Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th October 2026 at Hopton Wafers Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mark Humpage (Chair), Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Maria Cook, Cllr Barry Buffrey, Cllr Paul Blakeway, Cllr Sara Parry, Unitary Cllr Dave Davies, Lengthsman, Anthony Harman and the Clerk Sarah Brown

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

198/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr James Hinton, Cllr Tracey Wood and Cllr Steve Chapman

198/02 Declarations of Interest

None.

198/03 Public Participation session

There were three members of the public present. Concerns were raised regarding drains and culverts along Stockhall Lane which remain blocked and / or sumps full which have been reported to FixMyStreet. A request was made for the Lengthsman to investigate a small project which could potentially alleviate the amount of water that runs down to the bottom of Stockhall Lane due to running off friend fields on the lane. These issues impact properties at the bottom of Stockhall Lane and those situated on the left hand side of the bottom of Stockhall Lane. Council resolved for the Lengthsman to look into this and report to the next meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding planning breaches at Swallows Nest. Council resolved to discuss this.

198/04 Unitary Councilors' Reports

Attached.

198/05 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th Septmeber 2026 were taken as read and signed.

198/06 Matters' Arising

None.

198/07 Clerk, Lengthsman and Chairperson Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Correspondence received from Unitary Cllr Dave Davies on 24th September regarding the highways work at Bridge Cottage on the A4117. The contractor is currently liaising with Shropshire Council's permitting team to secure the necessary road space on the highway network. No further updates at the time of this meeting.
Email received regarding Road Safety Grant Fund. Need to make application by 9th November, should Council wish to apply.
Clerk has emailed Stuart Anderson, MP on 1st October as per previous meeting, to invite him to attend future Parish Council Meeting. Awaiting response.
Clerk has asked for an update from Atlas Tower Group regarding the phone mast. No response received at the time of the meeting.

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Clerk and Chairman Mark Humpage attended meeting at the Market Hall in Cleobury Mortimer on Friday, 9th October to meet with Tanya Miles, Chief Executive for Shropshire Council. Issues raised from representatives from local Parich Councils included the condition of the roads and the reporting processes, fly tipping and planning issues.

ii) Lengthsman's Report

No works completed this month. It has been a dry summer and so issues have not arisen. Will look at the bus shelter at Doddington (on the right heading towards Ludlow) as it needs the wooden facias replacing. Will advise costs in due course. The Commoners have been doing some controlled burning on Clee Hill, this works cannot be completed on Catherton Common as this is owned by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. It is the landowners responsibility to put things into place on their own property to prevent fire coming onto their property.

Chairperson's Report

Has received communication regarding the Community Speedwatch signs. The signs do not need to be 50-100m from the standing point as previously thought, but need to continue to be visible to all road users.

198/08 Financial Matters

Council RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.

198/09 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

i)	Mrs S. Brown - Clerk's Wages (October)	£339.38
ii)	HMRC – PAYE – (October)	£85.00
iii)	Clerk's Expenses (IONIS)	£28.94
iv)	Data Protection Officer	£52.00
v)	SALC – New Cllrs Training	£45.00

198/10 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Applications

None

(b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Reference: 26/02668/VAR (validated: 15/07/2026)
Address: Proposed Wedding Venue At The Orangery At Hopton Court, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission No. 21/04133/FUL to allow year-round siting of marquee for wedding events without dismantling and reassembly in-between
Decision: Grant Permission

Reference 26/02972/FUL
Address: Land adjacent to Ashcroft, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of dwelling and detached garage
Decision: Grant Permission

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Hopton Wafers Parish Council

198/11 Parish Plan

Approximately a third of questionnaires delivered have been returned. One volunteer has trialed an app to collate data from the written completed returned questionnaires. Next steps are to use the data to draft the new Parish Plan.

198/12 Parish Matters/Highways

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

198/13 Pay award for Clerk

It was resolved to implement the 2026/27 National Joint Council pay award of 3.3% and increase pay scale to SCP 9 retrospectively from 1st April 2026

198/14 Confidential Item

Council discussed concerns raised about an alleged breach in planning, and agreed next steps.

198/15 Future Agenda Items

Grants and donations

198/16 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

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