

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 25th March 2024, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Unitary Councillor D Evans, 2 members of the public.

Absent: Unitary H Luff

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Unitary H Luff.

2. Co-option of New Councillors: None.

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

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 19th February 2024: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

5. Public Participation: A member of the public asked about an item on the agenda, the Steam and Vintage Fair; if this was to be allowed, why not also allow cars to park on the green once a month. The Chair reminded the member of the public that Council had previously voted against parking on the green for valid reasons as given at the time.

6. Unitary Councillor Report: Unitary Cllr Evans reported that Shropshire Council had to make £60 million in cuts and needed to find new ways of working. There would be redundancies and service reviews including a review of all 5 recycling centres in Shropshire. The bulk of Shropshire Council's spend went on care – children and older people.

7. Craven Arms Recycling Centre: Council unanimously **resolved** to send a formal letter of objection to the Leader of Shropshire Council regarding the proposed closure of the Craven Arms Recycling Centre.

8. Chair's Report: The Chair reported that much work had been completed at Aston Green, in the copse by the sheds, and in the orchard. The chair had walked Mill Street after recent heavy rain and reported that all ditches, drains and gullies were working properly, no blockages. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting this year would be 16th May.

9. Planning: No new applications. Refused: 23/04607/FUL, The Fold, Basford Bank Edgton, change of use of agricultural building to studio/dwelling. Granted: 23/05284/FUL, Tadymor Farm Hopesay, erection of agricultural building to cover existing manure store; and 23/05452/FUL, Streamside Longmeadow End, erection of replacement dwelling, garage and installation of foul treatment plant.

10. D Day 80 flag: Council decided not to purchase.

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11. Aston Green: Council **resolved** to purchase a replacement fruit tree.

Council **resolved** to authorise the use of Aston Green for the Steam and Vintage Fair again, but on the understanding that the organisers followed the conditions of use of Aston Green, which stated that the entrance charge to the event should be applied to maintenance or improvement of the Green.

12. Correspondence: Including various Shropshire Council consultation on new swimming and fitness facilities at Shrewsbury Sports Village, Shropshire Council financial strategy and budget cut proposals, and other bulletins and newsletters.

Temporary road closures: none within parish.

13. Play equipment Working Group: Cllr Alebon summarised a report issued to Council by the Group.

14. CIL Neighbourhood Fund Projects: No additional spends this month.

15. Finance: The RFO had circulated the bank reconciliation to 29th February 2024. There were no variances and Council **resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation.

A budget Monitoring Report had been circulated, and Council **resolved** to accept it.

Council's current edition of the reference book Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration was the 9th edition and several years old. Council **resolved** to purchase the current (13th) edition, at a cost of £137 + postage.

It was agreed to bring forward the review of the Assets Register (part of agenda item 17), so it could be discussed in conjunction with the pre renewal insurance questionnaire. Council reviewed its Assets Register. The RFO had suggested revisions to insurance values but had asked councillors to consider revamping the format so it was easier to compare to insurance company lists of assets and insurance values. It was agreed that Cllrs Hartas, Fryer, and Bowers would meet to look at the Assets Register and also the pre renewal insurance form, and report back next month.

INVOICES to PAY

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	BACS/cheque
72, 73	Staff costs	March 2024	Salary, tax, office costs	603.89	SO, BACS
74	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, March instalment	Aston Green 243 VAT 48.60	291.60	SO
75	J H Morris	Hedge cutting	Aston Green	135.00	BACS
76	R Hartas	Postcrete bags	CIL parish project	19.00	BACS
Total				£1,049.49p	

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

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16. Risk Register rolling review: Council reviewed risk 2 and **resolved** that current controls were adequate.

17. Annual Reviews: Council carried out its review of risks and internal controls. Councillors assessed the risks that Council faced, and reviewed the internal controls put in place to limit those risks. Following consideration of the above, Council unanimously **resolved** that it had maintained an adequate system of internal controls.

The review of the Assets Register had been brought forward and discussed under item 15. Inspection of Council's assets was deferred.

18. Training: Council noted that the Clerk / RFO was attending the training session the following day on the Annual Return (AGAR) and year end accounts as Council would not be exempt from External audit due to the 2023 2024 receipts total.

19. Meetings Attended: None noted.

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

21. Next Meetings: Mondays 22nd April, 20th May (Annual Parish Council meeting), 24th June, 15th July, and 19th August 2024.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.15pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: