

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 17th November 2025, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. R Hartas, J Bowers, L Johnson, B Day.

Absent: Cllr T Record.

In Attendance: Unitary Councillor J Dickin.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr T Record.

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

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 13th October 2025: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

4. Public Participation: None

5. Unitary Councillor Report: Cllr Dickin gave his report to the meeting, covering drainage and highways issues, Onibury Bridge, bus transport, and Shropshire Council finances.

6. Shropshire Council 'A New Way of Working' Memorandum: Councillors expressed concerns with the content and tone of the Memorandum, there had been no consultation beforehand. It did not feel like a new way of working but rather, very like previous Shropshire Council methods. Council saw no reason to sign it. A reply would be sent explaining Council's position.

7. Planning: New applications: 25/04173/TCA: 20 Aston Hall, tree works, Council **resolved** to support the application.

25/04032/FUL: proposed dwelling west of Blacksmiths Cottage Broome, erection of self-build 3 bed dwelling, detached outbuilding, installation of (package) sewage treatment plant and air source heat pump. Council **resolved** to object to the application due to concerns over the sewage package proposal and proximity to ditches and streams.

25/03940/OHL: Land at the Cabin, Hopesay, replace existing 15kVA transformer with 50kVA transformer. Council **resolved** to support the application.

Refused: 25/03189/FUL: Menage View Craven Arms Road, erection of extension.

8. Aston on Clun Community Shop Replacement Building: Council **resolved** to agree Terms and Condition (ToR) for the Working Party. Council **resolved** to appoint Cllr Hartas as Council Shop Liaison Representative.

9. Flooding Update on Measures/Status: There had been no flooding in Aston during recent wet weather apart from field run off at the top of Mill Street. Flooding of some properties in Broome had occurred despite recent drainage works.

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Riparian owners (those who have a watercourse running through, or as the boundary of, their land) have a responsibility to keep the watercourse clear of any obstruction impeding the normal flow. Individual property owners are responsible for protecting their property and taking measures to prevent ingress of water.

10. Chair and Clerk Reports: The Chair reported that the Community Shop had won The King's Award for Voluntary Service. Council expressed its congratulations to all at the Shop.

The Annual Litter Pick would take place sometime in February 2026.

Openreach will be installing fibre connections to those who had signed up probably in Spring 2026.

The Clerk informed Council that Mr Geoff Gwilt, who had been Council's Tree Warden for many years, had retired. Council expressed its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for Mr Gwilt's many years of fantastic service and his extensive general knowledge of the parish. Council will now need to find a new Tree Warden.

11. National Trust Hopesay Hill: Council noted the consultation but had no comment to make.

12. Correspondence: Including various bulletins, newsletters, and information sheets including Shropshire Council new planning guidance note, Digital switchover awareness campaign, Shropshire Council Election re-charge notification (£125).

Temporary parish road closures: Hopesay road between Hopesay & Aston, 18th November, and 22nd January 2026, Hopesay – Basford 29th January, Openreach replacing BT poles. Severn Trent Water 30th November Aston - Broome, repairs to infrastructure.

13. Assets Register: It was reported that the Arbor Tree enclosure furniture was alright but looking tired, and the roundel needed work/repair. The benches at Broome 'green' were covered in lichen and the sign with the picture of a train on is starting to peel. The trees there need management especially branches close to the power line. The Bird on the Rock tea room sign should be taken out as the venue does not exist anymore.

14. Grants: Council **resolved** to approve a grant of £100 to the Arbor Tree Festival Committee for renewal of flags.

15. Aston Green: The Chair reported that the new reed bed dam had worked very well during recent rains. The silt trap also was operating well despite requiring major repair which would be undertaken in the drier months. Replacement trees for the orchard had yet to be purchased.

Council **resolved** to approve the use of Aston Green on 31st May for Arbor Day 2026.

Standing Agenda item: There had been no reports of anti social behaviour at Aston Green or in the Village Hall car park.

16. Finance: Bank reconciliation: A bank reconciliation had been circulated. There were no unexplained variances and Council **accepted** the reconciliation.

Draft Budget, and Budget Monitoring Report: The RFO had tabled a Budget Monitoring Report to end October to assist councillors when discussing a draft budget for 2026 2027. The RFO had also circulated the current year's budget. Councillors held a preliminary discussion, with some suggestions, that would be brought to the table for December's meeting.

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INVOICES TO PAY:

Council **resolved** to retrospectively approve C and L Drainage £774 (voucher 50) for clearing and inspecting the Silt Trap in October, paid 27th October using delegated powers.

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Method
50	C & L Drainage	Silt trap, paid 27/10	CIL NF silt trap 645 VAT 129	774.00	BACS
51,52	Staff costs	November 2025 Salary, tax, NIC, homeworking costs	Salary, tax, admin	767.55	SO, BACS
53	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, Nov instalment	284.16 Aston Green 56.83 VAT	340.99	SO
54	ICO	Data Protection annual fee	47 Admin	47.00	Annual Direct Debit
55	J Campion	Meadow mowing	Aston Green management/VAT	90.00	BACS
56	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service fee	admin	6.00	fee
Total				£2,025.54p	

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

17. Risk Register, rolling review: Risks 5 and 8 were reviewed. No further measures required. Risk 10 was deferred.

18. Policies: Council reviewed its Equal Opportunities Policy and **resolved** that it was still fit for purpose. Council **resolved** to adopt the draft Press and Media Policy.

19. Meetings Attended: No reports given.

20. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: It was reported that the footpath to Broome station had degraded due to recent flooding. The Clerk would contact Transport for Wales/Heart of Wales line to ask who was responsible for upkeep.

21. Next Meetings: Mondays 15th December 2025, 26th January, 23rd February, and 30th March 2026.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.30pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: