

EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts

MINUTES

OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on MONDAY 17th JULY 2023
7.30pm at HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL

082/23 - Present

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. L. Gray

Cllr. P Jenkins

Cllr. O Orme

Cllr. S Jones

Apologies received and accepted from:

Cllr. T. Madeley

In Attendance

The Clerk, Unitary Cllr. Motley (for part of the meeting) and one member of the public.

083/23 - 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 were made.

084/23 – Public question time

Mr J Gray noted there had been no response from the Enforcement Team about Oaklands and he is entirely unable to understand why this site is allowed to continue in business with no planning permission. Cllr. Jones advised that a local Ticklerton resident had assisted a distressed young woman who alleged she had been robbed of her money and mobile phone, and who asked to be driven to her home, which she identified as Oaklands campsite. When asked if she was camping there, she replied no, that it is where she lives. This suggests there are permanent residents living on the site, suggesting it is more than a campsite. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to write again to Mr Beeston. Councillors felt the Chairman should take the matter up with Cllr. Motley. When Cllr. Motley arrived later she was asked to intervene and get some action from the Enforcement Team and was also advised about possible permanent residents living there. Cllr. Motley said she was aware that visitors to the campsite had caused considerable nuisance to adjoining property owners by their anti-social behaviour. She advised that the Enforcement Team are very over-worked but she will take this matter up with Mr Beeston and report back to the parish council.

085/23 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 19th June 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 19th June 2023 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19th June 2023 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jenkins

Vote: Councillors voted, with one abstention, to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

086/23 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 19th June 2023

No matters were raised.

087/23 – Reports

087/23/1: Report on meeting attended by Cllr. Peter Jenkins and the Clerk at Culmington Village Hall on 27th June 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting had been called by Shropshire Councillor Cecilia Motley. She invited parish council Chairmen and Clerks to attend the meeting to discuss three main topics and AOB:-

1. The Local Government Boundaries Commission Review, in particular as affecting the Ludlow constituency boundary
2. The Community Governance Review, concerning possible boundary changes to parish and town boundaries
3. Place Plan Reviews
4. AOB - Cllr. Motley went round the room inviting representatives to discuss any problems/issues they are facing in their individual parishes.

Twelve representatives attended. Mr Francis Acton did not attend. The Clerk and the Chairman of Rushbury PC attended.

Topic 1. Cllr. Motley went through the various discussions about boundary changes. SC do not agree with the LGBC's recommendations. The consultation period ends on 10th July 2023 and the Commission will thereafter deliver details of the new boundaries.

Topic 2: Essentially, nothing can happen on this until the LBGC's final decision is known as it may require revision of parish boundaries over and above any proposed changes/amalgamations by the parishes themselves.

Topic 3: Although parish councils need to submit their infrastructure proposals for the Place Plan Review by the 7th August, it was pointed out that the form sent out by SC is vague and unhelpful. It was requested that a template should be drawn up by SC making issues clearer and this should be sent out urgently. None of this involves Eaton & Hope Bowdler as we have no CIL monies due.

When parishes were invited to advise on any difficulties they had, this parish council raised two matters:

Cllr. Jenkins outlined the difficulty in getting the Police to engage in enforcing the speed limit through Hope Bowdler.

The Clerk sought to outline the difficulties encountered in trying to get the Enforcement Team at SC to take action on the many breaches of planning permission at Oaklands campsite and the effect it was having on neighbours. Given that all planning applications had been refused, we could not understand why the Enforcement Team at SC were not taking any action. The most active response came from the Clerk of Abdon & Heath

parish meeting: she suggested it was up to the parish council members to rally around and get all the affected neighbours to write to the Enforcement Team. Cllr. Motley and a few other people had concurred heartily with this view.

087/23/2- Cllr. Motley's Report

Cllr. Motley advised that SC has submitted its objections to the Local Government Boundaries Commission's proposals. The consultation process is now over and their final report is awaited. The final conclusions will be debated in Parliament in October. The Community Governance Review of town and parish boundaries cannot continue until the LGBC's report is approved. The CG Review needs to be concluded by 2025. The Chairman indicated this parish council's proposed amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council will continue, but the proposal that Hatton be joined to Acton Scott Parish Meeting will be resisted as there has been no clear and democratic indication from the Hatton residents that they wish to leave Eaton and Hope Bowdler Parish to amalgamate with Acton Scott.

Cllr. Motley confirmed that termination of remainder of SC's lease of the Acton Scott Farming Museum has now been concluded, with monetary compensation being paid to the Acton family. The Chairman asked for the sum which had been paid from ratepayers' money to terminate this lease: Cllr. Motley declined to disclose the sum in question.

Cllr. Motley advised that £51 million worth of funding is having to be cut from various budgets, including adult social care and public health.

On the planning front, the latest revision of the Local Plan will hopefully be signed off before much longer. It is hoped that when the next government is elected it will abolish Local Plans as they are time consuming, very expensive and serve little purpose. Cllr. Orme asked if it is still intended that Shropshire will have to accommodate housing development for the Black Country and was advised they were asking for 5,000 houses, SC has agreed to 1,500. A controversial new site proposed is Tasley Garden Village. The Chairman asked if all this development is going to affect this parish. Cllr. Motley said the government was mainly focusing on urban areas, as rural areas have few amenities and infrastructure. However, Church Stretton may wish to expand into Hope Bowdler.

088/23 – Planning.

There were no planning applications to consider and Oaklands Campsite has been dealt with elsewhere in these Minutes.

089/23 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications

1. Notification of a public meeting on Friday 14th July 2023 at Rushbury Village Hall, to discuss Rushbury Parish Council's application to nominate The Plough public house as an Asset of Community Value.
2. Letter from Eaton Under Heywood PCC thanking the parish council for its donation of £200 towards churchyard maintenance at St. Edith's Church.
3. Continuing correspondence between Clerk and Highways Department concerning the removal of road closed signage following the completion of roadworks. The Clerk notes from SALC newsletters that other parish councils and Bridgnorth Town Council have lodged similar complaints.

4. Recorded delivery letter dated 23rd June 2023 from the parish council to Mr Julian Beeston, Enforcement Officer at Shropshire Council concerning Oaklands campsite. Email reminder sent 16.07.23 as no response has been received.
5. Letter from Shropshire Highways advising that for 18 days (from 31.07.23 to 18.08.23) the road between Peaton and Bouldon will be closed for repairs between 9.30am and 4pm.
6. Letter from Pensions Regulator confirming that the parish council has completed a re-declaration of compliance with the Pensions Act 2008.
7. Email from Mrs W Hopkins registering an interest in the SmartWater scheme following theft of Stihl and Makita powers tools from an outhouse at her property. Cllr. Jones advised that the Police have now visited the property involved and given the householders a SmartWater kit. He also advised that it appears Ticklerton is being targeted by gangs who congregate in the village hall car park.
8. Email from SALC enclosing Minutes of South Shropshire Area Committee Meeting on 27.06.23. Next meeting is on 5th September 2023, 7pm at the Craven Arms Community Centre. The email also gives advice about Ash die back disease. Information on schemes available to help landowners can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-pilot-scheme-2023/grants-for-ash-with-ash-dieback>.

090/23 – Highways and Environmental matters

Councillors were surprised to learn that when SC highways workmen complete road repairs they are not responsible for removing the various notices such as “Road Closed”. Another agency is tasked with collecting up road signs. It is noted that other parish and town councils have also complained about the inconvenience caused to motorists when confronted with obsolete and unnecessary signage.

091/23 - Finance Report for July 2023

1. Precept Funds – balance b/fwd from June 2023 **£7,940.60**

Less: Payments to be made on 17th July 2023 from Precept Fund

- HSBC bank charges to 25.06.23 £ 9.00
- Clerk’s net salary for July 2023 £176.46
- HMRC - PAYE on Clerk’s July 2023 salary £ 44.20
- Admin expenses incurred in July 2023
paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.
- Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for July 2023 @ £20 p.m. £20.00
- Postage on recorded delivery letter to Mr Justin Beeston at Shropshire Council £ 2.60
- Note book for Minute taking £ 2.75
- IT support. Invoice from A. Holmes for diagnosing Internet problem, supplying and fitting new WiFi adaptor £35.00
- Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile

27.06.23 – to Culmington Village Hall for Cllr. Motley’s meeting (cost shared with DPC) – 10 miles			
17.07.23 – Hope Bowdler Village Hall for PC meeting – 34 miles			
Total: 44 miles	<u>£19.80</u>		
Total of July 2023 admin. expenses	£80.15	<u>£ 80.15</u>	
		£309.81	<u>£ 309.81</u>
	Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to July 2023		<u>£7,630.79</u>

The Chairman **proposed** the cheques listed above totalling £309.81 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Orme

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Environmental/Maintenance Fund balance c/fwd from June 2023 **£1,161.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance c/fwd from June 2023 **£ 451.59**

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

Precept Fund	£7,630.79
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£1,161.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	<u>£ 451.59</u>
	<u>£9,244.16</u>

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The Clerk’s reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 141 for July 2023 was verified by Cllr. Jones.

092/23 – Further consideration of the provision of SmartWater kits to all households in the parish

The police remain adamant that all kits must be registered and posted to named householders. The Clerk had put a notice in the Honeypot parish magazine asking those householders who want a free SmartWater kit to contact her. This was in the July edition of the magazine. It is very disappointing that to date only one householder has responded. The question of how to notify the parishioners of this free SmartWater kit and its benefits was discussed again. One option is to write to every householder, which would cost around £200. A second option is to put a notice on the Hope Bowdler Whatsapp forum. It was agreed the Clerk will draft a notice for Whatsapp and Cllr. Jenkins will arrange for it to be uploaded on to the site. The matter will be reviewed again in September.

093/23 - Questions for the Chairman

093/23/1: Freedom of Information. The Chairman and councillors felt it was only right that the public should know what Shropshire Council paid to break the Acton Scott Museum lease.

Further, as Oaklands Campsite continued to trade despite not having full planning permission, it is only right that the public should know whether or not its owners are

paying business rates on the various commercial activities being carried out there, including in the building which is believed to be used for light industrial purposes.

It was agreed that the parish council should submit Freedom of Information requests to Shropshire Council seeking this information.

093/23/2: The Chairman, councillors and clerk all congratulated Cllr. Orme for assisting with the sourcing of, and then driving a lorry laden with humanitarian aid, from Shropshire, across Europe and deep into the Ukraine.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Date & Venue of the next Parish Council
Monday 18th September 2023, 7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED 18th September 2023