

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 22nd February 2021, held remotely via ZOOM, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. R. Loynes, J Bowers, J Manifold, I Alebon, R Fowler, T Record (by phone)

Absent: Cllr J Cole, Unitary Councillors (Cllr D Evans attempted to join the meeting but the connection was unsuccessful)

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

The Chairman introduced the meeting, and summarised procedure for virtual / remote meetings.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Cole.

2. Co-option of Councillors: Ms Shola Hingston was proposed by Cllr Fowler and seconded by Cllr Manifold, and was unanimously co-opted onto Council. **Resolved.** Cllr Hingston signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and held it up so that the meeting could see and so that the Clerk could witness the signing.

Mr Gordon Fryer was proposed by Cllr Bowers and seconded by Cllr Alebon, and was unanimously co-opted onto Council. **Resolved.** Cllr Fryer signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and held it up so that the meeting could see and so that the Clerk could witness the signing.

Cllrs Hingston and Fryer were welcomed onto Council.

3. Declarations of i) Disclosable Pecuniary and ii) Personal Interests, and written requests for dispensations: Cllr Hingston declared an interest in item 6.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 18th January 2021: The minutes were approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as an accurate record. **Resolved.**

5. Public Participation: A member of the public addressed the meeting on planning item 6a. Concerns were expressed about the traffic passing through the village related to this development. Shropshire Council had approved it as permitted development but the application was for storage of farm machinery and no animals, whereas the development was a milking parlour which would obviously hold animals. The application also claimed that the development could not be seen from footpaths and roads which was untrue. Villagers had written to Shropshire Council questioning the application and had visited the site, and were asking whether there would be milk collection tankers daily coming through the village.

6. Planning: New applications: 21/00006/FUL, Menage View, Craven Arms Road, Aston On Clun, Erection of car port/garden room with log store. Council **resolved** to support the application.

21/00191/TPO, Old Farm House, Hopesay, Sycamore trees, remove deadwood, reduce, one with hollow base dismantle to ground level. Council **resolved** to support the application.

Cllr Hingston left the room at this point.

20/04868/LBC, Malt House Cottage, Clun Road, Aston, works to replace door to front elevation with window, replacement of external doors with flood doors, works for the installation of air source heat pump to rear, replacement windows to side and rear elevations, and insertion of new internal door access to garage affecting a Grade II Listed Building. Council **resolved** to support the application.

Cllr Hingston re-joined the meeting at this point.

6a. 20/02434/AGR: The agricultural development at Taddymoor was discussed. Because it had been 'permitted development' Council had not been consulted on the application. The ecological impact of a milking parlour urgently needed to be considered. It seemed to appear that the application was an attempt to circumvent planning rules. Council took a grave view of this. It did not appear to be a simple mistake, but a clear breach. Council felt that Halls, the land agent involved in the application, had been actively complicit. If there was now a subsequent application for lawful development, the attempt to breach planning rules in the original application ought to be taken into account by Shropshire Council; and perhaps financial conditions could be imposed to help with road maintenance in the event of regular milk tankers and other heavy agricultural traffic frequently travelling through the village.

Council **resolved** to contact Shropshire Council asking them to reconsider the application including whether planning rules had been circumvented, any environmental issues, and to consider ongoing road maintenance contributions as part of permission for lawful development.

7. Unitary Councillor Report: None.

8. Arbor Tree: The Project Manager Mr Paul Sweetland was invited to address Council. He confirmed that the Arbor Tree Committee would like the replacement picnic bench to be in oak and to have disabled access. Mr Sweetland offered to remove the old bench and to prepare the area for the new one. Councillors had been provided with images and descriptions plus prices of various options, and Council **resolved to purchase** option H (Coed Dinefwr Ltd) for £450 + £60 fixings, plus transport costs etc, provided that the item would fit in the space available.

9. Flooding: The Chairman and Cllr Alebon had met residents and a Shropshire Council Officer in Aston to look at flooding issues along the Clun road. Blockages at bridges and culverts were a major issue. Several actions by Shropshire Council had been agreed. There was some confusion over who owned the land on the opposite side of the stream from Aston Hall as Mr Mason said his deeds showed that he did not own it. Shropshire Council would be asked to find out. Flooding issues at Broome were also raised with Shropshire Council.

10. Garden Statuary: The need for discussion of this matter had been removed.

11. Updates on matters from previous minutes / Clerk's report: The Clerk reminded Council that the Census in England and Wales will take place on 21st March 2021. Full information was in the report.

