

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting, Monday 14th October 2024, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. R Hartas, J Bowers, T Record.

Absent: Cllr I Alebon.

In attendance: Unitary Cllr D Evans, 1 Member of the Public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Alebon.

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 August 2024: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

5. Unitary Councillor Report: Recycling Centres remain open, new booking system coming into force ensuring only Shropshire residents use facilities. Shropshire Council budget is very tight, there are some 'at risk' services. A49 needing repair, although work has been postponed it has not been cancelled and will take place, may involve possible consultation with Highways England.

6. Public Participation: no one spoke.

7. Planning: 24/03651/TCA crown reduction, off shoot trimming, Cherry Plum at the Old Court House Aston Conservation Area: Council's tree warden had reported this was a self-sown tree which needed the work. Council **resolved** to support the application.

Granted: 24/02906/TPO, various tree works at Aston Hall.

8. Correspondence: Various correspondence including a resident's concerns about speeding at Oaker (Clerk had responded), NALC legal update on planning, and various newsletters and bulletins.

Temporary road closures: Hopesay Road 10th – 14th February 2025, capital resurfacing scheme.

9. Speed Indicator Devices: the manufacturers of Council's speed indicator devices had offered extended warranties of £199, per annum, per device. Council **agreed** that the offer did not represent good value for public money and would not be taken up.

10. Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling: The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address dog fouling and nuisance took effect on 1st June. Shropshire Council would like to know of persons Council wished to nominate for authorisation to issue fixed penalty notices. Council agreed dog fouling was a perennial issue, perhaps dogs should be walked on leads at Aston Green as at Craven Arms; and agreed to advertise this voluntary position on its website and notice boards.

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11. Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust: The new body had emailed Council informing them of available grants for nature recovery projects, and had invited town and parish councils to become a supporter @ £250 per annum. SHLT had also offered to come and give a brief talk at or before one of the parish council meetings. Council **agreed** to invite SHLT to a council meeting to inform Council and residents what they do and why Council should support them.

12. Training/Conference Attendance: Council **resolved** to authorise Cllr Hartas' attendance at the SALC AGM.

13. Chair's Report: Cllr Hartas confirmed that a **casual vacancy** had been advertised due to former Cllr Gordon Fryer's resignation. Cllr Fryer's input and contribution was greatly missed, and Council wished him a full recovery. The **Community Shop** was continuing its research on ways to sustainably redevelop the shop building. **NALC** had a new website and councillors were encouraged to register for an account in order to access services and information.

14. Broadband/Fibre Broadband: The Chair updated the meeting on progress with Openreach Broadband in the parish. Openreach needs residents to 'pledge' their interest in having fibre broadband and if enough sign up, the Government will fund installation to properties up to £4,500 per dwelling. Households that do not sign up may miss out on any fibre broadband installation.

15. Flood Risk Assessment: The Chair advised the meeting that blocked drains and gullies on the B4368 in Aston on Clun had been reported to Shropshire Council by several. Councillors had been provided with several earlier flood risk information and assessments specifically on Hopesay Parish, and also an earlier Shropshire Council generalised flood risk document, now superseded by the information and guidance on Shropshire Council's website. Cllr Hartas advised that Hopesay should review the latest (2020) flood risk assessment for the parish and consider any measures Council could take. Council could appoint a voluntary Flood Warden who would keep an eye on high-risk areas and situations and alert council (and residents?) to situations. Council **resolved** to advertise this locally.

The Clerk informed the meeting that sandbags were reportedly available to residents to collect from the Shropshire Council depot on the Business Park in Craven Arms. The Parish Council would not be able to amass/collect them for residents but residents should go to the depot before the next flooding risk to collect their sandbags in advance. Apparently, it depends on supply – first come first served.

16. Aston Green: The orchard field and Green perimeters have been cut and compost heaps made. The silt trap would hopefully be partially cleared before winter. More wildflower seed including Yellow Rattle has been sown. Tree maintenance at the Green would be carried out during winter. The Diamond Jubilee Tree plaque had been damaged and a replacement was required. Rabbit and mole damage to the Green was evident and remedial action was required.

17. Play equipment Working Group: Deferred to the next meeting.

18. Finance: Bank reconciliation: A Bank Reconciliation to 31st August had been circulated and was tabled. There were no unexplained variances. Council **accepted** the Bank Reconciliation.

Income: £10 ground rent from Aston on Clun Village Hall had been received on 2nd September.

Co-option: the period for advertising the Casual Vacancy had now passed and Shropshire Council had confirmed that this Council was now free to co-opt a new councillor. Council now had 5 vacancies.

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External Audit: The External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn, had completed their audit and returned their report (Section 3 of the AGAR) and invoice. The audit had come back clear, all in order. The relevant documentation had been posted on Council's website and Aston Green noticeboard.

INVOICES to PAY:

| Voucher | Name | for | Budget (from) | £amount | BACS/cheque |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 31, 32 | Staff costs | September 2024 | Salary, tax, homeworking costs | 676.13 | SO, BACS |
| 33 | Ditton Services | Grass cutting, September instalment | Aston Green 277.83 VAT 55.57 | 333.40 | SO |
| 34 | Unity Trust Bank | Service charge (3 months) | Office/admin | 18.00 | debit |
| 35, 36 | Staff costs | October 2024 | Salary, tax, homeworking costs | 676.13 | SO, BACS |
| 37 | Ditton Services | Grass cutting, October instalment | Aston Green 277.83 VAT 55.57 | 333.40 | SO |
| 38 | T P Jones & Co (inv P1819) | Payroll services July-Sept | Office / admin 48.75 VAT 9.75 | 58.50 | BACS |
| 39 | PKF Littlejohn LLP (inv SH0087) | External audit fee for 2023 2024 AGAR | Insurance/Audit 210 VAT 42 | 252.00 | BACS |
| 40 | John Campion Associates (inv 1044) | Meadow mowing, Aston Green outer area, orchard and area | AG Management 130 VAT 26 | 156.00 | BACS |
| Total | | | | £2,503.56p | |

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

19. CIL Neighbourhood Fund Parish Project: Council resolved to pay a contractor to install the Broome village notice board. Quotes to be obtained. Council resolved to authorise expenditure in principal for planters at Broome station.

20. Risk Register rolling review: Council reviewed risks 5 & 10, and resolved that current measures were adequate.

21. Policy Review: Review of Council's Reserves Policy was deferred until budget setting meeting.

22. Grants: Council considered the one application received, and resolved to award £85 to the Arbor Tree Festival Committee towards the cost of new flags.

Council was informed that there may be a late grant application coming in which would be considered later.

23. 2025 Meeting Dates: Council resolved on the following meeting dates: 20th January, 24th February, 31st March, 28th April, 2nd June, 30th June, 28th July, 1st September, 13th October, 17th November, 15th December 2025.

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24. Meetings Attended: Cllr Hartas had attended a Craven Arms Stakeholder event in Craven Arms which had proved largely irrelevant to areas other than Craven Arms Town. A survey (66 respondents out of a potential 6,600 residents) previously carried out was unrepresentative of the community.

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

26. Next Meetings: Monday 11th November 2024.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9,00pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: