

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 19th February 2024, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall,
7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Unitary Councillor H Luff, 6 members of the public.

Absent: Cllr T Record, Unitary Cllr D Evans

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr T Record, 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 22nd January 2024: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

4. Public Participation: A member of the public asked about developer CIL contributions – where and how the money was spent. It was explained that Shropshire Council kept some for admin, a proportion went into the ‘Local Fund’ for general infrastructure, and the Parish Council received 15% called ‘Neighbourhood Fund’ to spend in the parish.

5. Unitary Councillor Report: Unitary Cllr Luff reported that Shropshire Council had to make £60 million in cuts and it would be a tough year. Services would be reduced or cut, and there would be staff redundancies. Social care takes the bulk of the budget.

6. Arbor Day: Council **resolved** to approve the use of Aston Green for Arbor Day in 2024.

7. Flooding issues in the parish: It had been confirmed that Mr Mason did own the land adjacent to the stream in Aston Hall. Riparian owners in Mill Street had cleared stream vegetation. The Chair explained to the meeting that powers to deal with flooding on roads and in public places lay with Shropshire Council, Severn Trent, and the Environment Agency. There was general discussion about flooding in the parish and members of the public were allowed to contribute to the discussion.

8. Chair’s Report: The Chair reminded the meeting of the ‘Big Clean Up’ event taking place in the parish on Sunday 26th February.

9. Planning: New application: 23/05452/FUL, Streamside, Longmeadow End, erection of replacement dwelling, garage, and installation of foul treatment plant. In discussion some concerns were expressed about the size of the replacement dwelling. Councillors **resolved** to remain neutral on the application, neither supporting or objecting to it.

10. Aston Green: Council discussed the grass cutting and weed application quote from Ditton Services for the next 3 years. It was agreed that the quote was reasonable considering the general increase in prices and costs. Ditton Services continued to provide a very good, caring service. They used the right equipment to do a proper job. Aston Green looked great and user comments were complimentary. Councillors saw no point in obtaining quotes from other contractors while Ditton

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Services gave such good service and was reasonable in its charging. Council **resolved** to accept the Ditton Services quote covering the next three years.

2024 2025 - £3124 + £210, 2025 2026 - £3190 + £220, and 2026 2027 - £3278 + £230. Plus VAT.

11. Correspondence: Including various Shropshire Council information emails, other bulletins and newsletters.

Temporary road closures: 4th – 9th March Aston road Broome, network Rail masonry repairs; 4th – 6th March unnamed road between Aston on Clun and Clunbury, 6th March road between Edgton and Basford Bank, Severn Trent water works.

12. Risk Register rolling review: Council reviewed risk 3 (poor financial planning / administration) and **resolved** current controls were adequate.

13. Play equipment Working Group: The group had identified suitable play equipment. A re-quote for the equipment to be made of recycled plastic instead of wood had been higher than the original cost. The group intended to sound out parish opinion via 'soft' surveys.

14. CIL Neighbourhood Fund Projects: Council **resolved** to approve a spend of £300 on sundry tools and equipment.

15. Finance: The RFO had circulated the bank reconciliation to 31st January 2024. There were no unexplained variances and Council **resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation.

Council formally retrospectively approved last month's purchase of an HP laptop for use at Council meetings, total £309 (voucher 63). **Resolved**.

Payments and Bank balance etc to end January 2024: As at 31st January, the Cashbook showed that Council had spent a total of £19,806.12p of which £2,085.25p was VAT.

As at 31st January, the Council's Unity account balance was £19,100.77p. The RFO tabled the bank statement for councillors' scrutiny. Signatory Councillors could also log onto Unity online at any time to see Council's account and transactions for themselves.

P3: £100 from Shropshire Council was credited to the Parish Council's account on 8th February. This was in respect of a £100 grant to the P3 group (the Parish Council will hold the money for the group).

Website and email costs: To note that Vision ICT would be increasing the service charge for email accounts from £18 to £20 (*per account*) from 1st April 2024.

Finance Training for the Clerk: Council **resolved** to authorise a training cost of £35 for the Clerk to attend year end and audit procedure for councils over £25,000 income or expenditure.

INVOICES to PAY

Council previously resolved at the August meeting to pay the Clerk for additional hours worked earlier this financial year. The additional hours are included in this month's staffing costs.

An invoice from John Payne Building Supplies had been received too late to go on the agenda but could be paid as it was a previously authorised expense.

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Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	BACS/cheque
64 & 65	Staff costs	February 2024 including 25 additional hours worked, as previously agreed	Salary, tax, office costs, Employers NIC	1,053.30	SO, BACS
66	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, February instalment	Aston Green 243 VAT 48.60	291.60	SO
67	Vision ICT	Annual website hosting & support, email hosting	242.38 IT budget VAT 48.48	290.86	BACS
68	Aston on Clun Village Hall	Room hire	30 room hire, 6 VAT	36	BACS
69	Enterprise House	Big Clean Up event leaflet printing	Publicity	66.25	BACS
70	R Hartas	Big Clean Up event leaflet distributing	Publicity	20	BACS
71	John Payne Building Supplies	postcrete	CIL parish project	13.80	BACS
Total				£1,771.81p	

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

16. Annual Reviews: Council reviewed its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and **resolved** that neither required revision at this time.

17. Nomination of Chair to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party: Council **resolved** to nominate Cllr Hartas to attend the May 2024 Buckingham Palace Garden Party. SALC will choose one nomination from all participating Councils.

18. Meetings Attended: Cllr Bowers gave a brief summary of the Village Hall Trustee meeting recently attended.

19. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: None.

20. Next Meetings: Mondays 25th March, 22nd April, and 20th May 2024.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.35pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: