

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 19th MAY 2025, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. R Hartas, J Bowers, L Johnson, B Day. Cllr T Record from midway item 9.

Absent: Cllr T Record from items 1 – 9.

In Attendance: Unitary Councillor J Dickin, one member of the public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Election of Chair: Cllr Bowers proposed and Cllr Day seconded that Cllr Hartas be elected Chair. There being no other nominations, and Cllr Hartas agreeing, he was unanimously elected as Chair of Hopesay Parish Council until the next annual meeting. **Resolved.** Cllr Hartas signed the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of Vice Chair: Cllr Johnson proposed and Cllr Day seconded that Cllr Bowers be elected Vice Chair. There being no other nominations and Cllr Bowers agreeing, she was unanimously elected Vice Chair. **Resolved.**

3. Apologies for Absence: None.

4. Councillors Acceptance of Office: All councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and these were witnessed by the Clerk.

5. Declarations of i) Disclosable Pecuniary and ii) Personal Interests, and written requests for dispensations: None. The Clerk reminded councillors to complete their Registers of Interests using the new Shropshire Council online form by the due date.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 28th April 2025: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

7. Representation on Outside Bodies: Cllr Hartas proposed and Cllr Day seconded that Cllr Bowers be re-elected as Hopesay Parish Council's representative to the Village Hall. **Resolved.** Cllr Day proposed and Cllr Johnson seconded that Cllr R Hartas be re-elected as Council's SALC representative. **Resolved.**

8. Reviews and Subscriptions: Cllr Hartas proposed and Cllr Bowers seconded that Council continue its membership of SALC and SLCC. **Resolved.**

New versions of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders would be circulated to councillors with a view to them being adopted at the June meeting. Policies would be reviewed throughout the year as in previous years.

9. Unitary Councillor Report: New Unitary Councillor Josh Dickin introduced himself and gave a report to Council. There would be a change of outlook and a new more collaborative and listening way of working at Shropshire Council. Working relationships between officers and with town and parish councils would be rebuilt. Cllr Dickin would chase up the resurfacing of the remainder of the Hopesay Road along with other roads in the parish that required work, and meet with the Chair.

Cllr Record joined the meeting at this point.

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10. Public Participation: No one wished to speak.

The next item was taken out of turn and brought forward.

16. Arbor Tree: Council discussed the details provided about the request from Mill Street residents to install a convex mirror at the Arbor Tree enclosure. All costs would be borne by the residents of Mill Street who had grouped together to make the request, on account of the difficulty experienced by vehicles turning into Mill Street off the B4368 coming from Craven Arms. The convex mirror would be sited inside the enclosure, adjacent to the telegraph pole. It would be 600mm in diameter and about 7 ft from the ground. It would be sited and affixed so as not to present a hazard to those using the enclosure. Council **resolved** to approve the installation on the understanding that no costs would be incurred by Council.

11. Planning: No new applications. DECISION: 24/04541/FUL, Engine and Tender Inn, Broome, Conversion of existing pub and outbuilding to residential units and associated works. REFUSED.

12. Correspondence: Including various bulletins, newsletters, and information sheets etc. The Chair mentioned the most recent Police monthly report which indicated more crime within and around the parish than usual.

Temporary parish road closures: None received.

13. Chair's Report: The Chair reported that the VE Day event had been well attended, and the event had raised £140 which would be donated to the Royal British Legion. The Parish Council's share of the event costs was about £45.

The Chair then introduced a request to Council to confirm strong local connections, from a couple who had lived and worked in the parish for many years and who had family in the immediate area. The confirmation would be sent to Shropshire Council from the Clerk. Council **agreed** the strong local connections.

14. Environmental Maintenance Grant: Council discussed the details of this Shropshire Council grant. It was agreed that time was short and as Council had not applied for the grant in recent years, it was considered better to put together a proposal ready for next years application. This should be an agenda item later in the year, possibly a standing agenda item. Proposed Cllr Johnson, seconded Cllr Bowers, **resolved**.

15. Aston Green: Cllr Hartas gave an update on the work to repair the Reed Bed dam. Council **resolved** to approve the estimated costs of £250, to be set against the silt trap budget.

Cllr Hartas informed the meeting that a member of the public had offered to pay for a replacement fruit tree having noticed that a couple of trees had died. Council **resolved** to accept the kind offer. However, the replacement tree might cost over £75 because it needed to be a 5 yr old potted plant, and it was suggested that the member of the public might prefer to make a donation towards the replacement cost. Suitable suggestions were made of a damson, a bramley, a pear, or a cider tree in memory of Mr Jennings from the Forge Garage. This last might be more appropriately paid for by Council as there were 2 dead trees to replace. The Clerk to write.

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17. Finance: Bank reconciliation: A bank reconciliation would be provided at the June meeting.

Bank Signatories: The RFO advised Council that more councillors should be bank signatories as having only two councillors when both were needed to authorise the release of payments was unwise. Council **approved** Cllrs Day and Johnson to become bank signatories, and **agreed** that the Unity Trust bank form could be signed and returned before the next meeting.

Insurance renewal: Gallaghers renewal quote was £514.75p (under £10 increase on previous yr). A 3year agreement option with no rise in premium apart from index linking, previously circulated, was discussed. It was agreed to accept the renewal quote and the 3 year agreement. **Resolved.**

INVOICES TO PAY: Voucher 13 invoice had been received after the agenda had been issued but could be paid as it was an approved expense.

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Method
6,7	Staff costs	May 2025	Salary, tax, NIC, homeworking costs	741.24	SO, BACS
8	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, May instalment	Aston Green 284.16 VAT 56.83	340.99	SO
9	R Hartas	APM expenses	49.23 (incl VAT)	49.23	BACS
10	Community Shop	APM refreshments	38.90 Publicity 7.78 VAT	46.68	BACS
11	SALC	Annual affiliation fee	319.11 subs	319.11	BACS
12	Gallaghers	Insurance renewal fee	514.75 insurance	514.75	BACS
13	John Campion Associates	Replacement dam or weir, Aston Green	Silt Trap 90.10	108.12	BACS
14	Unity Trust Bank	monthly service charge	admin	6.00	fee
Total				£2126.12p	

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

18. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR): Deferred to the June meeting.

19. Training: Council approved Cllr Day's attendance on 22nd July, and Cllr Johnson's attendance on 4th & 10th June, and 8th September. **Resolved.**

20. Meetings Attended: Village Hall Trustees. Cllr Bowers reported that the village hall was doing ok and there would be a hog roast event in July.

21. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: Aston Green Dog mess future agenda item.

22. Next Meetings: 23rd June, 28th July, 1st September 2025.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.45pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: