

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.02pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Tracey Wood, Cllr Barry Buffrey, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Sue Turner, Anthony Harman Lengthsman, Unitary Cllrs David Davies and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

187/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Paul Blakeway, Cllr Steve Chapman, Cllr James Hinton and Cllr Andy Jones

187/02 Declarations of Interest

None.

187/03 Public Participation session

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had received correspondence regarding the possible closure of the Leisure Centre in Cleobury Mortimer, Council confirmed that this had been received and would be discussed during the Clerk's report.

187/04 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025 were taken as read and signed.

187/05 Matters' Arising

None.

187/06 Clerk/Lengthsman and Chairperson Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Email received from Dave Davies on 18th September – requesting pledge of funds towards keeping Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre open from April 2026 until August 2027. Council agreed to earmark £500 donation from this year's budget, with a further potential from next year's budget of £500. This money will be pledged at this point.

Clerk's Salary – guidance from SALC in July 2025 regarding increase to hourly pay for Clerks. Hourly rate would go from £13.07 to £13.47 per hour, which equates to a £12 per calendar month increase. The current budget allowed for this potential increase. Council agreed for this to be discussed at the next meeting.

Update from Kelly Crowther of Atlas Group on 10.10.25 regarding the mobile phone mast. This is currently with their Legal team for the use of the host land for the mast. This can take some time to agree the terms and conditions. In the meantime, Kelly is in communication with the network providers and is putting together a marketing package for this. She explained that the suggested timeframe of up to 18 months is from when the site was agreed which was late July this year. She also said that construction of the mast is best during the summer months, so this may be a factor.

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ii) Lengthsman Report

Has forwarded Cllrs photographs of this month's work in Doddington. Has also cleared around the speed limit signs in Hopton Wafers. Cllrs to request access to land at Auganik Farm by speed sign to clear the Hazel. Requested that Clerk produce a sign for the bus shelter regarding sweet wrappers/rubbish left behind. Has spoken with Cleobury Mortimer Town Clerk to clarify boundary at Holly Waste. Will start plotting drains and gulleys using What3words to understand future issues.

187/07 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.

187/08 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) Donation – CAP	£100.00
iv) Donation – Cleobury First Responders	£100.00
v) Donation – Cleobury Food Bank	£100.00
vi) Clerk's expenses - Data Protection License	£52.00
vii) AP Supplies (Lengthsman)	£828.00

187/09 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications

Reference: 25/03519/FUL (validated: 22/09/2025)

Address: Fairview Cottage, Cleeton St Mary, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0QT

Proposal: Erection of rear and side single storey extensions and change of use of land to domestic garden with associated works

Applicant: Mr Andy Gibbons (Fairview House, Cleeton St Mary, Kidderminster, DY14 0QT)

Cllrs agreed to support

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Reference: 25/01505/FUL (validated: 17/04/2025)

Address: Land Opposite The Warren, Stockhall Lane, Hopton Wafers, Cleobury Mortimer

Proposal: Erection of three self-build dwellings with garages and formation of vehicular accesses

Decision: Refuse

Reference: 25/01507/FUL (validated: 30/04/2025)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land Adjacent Ashcroft, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of two self-build dwellings with garages

Decision: Refuse

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187/10 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Attached.

Some temporary repairs on Earls Ditton Lane. Concerns were raised that this works will be delayed again nearer to the March 2026 estimated works as has previously been the case. Cllrs expressed a desire to meet Andrew Keyland at the site of the proposed works. Request that Highways consider splitting the works in two parts to expedite this. Unitary Cllr Dave Davies is planning a meeting at another site with Andrew Keyland and will raise this request.

187/11 Parish Plan

Council to discussed commencement of works on new Parish Plan. Proposed working committee that is Community Led with representation from the Parish Council. Advertise on social media to enlist volunteers from the community. Next steps agreed.

187/12 Amendment to standing order

Council discussed changes to order of business according to future agendas. Cllr Barry Buffrey proposed that standing order 187/10 Unitary Councillor's Report be amended to change order of business so that Unitary Councillors Report shall appear immediately after public participation and before Approval of Minutes. This was seconded by Cllr Sue Turner. All Councillors voted in favor of this.

187/13 Update on Freedom of Information – A4117

Cllr Maria Cook contacted West Mercia Police in relation to speeding on A4117 in relation to concerns about speed limits between Doddington and Hopton Wafers on A4117.

Response report that there was one accident resulting in serious injury and two reported as damage only

Serious injury collision where vehicle one lost control due to surface water; First damage only collision was noted as due to speed; second damage only has no contributing factor noted.

Council agreed to access VAS data and report back at the next meeting.

187/14 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) New Parish matters - none
- ii) New Highways matters – none

187/15 Future Agenda Items

VAS data
Parish Plan update
Clerk's salary

187/16 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th November 2025 at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

Signed:

Date:

Print name: