

# Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs. R. Loynes, J Bowers, J Cole, I Alebon, J Manifold, T Record (from item 4).

**In attendance:** Unitary Cllr D Evans, 3 members of the public.

**Clerk:** Mrs M Gwilliam.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Unitary Cllr L Chapman.

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

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019:** The minutes were approved, and the Chairman signed them as an accurate record. **Resolved.**

**4. Public Participation:** Cllr Record joined the meeting at this point. A member of the public spoke about Council's intention to install a waste bin on Aston Green, saying that the matter should go out to parish consultation first, because there had been a previous consultation on a dog waste bin. The Chairman replied that this was a general waste bin, which could accept bagged dog waste.

**5. Planning:** No new applications.

Granted: 19/04877/TPO, 1 Redwood Cottages, Aston On Clun, remove major dead wood over road and thin crown by 10-15 % of Wellingtonia. 19/05136/REM, plot 1 Off B4367, Broome, reserved matters to include appearance, layout, scale, landscaping (16/04371/OUT).

Enforcement 18/06112/ENF, Tadymor Farm Hopesay. No update.

**6. Unitary Councillor Report:** Cllr Evans reported that attempts were being made to hold a multi-agency meeting intended to resolve the issues over the Hopesay enforcement 18/06112/ENF.

**7. Updates on matters from previous minutes / Clerk's report:** The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council hoped to carry out the automated traffic count in Aston on Clun before the end of this financial year. The Chairman volunteered to contact West Mercia Police to ask them for a speed check.

**8. Arbor Tree and enclosure:** Mr P Sweetland summarised the quotes obtained for Council. Following discussion Council agreed to accept Mr Michael Baker's quote for the woodwork and Mr Mark James' quote for the metalwork. The Clerk would contact the successful and unsuccessful contractors. Council expressed its appreciation of Mr Sweetland's hard work and commitment.

**9. Aston Green:** Mr J Champion introduced and summarised the updated management plan, and explained the proposed changes and required works, some of which could attract grant funding. Council **resolved** to adopt the Management Plan. Council also **resolved** to adopt Appendix 1 of the plan which detailed the work proposed for 2020. Council expressed its gratitude to Mr Champion for his time and effort in updating it. Mr Champion kindly said that he would follow up on the AONB Expression of Interest for grant funding and would liaise with the Chairman over this.

The Chairman summarised the proposal to install a general waste bin on Aston Green which would be regularly serviced by Shropshire Council. A resident was keen to make a donation towards the

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waste bin. Council discussed the previous consultation. If a children's play area were to be installed a waste bin that could accept dog waste was essential. Following discussion, Council unanimously **resolved** to purchase and install a general waste bin on Aston Green. Siting would be critical. Council agreed it should be placed near to the entrance arch. Council also **resolved** to accept Shropshire Council's quote of £125.09p per annum for servicing the bin regularly. Shropshire Council did not specify frequency because the quote is for a standard of service ensuring the bin does not over fill. It was agreed that both the shop and the village hall could be asked if they were willing to contribute.

The Chairman summarised his report on a children's' play area for Aston Green, which had been circulated to councillors. Councillors were asked to let the Chairman have their comments. The report would be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**10. Correspondence:** The Craven Arms and Area Place Plan was now available to view online. Councillors had been emailed the link. It was thought that some items asked to be included by Council had nevertheless been left out, and the Chairman asked councillors to look at the document and get back to the clerk with any errors and omissions. For information only: Clungunford Parish Council had copied in the Clerk on an email to Shropshire Council about the hedge alleged to obscure visibility for traffic joining the Craven Arms road at Longmeadow End.

**11. Finance:** Before the meeting the Chairman had carried out councillor checks on the accounts and had scrutinised and signed the bank reconciliation as being correct.

The RFO tabled the previously circulated bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. There were no unexplained variances.

**2020/21 Budget:** An easy reference version of next financial year's Budget had been circulated to all councillors for their information and retention.

**2019/20 Budget:** The RFO recommended and Council **resolved** to vire £1,040.42p from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund Earmarked Reserve to the Arbor Tree and enclosure budget for use on the enclosure improvements.

The RFO clarified the available funds for enclosure improvements – with the virement, less the £350 reserved for tree pruning, there was £3,690.42p available. On top of this the Arbor Tree Festival Committee had promised £800 in total and a private donation of £2,000 had been promised.

## **INVOICES to PAY:**

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Cheque
53	Meg Gwilliam	Net salary, & home working expenses allowance	Salary 411.72 Office admin 18.00	429.72	SO
54	HMRC	PAYE tax on salary	Salary tax	62.40	100630
55	Meg Gwilliam	Expenses - room heating & labour for gate installation	Room hire 2 Aston Green 47.25	49.25	100631
56	T P Jones	For 3 months payroll services	Admin 44.25	53.10 (VAT 8.85)	100632
57	SLCC	Annual subscription	Subs & training	109.00	100633
58	Hopesay Wildlife Watch	Previously approved grant (Tawny Owl Nestbox Project, October)	Grants	100.00	100634
59	Wynnstay	Gate catches	Aston Green 15.19	18.23 (VAT 3.04)	100635

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60	Ditton Services	Grass cutting monthly instalment	Aston Green 203	243.60 (VAT 40.60)	SO
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**Council approved the Bank Reconciliation, accepted the Finance Report, and authorised payment of invoices. Resolved.**

**12. Arbor Tree Pruning quotes:** Council discussed the Management Plan and asked whether it might be outdated. Quotes had been obtained from 3 contractors to prune the Arbor Tree in February / March 2020. However following discussion Council **resolved** to put the cyclical pruning on hold, and to seek advice from Mike Kelly on commissioning a new management plan. Clerk to contact Mike Kelly.

**13. Risk Register rolling review:** Deferred.

**14. Meetings attended:** None.

**15. Reports of Parishioners and parish issues:** A concern about the planting of a new Leylandii hedge on the corner of the B4368 on the bend opposite the Arbor Tree was expressed. The hedge when grown could obscure visibility for those turning right on this sharp bend, and it was suggested that Leylandii could be an inappropriate plant in a Conservation Area. Clerk to contact Planning and Highways.

It was mentioned that the village hall was showing its age and was in need of repainting. The Council's representative on the village hall committee was asked to tactfully enquire at the next committee meeting when this might be.

The Chairman reported that the road signs at either end of Aston on Clun had not been cleaned for some time and were dirty. He had cleaned them and suggested that they should be cleaned annually in future when Council carries out its annual assets inspections.

**16. Next Meetings:** Mondays 24<sup>th</sup> February, and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.**

Chairman Signed:

Date: