

## HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Sophia Gabrielle, Susan Marr and James White.

**In attendance**

Lynda Wilcox – Parish Clerk. John Hardwick – Ward Councillor. 7 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Julia Pearson, Jamie Rogers and Val Watson.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation** ... There were none.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.
4. **Flooding/Drainage/Ditch Issues:**
  - 4.1 The Chair gave an update which included the following items:
    - 4.1.1 The Chair and Jamie Rogers had inspected the ditches with the ditch contractor and, as they were all flowing well, it was not considered cost effective to undertake remedial work at the present time. The Chair thanked residents who had cleared out leaves and branches from the ditches in-front of their properties and assured them that ditching works around the parish would be undertaken as and when necessary.
    - 4.1.2 Feedback and action from meeting with Flooding Consultant:  
The Chair and Jamie Rogers had met with the Flooding Consultant, who was preparing a report on possible flood alleviation work. Good maintenance of ditches by local landowners had ensured that the current system was generally working well. Updated flood level maps had been requested from the Environment Agency. It was considered unlikely that replacing the flood flap would be of any benefit in a flooding situation. It was RESOLVED to fund the cost of the report which was estimated at £500.
5. **Open Session:**
  - 5.1 A brief verbal report from Ward Councillor John Hardwick, included:
    - 5.1.1 The repair of the two damaged footbridges across rights of way was being pursued with Herefordshire Council officers and the Clerk would be kept updated on remedial action. Residents again stressed the danger to pedestrians using the rights

of way, and it was confirmed that health and safety issues were the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

- 5.1.2 Herefordshire Council's budget would be set on 10<sup>th</sup> February. It was helpful that an increased rural grant had been agreed by government just before Christmas. An increase of 4.9% was likely, 2% for adult wellbeing and 2.99% for the general fund.

5.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:

- 5.2.1 A local resident reported that a footpath sign had been covered over by the branches of a tree, opposite the Old Rectory.
- 5.2.2 It was reported that the brickwork on the old bridge on Common Land was again in a poor condition. The Clerk would contact the owners of the Common Land to request that they undertake urgent repairs.

**6. Parish land:**

- 6.1 The Clerk gave an update on land registration, and the requirement by the Land Registry for a current valuation. She commented that John Dillon from Sunderlands had been extremely helpful in supplying a valuation at very short notice and an invoice of around £200 was awaited. The solicitors anticipated the matter could be concluded within a couple of weeks. The Land Registry had also requested sight of a legal document with the MEB, which the Clerk had found in the parish archives.
- 6.2 The Clerk gave an update on work in the orchard under the 5-year Enhancement Plan. She confirmed that, under delegated powers, she had accepted the quotation from Justin Peebles, which was favoured by James White, author of the Enhancement Plan.

**7. Adult Fitness Equipment:**

- 7.1 Sophia Gabrielle reported that due to ill health she had only recently been able to resume local consultation on fitness equipment to go alongside the children's play area. She had held discussions with the Clerk and would attend the next local market event at the Village Hall to ascertain (from residents only) whether a single piece of equipment for teenagers and young adults might be a good starting point. Feedback would be given at the March meeting.

**8. Finance ... Bank Balance noted as £89,376.42.**

- 8.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
  - 8.1.1 HALC Annual Subscription £555.68 + £111.14. VAT.
  - 8.1.2 Parish Clerk salary for December & January plus HMRC £199.80.
  - 8.1.3 The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made under delegated powers:
    - a) RJ & JR Barrell: Hedge trimming pre fencing works £80. Two cuts of the parish orchard £150.
    - b) Parish Contractor S M Bruce: Milestone siting (when weather suitable) £55.10.

- c) Autela Payroll: October/November/December ... £58.79 + £11.76.
- 8.2 Precept for financial year 2023/2024 ... It was RESOLVED to defer this item to an extraordinary meeting during February, when more councillors would hopefully be present.

**9. Village Hall:**

- 9.1 Members discussed the Villagers' Association (VA) request to pause discussion on a new lease and continue with the current lease with financial support by way of grants. It was RESOLVED to cease action on a new lease and continue with the current lease.
- 9.2 Members considered the VA's request for annual financial support, and it was RESOLVED to:
- 9.2.1 Bring all payments for the previous and current financial year up to date at the March 2023 meeting.
- a) Grass-cutting grant ... It was noted that the recent payment of £1536 was for the financial year 2021/2022. A grant request from the VA for the financial year 2022/2023 would therefore be required for consideration at the March 2023 parish council meeting.
- b) Village Scene ... It was noted that the recent payment of £500 was for the financial year 2022/2023.
- 9.2.2 From the parish council's financial year 2023-2024 (which commences on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023) and for future years, the VA would be expected to submit a budgeted figure for grass-cutting and the Village Scene for the VA's financial year (which commences in January and concludes in December) to enable the parish council to consider a grant to the VA (in advance of their expenditure) at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2023.

**10. Footpaths:** The Parish Footpaths Officers had no items to raise for attention.

**11. Date of next scheduled meeting ...** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

SIGNED ..... DATE .....