping on the A4117 on the property of Bridge Cottage. This needs to be reported on FixMyStreet.
Clerk has received correspondence advising that the October planned resurfacing work on Earls Ditton Lane has been postponed until the new financial year.

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175/13 Future Agenda Items

Chairperson to report back to councillors following meeting with Atlas Tower Group.
Cllrs Buffrey and Turner to provide draft policy for grants for approval

175/14 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th November at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

DRAFT