

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Alexandra Kitchener, Alistair McHarg, Gillian Omar, Julia Pearson & Brendyn Rossouw.

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox – Parish Clerk and 14 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jamie Rogers.
2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests ...** There were none.
3. **Open Session**
 - 3.1 Brief verbal report from Ward Councillor Graham Biggs ... Councillor Biggs was unable to attend but would send the Clerk a news update from Herefordshire Council.
 - 3.2 Views of local residents on parish matters included:
 - 3.2.1 The need for 'Dark Skies' to be on the next agenda, as previously requested. In response to comments about intrusive floodlights from the digester area of Court Farm, a representative from the farm offered to look into the current lighting arrangements with a view to possibly reducing the impact on surrounding homes.
 - 3.2.2 Request for further consideration (at the next meeting) re the provision of 'gates' on roadside verges to assist in speed reduction within the parish.
Brendyn Rossouw commented that he uses the parish council laptop when programming the SIDs. However, there were still some difficulties with the components of the second SID which may require parts from the supplier.
 - 3.2.3 In response to a query concerning lorries accessing Court Farm via the B4224 rather than the A438 (see item 13 below), the Chair commented that Court Farm had obtained a new postcode which would direct large vehicles to access the farm via the A438, but Google had not yet updated its systems.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 21st November.**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Finance**
 - 5.1 A Bank balance of £96,840.05 was noted.
 - 5.2 Members considered the draft budget and RESOLVED to set a precept of £23,000.00 for the financial year 2025/2026, commencing on 1st April 2025. The Clerk went through each item in the budget, which was endorsed by members.
 - 5.3 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 5.3.1 Information Commissioner – Data Protection annual fee ... £40.00.
 - 5.3.2 Clerk's January salary + HMRC – PAYE 06.01-05.02 ... £78.40.
 - 5.4 Payments made under delegated powers were ratified:
 - 5.4.1 Parish Contractor ... £46.00.
 - 5.4.2 Justin Peebles – parish orchard maintenance ... £1,100.00 + £220 VAT.
 - 5.4.3 Clerk's December salary & HMRC-PAYE of £78.40.

6. Village Hall

- 6.1 Contribution towards overall VH improvement works of £9,000.00.
 - 6.1.1 It was RESOLVED to set aside a sum of £5k in the 2024/2025 financial year to assist the Village Hall with their imminent improvement works.
 - 6.1.2 It was further RESOLVED that the most cost-effective use of the set aside sum would be to delegate authority to the Clerk to order and pay for items identified by the Village Hall, up to the value of the £5k (excluding VAT) to enable those items to then be gifted to the Village Hall.
- 6.2 It was RESOLVED to pay invoice 2021-492 (£44.00) for two additional hall hires during 2024.
- 6.3 It was RESOLVED to pay invoice 0586 from RJ & JR Barrell for two grass cuts @ £100 per cut = £200 + £40 VAT.

7. Planning ... Comment on application for determination by Herefordshire Council:

- 7.1 It was RESOLVED to endorse the view of the Tree Wardens to support Application P250128/K: Box Tree Cottage, Rectory Road. T1 Norway Maple. The tree has been maintained regularly as it grows very close to the house & overhangs the greenhouse. Request for 25% crown reduction back to the previous points to keep it at a suitable size for its location.

8. Mantella Drive: Members noted that the quote for the overall cost (£2925 + £585 VAT) of road signage & yellow lines was not being pursued because yellow lines were no longer possible. A local quote for the provision and installation of signage was being sought.

9. Governance Review ... Request for an increase in councillors for Hampton Bishop: The Clerk commented that the lengthy process would hopefully commence in the near future.

10. Parish Orchard ... Members noted the recent maintenance work, and it was RESOLVED that Jamie Rogers and Brendyn Rossouw would meet with residents adjacent to the orchard, to discuss future action.

- 10.1 It was further RESOLVED that Alexandra Kitchener would be the third Parish Councillor on the Orchard Working Group.
- 10.2 One aspect for consideration was the mowing of the outer area of the orchard for parking during the fete weekend, which was detrimental to the wildflowers in that area.

11. Information Items

- 11.1 New postcode requested to direct lorries for Court Farm via A438 rather than B4224 – see agenda item 3, above.
- 11.2 The Clerk gave an update on national/local Neighbourhood Planning, including:
 - 11.2.1 Although Herefordshire Council (HC) had reached Regulation 18 with their Local Plan, they were having to start again because all consultation on the draft plan had been undertaken on the original government housing quotation of around 16k homes and not the recently announced new requirement of around 26k homes for Herefordshire.

- 11.2.2 In addition, HC would be required to decide by the end of March 2025, as to whether they would commence their new Local Plan under the principles of the original process or would follow the government's new streamlined process over a 30-month period. Both options would require completion by the end of 2026.
- 11.2.3 Because of the above government-imposed changes, it was now recommended that new NDPs (Neighbourhood Development Plans) or reviewed NDPs across Herefordshire which were not almost at referendum stage, should be halted until mid-2026 to enable them to take into account the emerging policies of HC's new Local Plan.
- 11.3 An extension of time for HC to determine the Lugg Flats planning application 240422, was noted as end of February 2025.

12. Date of next meeting ... 27th March at 19.30 to accommodate earlier hall booking.

SIGNED DATE