

Minutes of Hopesay Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish, in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 10th April 2025, 7.00pm

Present: Chair of the Parish Council Cllr R Hartas, and approx. 30 members of the public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Welcome and Introduction: The Chair opened the meeting welcoming everybody.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2024: The minutes were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

3. Year in Review: The Chair of the Village Hall reported that the Hall was in a good financial position, and well used by the community. He mentioned the community hog roast on Sunday 17th July to which all the parish would be invited. The Chair of the Community Shop reported that the shop is one of only 10% nationally wholly run by volunteers, and is thriving with plenty of transactions each week. Profits go back into the community in the form of small grants and are also saved for the future replacement of the building. Lisa Thomas, PCSO told the meeting that Hopesay Parish now came under the Craven Arms policing team. She urged residents and others to report all criminal activity so that the team can build up a picture of activity in the area and talked about the dangers of current scams. The Chair of the Parish Council told the meeting that there were too few councillors to be effective as a council and urged people to consider serving as a parish councillor for a term. He thanked the Clerk, Mr J Campion, and fellow councillors for their work.

4. Slow the Flow, a report about natural flood management: Sarah Mackness of Shropshire Wildlife Trust addressed the meeting and explained about the work to hold water in the natural environment that had been carried out to reduce flooding in the parish. She answered several questions from the floor.

5. Openreach fibre broadband: The Chair gave an update and summary to the meeting, and answered questions from the floor.

6. Flood Warden Scheme: The Environment Agency's Flood Wardens scheme was explained. Volunteers were needed for Hopesay, Aston on Clun, Broome, and Longmeadow End. There were several comments from the floor on recent flooding exacerbated by thoughtless driving through surface water.

7. Speed Indicator Signs: The Chair gave an illustrated presentation on the latest figures, which would be uploaded to the Council website. There followed a 10 minute break for further refreshments and chat.

8. Council Elections: The Chair appealed to the meeting for persons to come forward after the uncontested election to serve as parish councillors. There would be 4 vacancies. There were questions and discussion from the floor.

9. Play Equipment on Aston Green: The question of play equipment on Aston Green was discussed with several comments, questions, and concerns expressed from the floor. Those against the idea expressed concerns about 'county lines' and inappropriate use of the play area by incoming criminals leading to the detriment of the parish. The area that the Working Party had identified for the equipment was questioned by several as being too near housing, and several alternative parts of Aston Green were suggested. The discussion was lively and focussed but no one option emerged. An informal show of hands had more against (11) than for (6) the proposal, and it was clear that Council needed to consider further actions including further consultation, in order to bring closure to the issue.

10. A.O.B. Residents' Questions, suggestions and concerns: Due to the extended discussion on the previous item, there was no time left for this.

Signed by Chair:

Date: