

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.01pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Andy Jones, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Tracey Wood, Cllr James Hilton, Cllr Steve Chapman, Unitary Cllr David Davies and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

190/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Lengthsman, Anthony Harman, Cllr Paul Blakeway and Cllr Barry Buffrey

190/02 Declarations of Interest

None.

190/03 Public Participation session

None.

190/04 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Attached.

Cllrs asked for clarification regarding the "three self builds on an already busy road" listed in The Unitary Councillors' report. It was confirmed that the land referred to is by High Oak not the land on the A4117.

Unitary Cllr has attended a consultation meeting regarding demolishing the Shire Hall building.

Report states that there is a survey on Shropshire Council website regarding Council spending. Recommended that Cllrs look on Shropshire Council facebook page for access to the survey.

190/05 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were taken as read and signed.

190/06 Matters' Arising

None.

190/07 Clerk, Lengthsman and Chairperson Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Clerk has received an email from the resident of Upper Down Farm in Hopton Wafers regarding blocked drains. They have reported the issued to the Highways Department who referred her on to the Parish Council. The Lengthsman has their contact details and will update Council before commencing any works.

New Cllrs Training has been arranged for our recently appointed Councillors.

Clerk has received communication from ALC regarding online strategy meeting for Broadband strategy and Severn Valley Water Management Scheme. Cllr Mark Humpage will attend this.

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

NALC are offering an online conference on 11<sup>th</sup> February called Precept and beyond – stating “With growing responsibilities and limited support, smaller parish and town councils need funding options that go far beyond the precept. However, the government and many principal authorities still point to uncapped precepts as a reason to avoid direct funding. Yet, at the same time, more assets and liabilities are being pushed to the local level with very little money to sustain them. For smaller parish and town councils in particular, this creates real pressure to find additional income to protect valued services and deliver community projects.” Clerk will attend this session.

Clerk has received notification that the defibrillator at Hopton Bank Garage may have been used recently. This will be checked to ensure the defibrillator remains ready for use.

## Lengthsman’s Report

Lengthsman has undertaken some work in the parish and shared photographs. Works include clearing drains on Hopton Bank leading towards Crumpsbrook, clearing tress off Crumpsbrook and Stock Hall Lane following the weekend’s snow and initial works on a collapsed pipe by Cleeton Village Hall. Will submit invoice for recent works before the next meeting.

## 190/08 Financial Matters

Council resolved to approve:

- i. the third quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation
- ii. the draft Budget and Precept proposals for 2026-27

## 190/09 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs S. Brown - Clerk’s Wages (Jan)	£339.78
ii) HMRC – PAYE – (Jan)	£84.80
iii) Clerk’s Expenses	£57.88
iv) Hopton Wafers Village Hall Rent	£45.00
v) Election expenses	£125.00

## 190/10 Planning Matters

### (a) New Planning Applications

Reference: 25/04643/FUL (validated: 12/12/2025)

Address: 4 Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0EP

Proposal: Replacement self-build dwelling

Applicant: Mr Broome (The Old School House, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0HQ)

Council resolved to support this application.

### (b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Reference: 25/04240/FUL (validated: 10/11/2025)

Address: The Dingle, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NB

Proposal: Proposed single storey front / side extension for secure storage / garaging

Applicant: Mr And Mrs Smith

Permission Granted

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## 190/11 Parish Plan

There have been a number of members of the parish community that are willing to form a working party for the renewal of the Parish Plan. Clerk will invite all interested parties to attend a planning meeting at 6pm on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February immediately before the next Parish Council Meeting.

## 190/12 VAS Data

Data has been reviewed and was shared with all attending Cllrs. Data comes from VAS in Hopton Village shows over a period of 92 days, 298,299 vehicles, showing 71% of vehicles were in excess of the speed limit with an average of one vehicle per day driving in excess of 75 mph. Data regarding time of day when vehicles are speeding will inform future speed watch timings.

Data towards Hopton Bank Garage shows 453,028 vehicles in the 92 day period. 21% of vehicles were driving in excess of the speed limit.

Future analysis would be to look at data on different days of the week.

Cllrs reported that the Vehicle Activated Signs have reduced speeding by approximately 40%.

It was agreed that the Clerk will share this data with the police including days of the week that the speeds occur.

## 190/13 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) New Parish matters – Grit bins - Advice on Shropshire Council is that there are over 2000 in the county and unlikely to be any more. If a grit box has not been provided by Shropshire County Council it will not be filled by Shropshire County Council. If the community require more it would be recommended to request them from the Parish Council but it would then be the responsibility of the parish council. Clerk to investigate costs of additional grit bins and the ongoing costs for keeping them stocked with grit.
- ii) New Highways matters – as result of the snow, there is a tree down on the public path at Doddington by Willow Cottage (near bus stop), making a section of the path impassable. Clerk to request Lengthsman to attend to this.

## 190/14 Future Agenda Items

None.

## 190/16 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.09pm.

Signed:

Date:

Print name: