

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD on MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2023
7.30pm at HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL

001/23 - Present

Cllr. P Jenkins who acted as Chairman for this meeting

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. L. Gray

Cllr. C Pugh

Cllr. Bruce Orme

Apologies received and accepted from:

Cllr. Graham Watts and Cllr. T Madeley

In Attendance

The Clerk, Unitary Cllr. C Motley and one member of the public.

002/23- 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.

003/23 – Public question time

No matters were raised.

004/23 – Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2022 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Pugh **proposed** that the Minutes of 21st November 2022 be approved by the members.
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Unanimously members present voted to approve the Minutes of 21st November 2022 and they were duly signed by the acting Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

005/23 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 21st November 2022

122/22: Cllr. Motley had not so far contacted the parishioner mentioned: the Clerk had provided her with the necessary contact details by email and gave Cllr. Motley a written note of the relevant contact details at this meeting.

124/22: The Clerk had sent letters on 12th December 2022 to all known residents in the Hatton area, enclosing the Proposal for the amalgamation of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council with Rushbury Parish Council. Residents were asked to advise the parish council whether they wished to remain in this possibly amalgamated parish, or whether they wished to join Acton Scott. No responses had been received. Cllr. Pugh advised he had spoken to some parishioners and discovered they knew nothing about the proposed amalgamation and, when it was explained to them, said they didn't want an amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council.

The Clerk advised the proposed amalgamation had been advertised on the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting, it had been mentioned in almost all the Minutes for the past year and she had advised of the proposal in the parish magazine: it is difficult to see what more could be done to advertise the proposal. As the proposed parish county boundary review is currently on hold, awaiting the outcome of the Divisional Boundary Review, it was agreed no further publicity steps will be taken until it is clear the review is going ahead.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mr Francis Acton indicating that as the parish council has received no response from any Hatton residents indicating they wish to be moved to Acton Scott Parish, they propose taking no further steps in the matter of a possible amalgamation of Hatton with Acton Scott.

006/23 – Report from Unitary Cllr. C. Motley

Cllr. Motley advised that negotiations are taking place between Shropshire Council and the owners of Acton Scott about the future of the Museum: SC has a Lease on the property under which it is liable to pay rent for a further 15 years. The Museum has been closed since an outbreak of norovirus occurred. It will be expensive to bring the Museum up to 21st century Health and Safety regulations. A limiting factor on the success of the Museum is the car park only accommodates 22 cars. A public meeting in Church Stretton established a majority in favour of keeping the Museum open and options are currently being explored.

Cllr. Motley was advised of the unsatisfactory response the parish council had received to the Acton Scott related planning application (22/04912/CPE) seeking a certificate authorising a tourist development for which planning permission had not been sought when established. Cllr. Motley was provided with details and photographs relating to the application: she will take it up with the planning officers.

Cllr. Motley explained the difficulties the Divisional Boundaries Review is causing. The Boundaries Review seeks 74 divisions in Shropshire each accommodating approximately 3,500 residents, Shropshire Council wants 75, as the 74 figure does not take into account the amount of additional housing which has been created in certain divisions, particularly in Shrewsbury and Shifnal where some divisions now hold more than 3,500 residents. If agreement is not reached to create 75 divisions, it might result in local boundaries being redrawn.

Cllr. Pugh asked what steps were being taken to deal with flooding in Ironbridge, given the proposal to create a large housing development on the old power station site. Cllr. Motley outlined various proposals under consideration, including works upstream to reduce the rate of flow of the Severn into the Ironbridge area.

007/23 – Planning matters considered

The unsatisfactory response from the Planning Officer concerning 22/04912/CPE has been discussed above and the matter is with Cllr. Motley.

008/23 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications

Correspondence/communications sent or received during December 2022 and January 2023 considered at meeting on 16th January 2023

1. Letter, December 2022 from Parish Council to all residents of Hatton, advising them of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council's proposed amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council, and providing them with a copy of proposal document. Responses invited, none received to date (16.01.23)
2. Email 29.11.22 inviting the parish council's response/views to the Local Government Boundaries Commission's consultation on the new political map for Shropshire.
3. Email 19.12.22 inviting the parish council's views on Shropshire Council's Budget Proposals for 2023 – 2024, closing date 30.01.23.
4. Email 20.12.22 - parish council to Shropshire Council's planning department expressing views on planning application 22/04912/CPE – glamping site etc at Hatton Grove Farm. Response received 22.12.22 indicating the parish council is not entitled to raise any comments.
5. Email 05.01.23 from SC's Passenger Transport Group inviting parish council's views on its public consultation on unsafe walking routes for school children. Closing date for responses – 10.02.23
6. Email 06.01.23 from Shropshire Council about its Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy: views sought, closing date 05.02.23
7. Email 11.01.23 from Chairman advising he has contacted Planning Officer Julian Beeson, who assures he will report to the parish council about Oaklands, Harton, shortly.
8. Notification that Philip Dunne MP will be holding a surgery at the Swan Inn, Munslow on Friday 20th January 2023 from 4.30 – 5.30pm.
9. 12.01.23 – notification from Shropshire Council about its subsidised Tree Scheme for 2023. Lowland woodland mix, upland woodland mix, wet ground woodland mix and native hedgerow mix are available at a 50% discount. Email tree.scheme@shropshire.gov.uk for details.
10. Notification from Shropshire Council that in future all voters will need to produce photo ID when attending to vote at polling stations.
11. Forthcoming road closure notifications:
13 – 17th February 2023 – Hazler Road, Church Stretton

No responses were deemed to be necessary.

009/23 – Highways and Environmental matters

Cllr. Orme advised a seriously large pothole has developed in the dip in Harton lane by the old railway bridge. As it is invariably full of water motorist may not notice it and it is capable of causing vehicle damage. The Clerk will report it the Highways. Dept.

010/23 - Finance Report for December 2022 and January 2023

Precept Funds – balance b/fwd from November 2022 **£6,360.79**

Less: Payments to be made on 16th January 2023 from Precept Fund

• HSBS bank charges for December 2022/January 2023	£ 12.40	
• Clerk's net salary for December 2022 and Clerk's net salary for January 2023 plus underpayment for the year 2022/2023 of £149.60	£452.80	
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's Dec 2022/Jan. 2023 salary	£113.20	
• Ticklerton Village Hall – hall hire charges 5 x £12	£ 60.00	
• Hope Bowdler Village Hall – hall hire charges 5 x £9	£ 45.00	
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in December 2022/January 2023 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>		
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for Dec. 2022/Jan. 2023 @ £20 p.m.	£40.00	
• Lever arch file for Minutes	£ 3.59	
• 8 postage stamps (2 nd class)	£ 5.44	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper	£ 4.75	
• 16.01.23 – heating for HB village hall	£ 3.00	
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile		
16.02.23 Hope Bowdler Village Hall – 34 miles	<u>£15.30</u>	
Total of admin. expenses	£72.08	<u>£ 72.08</u>
		£755.48
		<u>£ 755.48</u>
Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to February 2023		£5,605.31

Cllr. Jones Proposed that the cheques/direct debits listed above be authorised for payment.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Orme

Vote: Members voted unanimously to support the Proposal

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Environmental/Maintenance Fund balance b/fwd from November 2022 **£1,036.83**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from November 2022 **£ 451.59**

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

• **Precept Fund** **£5,605.31**

- **Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund** **£1,036.83**
 - **Neighbourhood Fund grant** **£ 451.59**
- £7,093.73**

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The Clerk's reconciliation between Cash Book and Bank Statements for December 2022 and January 2023 was verified by Councillor Jones.

011/23: Approval and adoption of the parish council's 2023/2024 Precept Budget

The Clerk had prepared and circulated a final version of the proposed 2023/2024 Precept Budget and councillors discussed it. The following figures were considered and agreed:

1. Clerk's gross salary	£2,647.84
2. PC's admin expenses as itemised in Budget	£ 500.00
3. PC's indemnity insurance	£ 500.00
4. Venue hire for meetings	£ 140.00
5. Pay roll/pensions administration	£ 120.00
6. Internal audit fee	£ 200.00
7. Contingency fund for training courses etc.	£ 200.00
8. SALC subscription	£ 250.00
9. Data Protection registration	£ 40.00
10. Fund for asset & environmental maintenance	£ 250.00
11. Fund for donations (S.137 LGA)	£ 400.00
12. Website hosting fee	£ 250.00
13. Bank charges	<u>£ 90.00</u>
	<u>£5,587.84</u>

Cllr. Jones Proposed that the parish council seeks a Precept budget for the year 2023 – 2024 in the sum of £5,588

Proposal seconded by: Cllr. Gray

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to set the Precept Budget in the sum of £5,588.

Cllr. Jenkins as acting Chairman of the meeting signed the Precept Requirement Form together with the Clerk.

Last year's precept was £6,472

012/23 - Questions for the Chairman

The Acting Chairman, on behalf of the members and the parish, expressed sympathies to Cllr. Tony Madeley and his family on the death of his wife, Janet Madeley.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting
Monday 20th February 2023, 7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall.**

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED 20th February 2023