

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.04pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Andy Jones, Cllr James Hilton, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Cllr Steve Chapman, Lengthsman, Anthony Harman and the Clerk, Sarah Brown

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

191/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Tracey Wood and Unitary Cllr David Davies

191/02 Declarations of Interest

None.

191/03 Public Participation session

None.

191/04 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Attached.

191/05 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026 were taken as read and signed.

191/06 Matters' Arising

None.

191/07 Clerk, Lengthsman and Chairperson Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Clerk submitted Precept paperwork to Shropshire Council on 28.01.26

Clerk and Chairman, Cllr Mark Humpage spoke with Unity Trust Bank on 29.01.26 to understand the benefits of moving Council bank account. Current bank account is with Lloyds and are paying £4.25 per month in bank charges and currently getting 0.5% interest, so a balance of £10k would be £50 interest per annum which is the equivalent of our monthly £4.25 charges over a 12 month period. Unity Trust Bank at Tier 1 (under £100k) would be paying £6 per month but the difference is in the interest rates. With an instant access savings account alongside the current account we were quoted 1.9% interest rate on savings at the time of the enquiry. There are different rates according to the number of days notice of the transfer from savings to instant access. To change the account from Lloyds to Unity, Unity Trust Bank would handle all aspects of this and the transfer of accounts would be instant. A further benefit to changing to this bank is that a Triple Authority set up would allow the Clerk to set up payments, for nominated two Cllrs to authorize. There would be no limit on the number of councillors nominated on the account. This account would allow for a Debit Card which would allow for debit payments for IONIS (web provider) rather than the current arrangement for the Clerk to pay then claim back as Clerk's Expenses.

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Speed watch – Chairman has been in touch with SNT and asked that they confirm the new recruits are cleared for duty.

Clerk has received correspondence regarding the appeal for planning permission for three houses on Stockhall Lane, planning reference 25/01505/FUL which has been shared with Cllrs prior to this meeting. Council asked Clerk to respond.

Lengthsman's Report

Been working to keep on top of the gully works. Cleared some trees up Hopton Bank (9 wing mirrors on Hopton Bank collected). Cleared the tree by the bus stop at Doddington. Intend to clear the drains by Cleeton Village Hall as discussed in the last meeting.

I have been asked by Farlow and Oretton Parish Council to clear the drains by the cattle grid by the old Gate Hangs Well. The drains are in Farlow Parish but the access is in Hopton Wafers Parish. Council agreed to split this cost with Farlow Parish Council.

£500 for the day with a digger by Heath Fields on Catherton Common (ditch work). Council agreed this work

191/08 Financial Matters

None.

191/09 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i) Mrs S. Brown - Clerk's Wages (Feb)	£339.78
ii) HMRC – PAYE – (Feb)	£84.80
iii) AP Supplies	£468.00

191/10 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications

Reference: 26/00178/AG1 (validated: 19/01/2026)

Address: Hunters Rest, 6 Silvington Hill, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0ER

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building to be used for general agricultural storage

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ewing (Hunters Rest, 6 Silvington Hill, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0ER)

No action at this point.

Reference: 26/00275/FUL (validated: 26/01/2026)

Address: Genoli, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NA

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and link and erection of single-storey extension to include integral garage

Applicant: Mrs Sara Parry

Council to support

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

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

Proposal: Replacement self-build dwelling

Decision: Grant Permission

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191/11 Parish Plan

Working party have had initial meeting prior to this meeting. Clerk will update Council as progress is made.

191/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) New Parish matters – Open Reach have commenced works to put in Fibre Optics at Doddington, off the Hopton Bank track. Chair has been in communications with Ben Walker regarding this in Hopton Wafers village.
- ii) New Highways matters – A4117 by Bridge Cottage, the bridge is corroding and part of the wall has come apart. This has been reported to Highways and traffic lights installed.

191/13 Future Agenda Items

Council to discuss transferring bank account to Unity Trust Bank under Financial Matters.

191/14 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7pm at Doddington Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

Signed:

Print name:

Date:

DRAFT