

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 19.00 in the Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chairman), Julia Pearson, Jamie Rogers, and Val Watson.

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox (Parish Clerk), and 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Susan Marr.
2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests**
 - 2.1 Jamie Rogers declared a DPI in planning item 10.1.1
3. **Resignation of Councillor Chris Plant**

The meeting regretfully acknowledged the resignation of Councillor Plant and noted (in particular) his valuable contribution as the lead member of the Finance Working Group.
4. **Co-option to fill two current vacancies**
 - 4.1 It was unanimously RESOLVED to co-opt Sophia Gabrielle to one of the two vacant places on the parish council. Sophia signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took her place at the meeting table.
 - 4.2 It was noted that the clerk was seeking a volunteer from the Tupsley area of the parish which was currently not represented.
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th July**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.
6. **Flooding/Drainage/Ditch Issues**
 - 6.1 The Chairman's update on all aspects and consideration of action, included:
 - 6.1.1 Recently released Herefordshire Council (HC) documents on riparian ownership were noted.
 - 6.1.2 Proposals from the Flood Mitigation Group for an attenuation pond in the Parish Orchard were discussed. The Chairman was concerned about health and safety issues, and it was RESOLVED that a site meeting would be held prior to further discussion.
 - 6.1.3 Mordiford Bridge ... In response to the suggested partial repairs to the bridge by Balfour Beatty (BB) the Chairman had expressed his concern about the safety of the bridge in relation to future flooding events.
 - 6.1.4 The Environment Agency (EA) was taking the topsoil off the Wye Stank because they considered it to be contaminated and would replace it with locally sourced soil. This had led to very muddy sections in the vicinity of Braemar Gardens. A section of the Stank footpath near Badgers Crossing was to be fenced off again and re-seeded.

- 6.1.5 Orders had been issued for flood alleviation works to take place in the vicinity of The Bunch of Carrots and Daggy Powell's Lane.
- 6.1.6 Repairs to the flap valve in Church Lane (a new headwall plus brass and caste flap) were likely to cost around £6k. Both the EA and BB considered that a new flap would not be helpful in a flooding situation and that is why the previous flap had been removed. Jamie Rogers felt that the old flap had been helpful because it slowed down the water flow into the village. He commented that a new plastic flap would be cheaper, and it was RESOLVED that alternative quotes be sought.

7. Open Session

- 7.1 Ward Councillor John Hardwick was unable to attend the meeting.
- 7.2 Views of local residents on parish matters included:
 - 7.2.1 In response to a query from a landowner adjacent to the Parish Orchard, the Chairman confirmed that the hedges and ditches on the roadside of the Parish Orchard would be attended to, in readiness for new fencing which was likely to cost between £1200-£1400.
 - 7.2.2 It was thought that the EA were dealing with the tree growing out of the Hampton Meadow bridge, but Jamie Rogers offered to confirm that via his contact at the EA.

8. Parish Land

- 8.1 The Parish Land Working Group had not yet met but the following was discussed:
 - 8.1.1 Tree planting and future management of the parish orchard. It was acknowledged that the area was for the benefit of all residents and should be kept as natural as possible but, to achieve this effect, maintenance (of the general area and the trees) would be required at least two or three times per year.
 - 8.1.2 Siting of 'Circle of Friendship' ... It was suggested that the circle of trees could be planted in the centre of the Parish Orchard with a bench in the middle, rather than alongside the entrance to the Village Hall. This idea would be pursued at the next meeting because the local resident who first thought of the idea was not present.
 - 8.1.3 The provision of adult health and fitness equipment in the vicinity of play area was discussed and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek more information for the next meeting.

9. Finance

- 9.1 The Bank Balance was noted as £84,481.32. (+precept below).
- 9.2 Payments made under Clerk's delegated powers were noted as:
 - 9.2.1 River Lugg Drainage Board - annual fee of £14.58.
- 9.3 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments within budget:
 - 9.3.1 Two cuts of parish orchard by Mr Barrell ... £200 + VAT.
 - 9.3.2 Clerk's salary for August and September together with HMRC £199.80.

- 9.3.3 Eyelid Productions annual website support ... £100.00.
- 9.3.4 Parish Contractor: General duties for August & September plus repair to gate posts on footpath ... £312.80.
- 9.4 Membership of CPRE ... Members acknowledged receipt of a booklet on Hedgerows and Verges in Herefordshire and RESOLVED to join CPRE at a cost of £50 per annum.
- 9.5 Investment of some reserve monies (in line with the recently agreed Investment Policy) was postponed until the next meeting, following further consideration by the Finance Working Group.
- 9.6 Receipt of the second half of precept - £8750.00– was noted. Following the resignation of Chris Plant, it was RESOLVED that Jamie Rogers would join Steve Hunt and Julia Pearson on the Finance Working Group which would meet to discuss the precept for 2022/2023 & the investment of some reserves.

10. Planning

- 10.1 It was RESOLVED to support the following applications to be determined by HC:
 - 10.1.1 Application 212051. 1 & 2 Orchard Cottages – Whitehall Road.
Proposed two storey rear extensions. NB Jamie Rogers left the room during discussion
 - 10.1.2 Application P212790/FH. Spinnaker, Rectory Road.
Proposed single storey rear extension, new single storey garage, re-cladding to walls and roof, internal alterations and replacement doors and windows.
- 10.2 The following planning permission determined by Herefordshire Council, was noted:
App 210883: Orchard Bank, Church Lane. Proposed single storey conservatory.
- 10.3 The following works to trees allowed within a conservation area were noted:
 - 10.3.1 Application 212869 ... 1 Humble Bee Park. Removal of Willow Tree.
 - 10.3.2 Application 212158 ... The Chimneys.
Front garden Sycamore (T1) requires thinning and structural pruning as well as being reduced away from the house. Back garden Magnolia (T2) requires reducing to gain crown clearance from another Acer tree. The centre lead needs reducing by 4-5 feet as well as the lower branches needing to be cleaned up to remove some conflicting branches. Ornamental Acer (T3) needs structural pruning, and a diseased limb needs removal. Hornbeam (T4) needs structural pruning to improve the aesthetics of the tree and crown reduction away from the neighbouring acre tree.

11. The implications of a possible eastern crossing of the River Wye having been included in HC's Transport Strategy, were noted. Further discussion would take place, as and when required.

12. Village Hall lease ... Following a meeting between the Clerk and representatives from the Villagers' Association, the conclusion was that rather than drawing up a new lease (which would necessitate solicitor fees) it would probably suffice to clarify who is responsible for what under the current lease. This could be achieved by a simple

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document, agreed by both parties, and kept alongside the current lease. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Clerk would draw up such a document for consideration by the Parish Council and the Villagers' Association.

13. Footpaths

The Footpaths Officer's report confirmed that the two damaged gates reported at the July meeting had been repaired but urgent attention was required to ensure the swift repair of a partially collapsed footbridge which the Clerk had reported to BB, as well as asking whether the Parish Contractor was able to assist.

13. Milestone ... Following discussion, members felt that the repaired milestone should be re-sited in its original position, albeit further back from the road, to avoid possible repeat damage by vehicles. It was also suggested that a plaque be affixed to commemorate the voluntary restoration work undertaken by Jeremy Daw, shortly before his untimely death in a road accident.

14. Items raised for next meeting to be held on Wednesday 24th November 2021

15.1 Precept for 2022-2023.

SIGNED

DATE