Hopesay Parish Trust was providing online schooling financial support to help with internet access and suitable home equipment, and had posted notices about this around the parish.

12. Hall / Shop Lease Update: It is understood that the solicitors were in contact.

13. Aston Green: Fencing quotes for the track and lower field: The Clerk reported that no other actual quotes had been forthcoming but that two other contractors who were unable to do the job had been asked and both had said that in their opinion the quote already obtained was hard to beat. One said that if he had been able to do the job, he would have only been able to knock £20 off the quote – but that he was not able to take on the job; and the other said that it was a reasonable quote considering the labour involved.

In light of this Council **agreed to accept** Mr Marpole's quote of £450 + VAT for the work involved in replacing all posts and staples (taking down fence, then putting it back up again), materials extra and to be purchased direct from a supplier by Council. **Resolved.**

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14. Correspondence: A Hopesay village resident had written to Council informing it of ongoing efforts to achieve fibre broadband for the village.

Temporary road closures: night closure of the Clun road at the Craven Arms railway bridge 15th/16th March by Network Rail; Long Lane and Watling Street Craven Arms, 21st March, BT pole testing; Long lane level crossing maintenance 17th & 18th April; B4369 From Broome Road end To Junction B4367, Aston, 28th April, Severn Trent maintenance.

15. Zoom Protocol: Council **resolved** to adopt the Zoom protocol as circulated.

16. Finance: The Bank reconciliation to 29th January 2021 had been circulated. There were no unexplained variances.

Bank Balances to 29th January: Current account £7,957.70p, Savings account: £8,142.33p.

P3 (Parish Paths): Council agreed to hold a grant of £150 from Shropshire Council for the P3 group (which did not have a bank account). It would be held in the P3 Earmarked Reserve currently holding £19 – so, a total of £159. The grant was expected to be paid in February and would be seen on the March bank statement.

INVOICES to PAY:

Between meetings, 1 cheque was issued under delegated powers. **Cheque 100699 to T P Jones & Co LLP for £53.10p, voucher 74 below**, for 3 months of payroll services Oct – Dec 2020.

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Cheque
74	T P Jones	3 months payroll services	Admin 44.25	53.10 incl 8.85 VAT	100699
75	Meg Gwilliam	Net salary, & home working expenses allowance	Salary 426.50 Office admin 26.00	452.50	SO
76	HMRC	PAYE tax on salary	Salary tax	73.40	100700
77	M Gwilliam	Reimbursement stamps	Office admin	18.12	100701
78	Ditton Services	Grass cutting monthly instalment	Aston Green 203	243.60 (VAT 40.60)	SO

Council accepted the Finance Report, and authorised the lists of payments. Resolved.

17. Risk Register: Council reviewed its Risk Register and agreed that the format and grading system was adequate. Risks 2 and 3 were reviewed, and considered unchanged. **Resolved.**

Cllrs Manifold and Fowler would try to arrange to discuss the role of leading on the Risk Register in March or April to see if Cllr Fowler felt he could take this on.

18. Review of Risks and Internal Controls: The RFO had circulated a report to assist Council in its annual review of its risks and internal controls. Councillors had studied the report, and agreed the report's findings. Council's annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal controls and risk management found that it had sufficient, adequate, and effective control of all its procedures, financial and otherwise. **Resolved.**

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19. Training: New Councillor training Monday 22nd March 5pm – 7.30pm, Zoom, cost £30 per person. Some councillors were already provisionally booked on the course and 2 unnamed places authorised, Council was asked to increase authorisation to three places and name the councillors.

Council **authorised** Cllrs Hingston, Fowler, and Fryer's attendance at Fundamentals councillor training on 22nd March at a cost of £30 per delegate. **Resolved.**

20. Meetings attended: Cllr Bowers had attended a village hall committee meeting at which it had been reported that finances were in good health, but that no one was hiring the hall at this time. The committee was not happy with the screen installed to protect the walls. Renewal of serving hatches was being considered, and installation of a false ceiling and redecoration of the hallway was scheduled for the end of February.

No other meetings attended.

21. Reports of Parishioners and parish issues: agenda items for the March meeting should include assets register checklist inspection results and parish plan.

22 Next Meeting: Monday 29th March 2021, at which it was expected that Mr Peter Carty of the National Trust would talk about the National Trust's Hopesay Hill plans for nature conservation, tree planting, and time limited grazing.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman Signed:

Date: