

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 22nd January 2024, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall,
7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. R Hartas, J Bowers, G Fryer, I Alebon, T Record.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

Absent: Unitary Cllr D Evans

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Unitary Cllr D Evans.

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

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 11th December 2023: Cllr Alebon pointed out that he was showing both as present and absent. He had been present. The minutes were manually corrected by the Chair. **The corrected minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. Resolved.**

4. Public Participation: A member of the public congratulated Council on its new noticeboard at Aston Green entrance. They then spoke about the proposal to park a limited number of cars on Aston Green to the south of the village hall. The member of the public strongly objected to the request as it would have a detrimental impact on the award winning green. A second member of the public then spoke in favour of the proposal, saying that parking spaces on the lower field had been reduced by the planting of the orchard, and that a condition of the village hall's contribution towards the cost of the track construction related to availability of parking on the lower field.

5. Unitary Councillor Report: Unitary Cllr Luff gave a report on various Shropshire Council initiatives. It was reported that Shropshire Council's Council tax increase would be 4.9%. Hopesay Parish would only have one Unitary Councillor from May 2025.

6. Chair's Report: The Chair summarised details on the forthcoming Trash Pick Up event on Sunday 25th February.

7. Planning: New applications: 23/05284/FUL, Tadymor Farm, Hopesay, erection of agricultural building to cover existing manure store. Council **resolved** to remain neutral, neither supporting or objecting to the application.

Granted: 23/04248/VAR, proposed agricultural storage building west of Broome Industrial estate, variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 21/01910/FUL.

8. Car Parking Request at Aston Green: Council discussed Aston on Clun Village Hall's request to allow limited car parking spaces on Aston Green itself, south of the Village Hall, as submitted in November 2023. Council considered several points some of which appeared to present obstacles to approving such a request. Points were:

The Countryside Agency expressly prohibited the placing of car parking facilities on the green, as one of its conditions for grant funding.

Although the Countryside Agency agreed to concede three disabled parking spaces, these were never installed due to lack of funding and other reasons. Such spaces were anyway only for

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disabled/blue badge persons which would not meet the village hall's request. It is illegal for anyone else to park in a designated disabled space so installing such space would create a constant issue in terms of unauthorised parking.

The Countryside Agency conditions carry through to the year 2086 and unauthorised changes during this time could result in the significant funding received, being reclaimed.

Countryside Agency conditions concerning the use of Aston Green, state that any use (which would include parking, excepting designated disabled parking) must be available to all at any time. Therefore, designating/limiting any spaces installed on Aston Green for specific persons at any time would breach this condition.

If the parish council felt the proposal worth pursuing; the plans, and structural /construction details, would need detailed scrutiny and possible amendment; and the approved proposal would then need planning permission (change of use) which would require Natural England consultation/ approval (the successor to Countryside Agency). As well, the proposal would require full parish consultation.

Other considerations were, the adverse impact on the view from the village hall looking south on the beauty and natural environment of Aston Green admired and appreciated by residents; and finally, that additional parking should be addressed as part of an overall holistic joined up plan, involving not just the village hall but the community shop, and should be part of a long-term plan for the future, not an attempt to solve a specific current issue.

Councillors each expressed views in turn, with the consensus being that the obstacles were insurmountable, that parking on the green itself was clearly not viable, would impact the amenity adversely, and that the proposal did not address the long term need for additional parking.

Following the discussion Cllr Hartas proposed and Cllr Alebon seconded a motion in support of the village hall's request but the motion failed, as no councillor was in favour. Council then unanimously **resolved** to refuse the Village Hall's request for parking on Aston Green.

9. Aston Green: No updates.

10. Correspondence: Including Shropshire Council ash die back grants, tree scheme, D Day 80th, storms Henk and Babett flooding grants, and various bulletins and newsletters.

Temporary road closures: unnamed road between Hopesay & Edgton, 12th - 14th Feb, & unnamed road between Edgton and Basford Bank, 6th March; 4th – 6th March unnamed road between Aston on Clun – Clunbury - Severn Trent water works.

11. Risk Register rolling review: Council reviewed risk 11 and **resolved** current controls were adequate.

12. Play equipment Working Group: The group had researched suitable play equipment and had come up with a suggestion of up to 6 pieces of wooden equipment for under £12,000.

13. CIL Neighbourhood Fund Projects: Cllr Hartas summarised spend so far including a favourably priced laptop for use at parish council meetings for £309 including VAT, purchased in the HP January sale and within budget. Councillors approved this spend but would be asked to retrospectively formally authorise this next month. The new noticeboard at the entrance to Aston Green had been installed and was looking smart. Council would look at further purchases and proposals for Broome next month, including some tree works, more benches, and some environmental work to improve the area for wildlife.

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14. Finance: The RFO had circulated the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2023, and passed round a hard copy to councillors at the meeting. There were no unexplained variances and Council **resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation.

2024 2025 Precept demand: The RFO informed Council that the Precept demand form (for £16,150) had been submitted to Shropshire Council

INVOICES to PAY:

On 31st December, after the last Council meeting, £18 was paid from Council's account to Unity Trust Bank in fees (£6 per month). Voucher 57 relates.

Voucher 63 - the budget laptop for use at parish council meetings - was not advertised on the agenda but was within the agreed CIL NF Project new IT equipment budget. The purchase would be included on the March agenda and formally retrospectively approved at the March meeting.

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	BACS/cheque
57	Unity Trust Bank	Service fees	Office running costs	18.00p	
58 & 59	Staff costs	salary, tax, homeworking	Salary /Admin	603.89	SO /BACS
60	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, December instalment	Aston Green 243 VAT 48.60	291.60	SO
61	TP Jones	Payroll services Oct - Dec	48.75 Office VAT 9.75	58.50	BACS
62	SLCC	Annual membership	subscriptions	144	BACS
63	HP	Budget laptop for council meetings	CIL NF Project 257.50 VAT 51.50	309	BACS
Total				£1,424.99p	

Council accepted the Finance Report and authorised all payments as listed. Resolved.

15. Meetings Attended: Cllr Alebon had attended the play equipment working group meeting (item 12).

16. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: Flooding would be a February agenda item.

17. Next Meetings: Mondays 19th February, 25th March, and 22nd April 2024.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: