

EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD on 15th NOVEMBER 2021, at 7.30pm at
TICKLERTON VILLAGE HALL

115/21 - Present

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman
Cllr. P Jenkins
Cllr. T Madeley
Cllr. L Gray
Cllr. S Jones

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Pugh and Cllr. B Orme

In Attendance: Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Cllr. Cecilia Motley and one member of the public.

116/21 - Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

No declarations of interest were made.

117/21 – Public question time

No matters were raised.

118/21– Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th October 2021 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes of the meeting.

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that the Minutes be approved by the members.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Gray

Vote: The members present voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2021 and they were duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

119/21 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 18th October 2021

099/21/3. Cllr. Orme to be asked if he has managed to obtain any photographs. Chairman and Clerk will finalise the wording of the letter to the enforcement team.

120/21 – Reports

Cllr. Motley reported on SC's current budget negotiations with the government, which have made little progress. The 2022/2021 budget is unlikely to be known before Christmas due to the forthcoming bye-election in North Shropshire. She also reported on the issues raised by Chris MacLean, Clerk to Rushbury Parish Council, concerning the implications of the new regulations proposed by Defra on foul drainage and rain water being kept separate: this will have implications for burial grounds, septic tanks, possibly bore holes and wells and heat source pumps. It is not yet known if these regulations will only affect new buildings/burial plots or whether they will have retrospective effect.

Cllr. Motley confirmed she is holding a meeting for Chairmen and Clerks at Culmington Village Hall to discuss the Community Governance Review issue and for a general forum.

Cllr. Madeley enquired whether Cllr. Motley had any success with reviewing the enforcement action at Oaklands. He is concerned that apart from the planning breaches there are health and safety issues: the sewage disposal arrangements appeared to be rudimentary. Cllr. Motley was aware the matter had been registered but had no further information, other than to report the number of Enforcement Officers had been increased from one to four. The Chairman asked if it would assist the enforcement process if the parish council wrote to the Enforcement Officer pointing out the flagrant planning breaches: he felt it was essential that someone from the planning department went and had a look at the site. Cllr. Motley felt this would be helpful.

121/21 – planning applications

21/04654/FUL – application for conversion and change of use of Stone Barn 1 from agricultural use to an annexe ancillary to the main dwelling, and conversion and change of use of timber/stone Barn 2 from agricultural use to a holiday let, plus erection of a glazed link extension at Upper House, Hope Bowdler.

It was noted there were no public comments or objections on the planning portal and no objections from statutory consultees. Councillors considered the plans and design statement and found nothing objectionable about the application.

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the parish council supports the application and raises no objections to it.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Madeley

Vote: Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

21/04956/FUL – application for alterations to a dwelling including raising the roof level to incorporate first floor accommodation at Fernvale, Bull Lane, Hope Bowdler.

It was noted there were no public objections to the application but the issue of a bat survey not having been carried out prior to the works commencing was noted. It was also noted that the application was not stated to be a retrospective one, despite the work having been almost completed before the application was submitted. Given that the applicant is a builder, it was felt this was not done due to a lack of knowledge of planning requirements. The Chairman **proposed** that the parish council raises no objections to the works outlined in the application but wanted their concerns noted that the work had been carried out in advance of an application being submitted.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jenkins

Vote: Members voted unanimously to support the proposal.

122/21 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications received in November 2021

1. Letter from Mr W Allen, Birtley resident, seeking the parish council's assistance in getting the lane between Soudley and Birtley repaired. He also attended the parish council meeting on 18th October to raise his concerns. Email, Clerk to Nuria Smith of Highways advising of the need for repairs, and receiving a response from Andy Wilde, Head of Highways, Shropshire Council of 01.11.21 confirming the request has been reported and outlining the financial and resource difficulties SC currently has re highways maintenance. Letter Clerk to Mr Allen reporting on this correspondence.
2. Email and bundle of photographs from Mr J Gwilt, a Mount View, Hope Bowdler resident who outlines the dangers vehicles exiting from the Much Wenlock end of Mount View face when joining the B4371, as visibility is obscured by a high hedge and traffic travels at speed despite the 30mph signs. He seeks the parish council's assistance in getting "Concealed Entrance" signs positioned on the highway.
3. Email from J M Ruler, Programme Officer, Shropshire Local Plan, advising that an examination of the draft Shropshire Local Plan (2016 – 2038) has been published and is under consideration by Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State.
4. Email Clerk to WebOrchard, the parish council's website host, asking when the planning notifications from Shropshire Council will be resumed, none having been received since 15th August 2021. They respond "It's with Shropshire Council at present to sort. As soon as we know more we will let you know". It is noted that users of Hugo Fox continue to receive the planning notifications.
5. Email Clerk to Mr. C MacLean, Clerk of Rushbury Parish Council raising the dangerous state of part of Darby Lane, which is in Rushbury Parish. Mr MacLean responds that he has taken the matter up with the Highways Department

