

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 26th JULY 2021, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. R Loynes, J Bowers, T Record, G Fryer.

Absent: Cllrs S Hingston, I Alebon.

In attendance: one member of the public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Hingston, reason: attending another meeting. Council approved Cllr Hingston's apology for absence. **Resolved.**

2. Co-option of Councillors (and Acceptances of Office): None. Former councillor Rob Fowler had resigned. Mr Fowler had in fact not attended since being re-elected, and had not signed a post-election Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which meant that he had never taken up post-election office. Therefore, the position of councillor had fallen vacant (LGA 1972, part V, section 83).

3. Declarations of i) Disclosable Pecuniary and ii) Personal Interests, and written requests for dispensations: None.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 28th June 2021: The minutes were approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as an accurate record. **Resolved.**

5. Public Participation: Mr David Jones spoke in his capacity as Chair of Aston on Clun Village Hall. The community hog roast would go ahead despite the threat of road works and temporary road closure. Shropshire Council had been requested to postpone the works but as yet no definite answer had been received.

6. Planning: New applications: 21/02927/FUL, The Grist House, Basford Bank, Edgton; demolition of existing porch and erection of new entrance porch, demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new garage and workshop with gym over. Council **resolved** to neither support or object to the application but to submit representations endorsing the SC Conservation Historic Environment Team's request for photographs of the existing structures before works commenced, for the record, as they were of historic interest.

Enforcements: 21/07680/ENF, Tadymor Farm, Hopesay, Alleged breach of Planning Control in relation to planning permission 20/02434/AGR – usage. As far as Council was aware this was still ongoing.

Decisions: Refused: 21/01907/OUT, proposed self-build dwelling adj. Broome industrial estate.

7. Unitary Councillor Report: None present.

8a. Chairman's report: The Chairman introduced this new standing agenda item. A ramblers walking group would be using the lower field for car parking on 19th September. The Clun riverside path Right of Way issue was continuing in that a mixed response from Shropshire Council to the Clerk's request had been received. The matter would be an agenda item in August.

8b. Updates from previous minutes, Clerk's report: The Clerk would be taking 3 weeks annual leave in September.

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9. Aston Green: Management: Council considered a proposal to use some paid labour at a sympathetic rate to help maintain and develop the environmentally friendly / wild areas of Aston Green and the Lower Field, because the amount of work now required was more than the current volunteers could manage.

It was estimated that between now and 31st March 2022, the amount of paid work would not exceed £250 in total. The current Aston Green Management Plan 2021 - 2022 available budget was more than sufficient to cover this. In subsequent years, the annual cost of paid labour should be included in the Management Plan details for the year, and in the Aston Green Management budget.

Council authorised up to £250 towards labour costs to assist the maintenance of Aston Green wild and environmental areas in 2021 / 2022. **Resolved.**

Marquee: A request to erect a marquee on Aston Green in September 2022 (a full year ahead) was discussed. Councillors had sight of the application and details, and had no objection to it.

The fencing around Forge Garage's garden had been completed. It is hoped that the fencing for the track and lower field would be undertaken in the next few weeks. The contractor would contact the owner of the adjacent field direct to discuss access and livestock issues.

10. Correspondence: Various bulletins, newsletters and other correspondence circulated to Councillors. Open letter from Shropshire Council on the county-wide condition of the highways, and what Shropshire Council was doing about them.

Temporary road closures: Aston on Clun (Craven Arms rd.) 26th July, new water connection; 6 – 8 August, Clun Road Craven Arms, surface dressing.

11. Speed Indicator Signs grant application: The Community Shop had embraced the plan to install Speed Indicator Signs in Aston on Clun and had offered a very generous part funding of the signs to get the project off the ground. Council expressed its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for this. In addition, a private individual had offered a donation towards the funding for the project of £100. Council was delighted and extremely grateful.

12. Policies Reviews: Council reviewed its Grant Awarding Policy, the GDPR Policy, and the Bullying and Harassment Policy/Procedure. No revisions were considered necessary.

13. Risk Register: Council reviewed risk 6. Council also reviewed risks 1a, 9, and 11.

Risk 6 – Councillors discussed how to better reach the electorate. Council could design and circulate a leaflet introducing councillors to parishioners and giving contact details, hopefully thus making councillors more known and accessible. It was felt that periodic presence at the Aston on Clun craft fairs had been useful, and that a Council presence at other community events should be an option.

Risk 1a could be downgraded as the trees at Aston Green as well as the Arbor Tree had been inspected within the previous year and the volunteers who kept Broome corner tidy inspected the trees there regularly. Likelihood therefore reduced to 1, overall score now 3.

Risk 9 was discussed. The Chairman stated that Council needed to provide support for new councillors, and Council agreed that new councillors would be given ongoing support and mentoring.

Risk 11 was then discussed. There were no changes.

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14. Platinum Jubilee: Council discussed the letter from the Lord Lieutenant. It was suggested that what to do for the Platinum Jubilee would be a worthwhile subject for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Community Shop, the Village Hall, and the Arbor Tree Committees should be invited to get involved in planning any event or series of events. Other suggestions for the event were, to plant a specimen tree on Aston Green, or even to plant a small copse, and/or a piece of outdoor art work.

15. Finance: The RFO reported that the External Auditor had confirmed receipt of the notification of exempt status (Certificate of Exemption from external audit) for the year ended 31 March 2021; and that all required documentation had been published on the Parish Council website in line with legislation.

There was no bank reconciliation this month.

INVOICES to PAY:

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Cheque
18	Meg Gwilliam	Net salary, & home working expenses allowance	Salary 426.50 Office admin 26.00	452.50	SO
19	HMRC	PAYE tax on salary	Salary tax	75.80	100720
20	Meg Gwilliam	Expenses- stamps and laminating ouches	Office admin 20.12	20.12	100721
21	Ditton Services	Grass cutting monthly instalment	Aston Green 203	243.60 (VAT 40.60)	SO

Council resolved to accept the Finance Report and to authorise all payments as listed.

16. Meetings attended: Cllr Bowers summarised recent village hall committee / AGM meetings. Covid 19 measures were still in place. New curtains were intended. The floor would be cleaned and sealed. Volunteers were busy filling potholes in the carpark. There had been a good uptake on tickets for the hog roast. Hopesay Parish Council Chairman Cllr Loynes asked Cllr Bowers to continue to press the village hall for wi fi / broadband facilities to be made available to users.

17. Reports of Parishioners and parish issues: None.

18. Next Meeting: Mondays 23rd August, 18th October, 15th November 2021.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50pm.

Chairman Signed:

Date: