

4/2025

**HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 19.00 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Alexandra Kitchener, Gilliam Omar and Jamie Rogers.

**In attendance**

Lynda Wilcox: Parish Clerk and 12 members of public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from:  
Alistair McHarg, Julia Pearson and Brendyn Rossouw.
2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests:** There were none.
3. **Open Session**
  - 3.1 Presentation on St Michael's Hospice RUN on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May:
    - 3.1.1 Amy Johnson gave an outline of the route for the run which would require the closure of the B4224 between 09.30 and 13.00.
    - 3.1.2 There were just over 200 runners currently booked in, and the maximum number would be 350.
    - 3.1.3 It was noted that there would be a water station for the runners outside The Orchards and a resident from that area offered to assist if required.
    - 3.1.4 The Village Hall Committee offered to let the organisers know if the hall would be available for them to use on the day.
    - 3.1.5 Amy offered to send the Clerk information on the Run which could be posted on the parish council website.
  - 3.2 Ward Councillor Graham Biggs was unable to attend. The Chair would liaise with Cllr Biggs, in the hope that he would be able to attend the next meeting or submit a brief report.
  - 3.3 Views of local residents on parish matters included:
    - 3.3.1 Future maintenance of the orchard.
    - 3.3.2 Obtrusive lighting at Court Farm.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**

The minutes were agreed as a true record with an addition to item 5.2 put forward by Alexandra Kitchener that two members had voted against and one had abstained on the vote for the precept.

## 5. Finance

- 5.1 The Bank balance was noted as £93,725.52.
- 5.2 It was RESOLVED to pay the following invoice:
  - 5.2.1 Autela Payroll Services – £113.70.
- 5.3 To note payments made under delegated powers:
  - 5.3.1 Clerk's March salary + HMRC payment of £78.40.

## 6. Village Hall

- 6.1 Advance payment of hall hire for 2025/26: £132.00  
It was RESOLVED to pay the above advance estimated hall hire charges.
- 6.2 Provision of dog poo bins in vicinity of Village Hall:
  - 6.2.1 Following detailed discussion, it was RESOLVED to promote 'flick and stick' rather than purchase dog litter bins. It was noted that Herefordshire Council's policy was to encourage dog walkers to put their dog waste bags in general litter bins.
  - 6.2.2 It was further RESOLVED to purchase between one and six weatherproof deterrent signs, urging people to take their dog waste home with them.

## 7. Mantella Drive signage: Update and consider action.

- 7.1 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be delegated to order 'No parking – Private Road' signs for Mantella Drive, in liaison with the residents and contractors agreed by their maintenance company, Pinnacle.

## 8. Flood Working Group

- 8.1 Councillors and other members of the Flood Working Group had attended Herefordshire Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> Flood Group Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- 8.2 The Clerk would draft a Job Description for the two proposed Flood Wardens for adoption at the May meeting. Volunteers from the parish would then be sought to undertake the two roles which would be covered by the parish council's insurance.
- 8.3 It was RESOLVED that one of the two appointed Flood Wardens would retain the new Penstock Valve Key on behalf of Flood Group.

*The Chair declared an interest in the following item and left the room.*

## 9. Play Area

- 9.1 Repairs to slide and climbing frame: £1,198.00 + £239.60 VAT.  
It was RESOLVED to pay Folbigg Fabrications' invoice for the extensive repairs undertaken to the slide and climbing frame.

*The Chair returned to the meeting.*

9.2 Annual play area inspection (@ £62.50).

It was RESOLVED to book an annual inspection with Fran White for June/July at a cost of £62.50.

## 10. HGV Lorries in Rectory Lane

10.1 Provision of 'No HGVs' sign

There was detailed discussion on the possible provision of signs but because the situation appeared to be improving and in the light of item 10.2 below, it was RESOLVED not to pursue signage at the current time but to keep the situation under review.

Court Farm had agreed to chase Google with regard to the implementation of the new postcode for Court Farm deliveries.

It was suggested that the use of 'What3Words might be helpful.

- 10.2 It was noted that Court Farm was refusing to allow the unloading of HGVs which attempted to access the farm via the B4224 rather than the accepted access via new road off the A438.

## 11. Dark Skies

11.1 Resident concerns about light pollution at Court Farm.

The Chair reported that Court Farm was introducing timers to reduce the light impact on surrounding properties. However, in addition to the continual lighting of the area, a secondary factor was identified – the need to direct the light downwards, on to the actual area where operational safety concerns were an issue, rather than out across the fields to numerous properties.

11.1.1 Court Farm agreed to look into both aspects raised above.

## 12. B4224

12.1 Report from a meeting of the B4224 Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting of the Group which consisted of several parish council representatives along the B4224 who were endeavouring to reduce the quantity and speed of traffic on that road.

It was noted that the proposed housing development around Ross on Wye would lead to an increase in traffic on the B4224 between Ross on Wye and Hereford because local motorists favoured that route over the A49.

12.2 Provision of roadside gates to reduce the speed of traffic.

General information on types of roadside gates had been circulated and it was RESOLVED to pursue the erection of two roadside gates at locations along the B4224. The Clerk would liaise with Herefordshire Council and the Safer Roads Partnership as to the location of the gates, as well as with the Holme Lacy and Fownhope Parish Councils, both of which had recently installed gates.

- 12.3 The closure of the B4224 at Mordiford Bridge between 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April  
It was noted that the closure was required to undertake emergency repairs to a roadside wall at Mordiford.

### **13. Parish Orchard**

- 13.1 Recent maintenance work and future action.
- 13.1.1 Working Group members were aware of the current maintenance plan and had noted recent tree works. They were keen to pursue active future improvement and maintenance of the area as a valued village amenity.
- 13.1.2 Local resident, Andrew Durant volunteered to join the current members on the parish council working group: Councillors Brendyn Rossouw & Alexandra Kitchener together with local residents Margaret and Val Watson.
- 13.1.3 Group members agreed to have a brief meeting at the conclusion of the parish council meeting.
- 13.2 Parking arrangements for the fete.  
The Church organisers of the annual fete had asked the parish council for permission to park in a roped off area of the parish orchard. The Parish Orchard Working Group had expressed concern about the impact of such parking on the wellbeing of the orchard and suggested that the Church should explore alternative parking arrangements.
- 13.2.1 Jamie Rogers offered to approach Hampton House, to ascertain whether it would be possible to utilise their facilities for fete parking.

### **14. Information Items**

- 14.1 It was noted that Balfour Beatty would undertake two parish verge cuts, unless requested to only undertake one cut. Members were content for the usual two cuts.

### **15. Future Meetings:**

- 15.1 The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was noted as 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- 15.2 Possible commencement of all future meetings at 18.00 to enable participation of Ward Councillor.  
Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to retain the 19.00 meeting start time. The Chair would liaise with the Ward Councillor, as mentioned in agenda item 3.2 above.
- 15.3 Date for Annual Parish Meeting:  
It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek May dates when the Hall was available. It was hoped that the local MP Ellie Chowns might be free to attend the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.50