

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7.01pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Andy Jones, Cllr Barry Buffrey, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr James Hilton, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr Tracey Wood, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Lengthsman Anthony Harman, Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

178/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Unitary Cllr Simon Harris (other business), Cllr Barry Buffrey (personal)

178/02 Declarations of Interest

None.

178/03 Public Participation session

None.

178/04 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th December 2024 were taken as read and signed.

178/05 Matters' Arising

None.

178/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

- Defibrillator – BHF application was declined. Purchased the replacement defibrillator from London Hearts for £900, including VAT at £150. This was received and delivered to Pete Fletcher who will arrange installation.
- Clerk has written to Mrs Marilyn Wood requesting an up to date quotation for works detailed on their Grant application. Have also recommended approaching Caring for God's Acre for advice on works. Response received today stating that they are awaiting a third estimate for works on the anthills. Cllrs Mark Humpage and Andy Jones to visit the site before the next meeting and report back.
- Mobile phone masts – correspondence stating that visits to two sites took place on 09.01.25. Images will now be reviewed this week to decide on which option works best. Next steps are to agree Heads of Terms with the selected landowner. Confirmed that both landowners remain engaged with the process.
- Clerk noted from social media that Cleobury Scouts are looking to find opportunities for scouts to be involved with an environmental project. Clerk has reached out to discuss the possibility of lane clearance following winter storms. The meeting agreed to consider clearing around the Bus Shelter at Doddington.
- Clerk's laptop needs to be replaced due to the battery life failing. An upper budget remit of £500 was agreed by Councillors.

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ii) Lengthsman Report

Stockhall Lane – same problems. The leaves need to be swept up.

Lengthsman has spoken with Clive Evans regarding access to farm land to clear ditches. Cllrs James Hinton and Andy Jones to conduct site visit to review work.

Earls Ditton Lane – have re-routed the drains. The Landowner is happy with this work. Further work to be undertaken by Hillocks and Auganiks Farms.

178/07 Financial Matters

i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve Budget and Precept proposals for 2025-26

Precept per household to remain as previous year, but increase in number of properties increases the precept value. Items of expenditure to remain the same value, with the exception of Advertising – which has reduced to zero as there are no advertising costs. Precept funded projects at £600 to allow for potential replacement of defibrillator at Hopton Bank Garage. It was noted that there could be some fundraising events within the parish communities to contribute towards the costs of the two defibrillators that have been replaced during this financial year. £1500 has been allocated Environmental Maintenance/Lengthsman. The Clerk will apply for the EMG but expects this fund to be less than previous years, if it is available.

178/08 Payments Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs S. Brown - Clerk's Wages (Jan)	£316.95
ii) HMRC – PAYE – (Jan)	£79.20
iii) London Heart's Defibrillator – Doddington Heights	£900.00
iv) Lengthsman	£264.00

178/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications

No new planning applications

(b) Planning Decisions

No new planning decisions

178/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Report attached to minutes.

178/11 Parish Matters/Highways

i) New Parish matters

ii) New Highways matters – Cllrs noted that there is Silt going into Bridge Cottage. Lengthsman to clear drains to prevent this.

178/12 Future Agenda Items

None.

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178/13 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th February 2025 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.02pm.

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

DRAFT