Responses:

Item 2: The issues raised by Mr Gwilt were considered at length. From the photographs provided it appeared the hedge was part of the problem. Certainly, the parish council will ask Highways to provide a "Concealed Entrance" sign, but when this would actually happen is unknown; on past experience it would be years rather than months. It was agreed the parish council will confirm they are asking for signage, but suggest Mr Gwilt seeks permission to get the hedge cut back and to consider placing a mirror on the opposite side of the road.

123/21 – Highways and Environmental matters

No matters were raised.

124/21 – To consider and if agreed adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors.

The Clerk had circulated a proposed 2021 version of the Code of Conduct to councillors for perusal prior to the meeting. It has been adopted by Shropshire Council and will be the bench mark for considering any claims brought against councillors.

The Chairman **proposed** that the parish council should adopt the revised Code of Conduct with effect from 15th November 2021

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Proposal unanimously adopted by councillors.

125/21: Consideration of a grant application for the purchase a second speed indicator device for Hope Bowdler village.

The Clerk had obtained and partially completed a grant application form from the Police & Crime Commissioner to fund the purchase of a speed indicator device for the Church Stretton end of Hope Bowdler village. The form asked what amount of match funding would be provided by the parish council.

The councillors discussed whether a second speed indicator was actually needed. Cllr. Jenkins felt strongly that the existing one had made a substantial difference to the speed of traffic coming from the Much Wenlock direction, and one for the Church Stretton traffic was needed. All the Neighbourhood Fund had been used to purchase the existing one. The Chairman suggested a sum of £500 be offered, part paid from reserves plus £250 to be added to the 2022/2023 Precept requirement.

126/21– Financial Matters
Finance Report for November 2021

1. Precept Funds – balance b/fwd from October 2021 **£4,339.65**

Less: Payments to be made on 15.11 2021 from Precept Fund

• Clerk’s net salary for November & December 2021	£319.92		
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk’s November & December` Salary	£ 79.80		
• Invoice from Hope Bowdler Village Hall for hire fees	£ 63.00		
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in November and December 2021, paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>			
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for November & December 2021 @ £20 per month	£40.00		
• Card re death of ex-councillor M Young	£ 2.60		
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 15.11.21 – to Ticklerton Village Hall for Parish Council Meeting – 32 miles:	£14.40		
	£57.00	£ 57.00	
		£519.72	£ 519.72
			<u>£3,819.93</u>
		Balance of Precept Fund c/fwd to January 2022	

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that the cheques listed above totalling £519.72 be authorised for payment

Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour of the proposal

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Balance of Environmental Grant b/fwd from October 2021 **£130.93**

Transparency Code Grant- balance b/fwd from October 2021 **£ 43.17**

Total funds held by Parish Council following authorisation & presentation of the above cheques.

•	Precept Fund	£3,819.93
•	Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£ 130.93
•	Transparency Code Grant	£ 43.17
•	Neighbourhood Fund grant	£ <u>nil</u>
	Total:	<u>£3,994.03</u>

Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

As at 15th November 2021 HSBC have not provided a bank statement, so the reconciliation will have to be deferred to the January 2022 meeting.

Preliminary consideration of the Precept requirement for 2022/2023.

The Clerk had circulated a first draft of the 2022/2023 Precept budget for councillors' consideration. It totalled £6,665.24. The 2021/2022 Precept claimed was £5,252 although the projected expenditure was £5,348, the difference to be drawn from reserves. However, the projected actual spend for 2021/2022 is £5,783 as £500 was spent towards the purchase of the speed indicator device and there was an unexpected increase of £109 in the annual insurance premium.

In the draft 2022/2023 Precept Budget, £228 website hosting fees has been added which previously had been paid from grant funds, £84 being the estimated new bank charges cost, £150 for the May 2021 elections – actual cost still awaited, £1,000 for environmental works and asset management and £250 towards a second speed indicator device. Further consideration and agreement on the Precept will be decided at the January 2022 meeting. The draft Precept Budget will be placed on the website with these Minutes.

Appointment of an auditor for 2022/2023's audit,

The Chairman **proposed** that Mrs Susan Hackett be appointed as the parish council's auditor for the forthcoming financial year.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Jones

Vote: Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

127/21 - Questions for the Chairman

No questions were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting
Monday 17th January 2022, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall.

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED: 17th January 2022