

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**HELD AT HOPE BOWDLER
VILLAGE HALL**

MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 at 7.40pm

056/22 - Present

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman
Cllr C Pugh
Cllr. L Gray
Cllr. S Jones
Cllr. B Orme
Cllr. T Madeley
Cllr. P Jenkins

Apologies received from:

Cllr. T Madeley

In attendance:

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Cllr. C Motley and two members of the public.

057/22 – Notice convening the meeting

In accordance with statute, the Notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the parish notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and on the parish website.

**058/21– Chairman’s Welcome and Annual Report for the Parish Council
for the year 2021 - 2022**

As Chairman for the year 2021/2022 Cllr. Graham Watts delivered the following report and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I commence my report by thanking my fellow councillors, Unitary Councillor Cecilia Motley and our Clerk for all their help and support during the parish year 2021/2022. In April 2021 we started the year in lockdown, so our first meeting on 19th April 2021 had to be held via the remote viewing platform, Zoom. The legislation enabling Zoom meetings terminated on 5th May 2021, after which time normal parish council meetings were resumed, alternating between Hope Bowdler and Ticklerton village halls.

The Parish Council has continued to work on seeking a reduction in the speed at which traffic passes through Hope Bowdler. Having discussed the matter with the Police and

with engineers from the Shropshire Council Highways Department, the Parish Council purchased and arranged for the installation of a speed indicator device on the B4371 from the Much Wenlock direction. The indications are that the speed indicator device has resulted in a marked reduction in the speed at which vehicles pass through the village from the Much Wenlock direction. We continue to seek grant funding for a second device for the Church Stretton end of Hope Bowdler.

Shropshire Council is conducting a Community Governance Review which centres on town and parish boundaries. This parish council has been in negotiations with Rushbury Parish Council with a view to amalgamating the two parish councils into one, to be called Apedale Parish Council. It is believed such an amalgamation will result in lower precept funding and more clout with Shropshire Council. Acton Scott Parish Meeting is in negotiations with the residents of the hamlet Hatton, to explore whether that part of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish should amalgamate with Acton Scott. All these negotiations are on-going and no decisions are likely to be formalized until later this year.

059/22- Unitary Councillor's Report

Cllr. Motley reported that there had been a good response in Shropshire to the Ukrainian refugee problem: 434 are due to be housed and 74 have already arrived. Shropshire Council's housing department have been seeking homes, carrying out safeguarding checks, seeking GP cover and school places.

Cllr. Motley continues to be disappointed at the government's total lack of response to SC's transport and bus strategy. They have been advised to re-apply for the next round of funding.

She reported that she is very involved with the Local Government Divisional Boundary Commission which has a deadline for completion of October 2023. The parish boundaries review, the Community Governance Review, has no precise time-table at present as the LGDB Commission is taking priority: she believes the parish boundary review has a completion date of 2025.

She hopes that parish councils are finding the new Highways reporting scheme - Fix My Street - is an improvement and providing better feed-back and faster repairs.

Finally, she hopes everyone has received and is pleased with the new re-cycling bins.

060/22 – Community Governance Review – proposed amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council, the joint council to be known as Apedale Parish Council

An invitation to parishioners to attend this meeting to raise any views, issues or suggestions they have about the proposed amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council had been widely advertised. The fact that no residents have attended to discuss this issue, nor sent any views to the Clerk, leads to the assumption that all residents are happy with the proposed amalgamation. It is not yet known what view Rushbury residents are taking to the proposed amalgamation. The Chairman will continue negotiations with the Chairman of Rushbury Parish Council.

061/22 – Community Governance Review – proposed removal of Hatton from Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish to amalgamate instead with the Acton Scott Parish.

Again, although this meeting had been advertised, no response from any Hatton residents has been received and none have attended tonight. Mr Francis Acton proposes to send a questionnaire to all Hatton residents (seven properties) seeking their views on transferring to Acton Scott Parish.

Cllr. Motley advised Acton Scott's Annual Parish Meeting is in two weeks time, so the situation may become clearer after that. It was agreed this parish council will not be sending out questionnaires.

062/22 – Open Forum

No issues were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

MINUTES SIGNED BY Graham Watts

DATED 22nd June 2022