

MINUTES

**of the parish council meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023 at
7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall**

120/23 - Present

Cllr. G Watts – Chairman

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. L. Gray

Cllr. C. Pugh

Apologies received and accepted from

Cllr. S Jones, Cllr. P Jenkins, Cllr. B Orme

In Attendance

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

121/23 - 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.

122/23 – Public question time

No matters were raised.

123/23 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 16th October 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th October 2023 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Gray **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 16th October 2023 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Madeley

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of 16th October 2023

124/23 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 16th October 2023

115/23/1 – Highways. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the second damaged footbridge over the Eaton Brook to Dave Hardwick at SC's Outdoor Team. He will examine the second bridge in the next few weeks. The other damaged bridge, already reported to him, is a big job and will have to await dryer weather.

156/23/2 – Highways. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the erosion of the stream bank, which is encroaching into the highway opposite Lower House Farm, to Highways, and had also reported the new area of erosion which has occurred slightly further along the stream. The reports were acknowledged but no time table was given for the remedial works to be carried out.

125/23 – Report from Shropshire Councillor C Motley

Cllr. Motley reported on the current status of the Community Governance Review (parish and town boundary reviews) and the multiplicity of factors which have caused it to be delayed until 2025. She is handing over her role in the Community Governance Review to Cllr. Gwilyn Butler so that she can concentrate on her public health role. Adult Social Care is a statutory duty: currently the care teams are very stretched as there are ever increasing demands for this service.

Since HS2 was abandoned, it seems there will be more money available for the North West Relief road around Shrewsbury, and to deal with problems like flooding of the River Severn. She is pushing for the lack of rural public transport to be addressed.

She reported that Craven Arms Town Council want the abattoir to be moved out of Craven Arms as it is holding up the expansion of the industrial site.

126/23 – Planning.

126/23/1 - 23/04340/FUL - an application for the installation of replacement dormer windows, a verandah and garage roof at The Old School, Hope Bowdler had been received too late to be included in the agenda for the October meeting. It was therefore agreed that the application will be dealt with by way of Standing Order 27. The Chairman and other councillors had considered the plans and agreed the proposed development was not controversial or objectionable and so the parish council supported the application.

126/23/2: 23/04958/AGR. This was the second application relating to this field shelter which the council has been notified, but is not required by Shropshire Council to comment upon. It relates to a steel field shelter at Woodgate Cottage, Hope Bowdler. It appeared the second application was occasioned due to a crested newts survey being required.

126/23/3: The parish council noted that planning application fees have increased by between 25% and 35%.

126/23/4: Cllr. Madeley enquired whether any response had been received from Mr Beeston to the parish council's letter of 17th October 2023 re the Oaklands Leisure & Camping site. No response has been received: the Chairman suggested it be chased early next year.

127/23 – Correspondence/Communications considered at the meeting on 20th November 2023

1. 17.10.23 Letter plus enclosures from Clerk to Mr Julian Beeston, Senior Enforcement Officer, Shropshire Council concerning enforcement action at Oaklands Leisure & Camping Site, Harton. No response as at 16.11.23
2. Notification from Severn Trent Water of a road closure on Sunday 3rd December 2023 at Wall Under Heywood.
3. Briefing Update from Shropshire Council's StreetScene Team.
4. Email from Connexus Group Housing Association advising that they are selling off a lot of their housing stock at auction on 15th November, which includes yet another property from Mount View, namely number 4, Mount View, Hope Bowdler.

5. Details from SALC - advising of four on-line training courses on planning law and procedures being run by Cheshire Association of Local Councils.
6. Details from Shropshire Council of the proposals for the Shrewsbury North-West Relief Road. Previous budget was £80.1 million but the latest cost is awaited and will be significantly more.
7. Email Clerk to David Hardwick of the SC's Countryside Team, notifying him that a second bridge over the Eaton Brook is in a state of disrepair, and requesting an up-date on the other bridge which he is aware needs replacing. Mr Hardwick advised he will visit the second bridge to assess it within the coming weeks to see if it is repairable. The other bigger bridge is a major project which can't be undertaken until the weather is drier.
8. Query from Clerk to SALC seeking documentation about and a timetable for the proposed Community Governance Review, as Eaton & Hope Bowdler PC and Rushbury PC propose requesting an amalgamation of their parishes under this Review. SALC advise the Community Governance Review has been held as the Constituency Boundaries Review is not yet completed. Thus, no timetable or procedural documentation is available as yet.
9. Letter from HSBC advising of changes to their terms and conditions of business relating to some business accounts. It is not believed this affects the parish council's bank account.
10. Email from Clerk to Highways/Fix My Street, reminding them of the parish council's notification in May 2023 about the stream by Lower House Farm, Ticklerton, where the water has eroded the bank to the extent it is now also eroding the highway. Also advising them that a few yards further on another part of the bank has collapsed and the road there too is being eroded.
11. Details of D-Day 80th commemoration event – 6th June 2024 with details of how to buy beacons, peace lamps etc.
12. Notification of Zoom meeting on 21.11.23 via Zoom to discuss information about CrowdFund community fund raising. Booking link included in email.
13. Notification from Planning Department of application **23/04958/AGR** for the erection of an open sided steel frame agricultural store at Woodgate Cottage, Hope Bowdler. Sent for information purposes only – no comments required from parish council.
14. Notification from Planning Department re **23/04340/FUL** – application for installation of replacement dormers, verandah and garage roof at The Old School, Hope Bowdler. Planning permission granted 16.11.23
15. Email from the Police & Crime Commissioner commenting on the results of a recent West Mercia Police Survey about policing in Shropshire. 58% of respondents believed the visibility of police is poor; 37% have experienced crime and anti-social behaviour which is of concern, top priorities are road safety – 81% and crime – 66%

128/23 – Highways and Environmental matters

128/23/1: The Clerk was asked to report to Highways a very large pothole in Bull Lane, Hope Bowdler, by the property Nethersprings.

128/23/2: Concern was expressed that an elderly person at Whitefields Farm, Darby Lane, Eaton was seen up to his waist in rushing water, as he endeavoured to clear the debris from where two brooks converge into two small pipes pipe going under under the Darby Lane bridge. The blockages cause flooding on the highway. Councillors felt the two small pipes under the highway should be changed for one large pipe. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Highways again - this work has been requested on many previous occasions with no result.

129/23 – To further consider the amalgamation of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council with Rushbury Parish Council

The Chairman and Cllr. Motley reported on a recent meeting they attended which took place between some Eaton councillors and some Rushbury councillors. It was agreed that the contact details of all Eaton & Hope Bowdler parish councillors should be shared with Rushbury councillors, to facilitate lines of communication. Cllr. Motley advised Eaton parish council needs to think carefully about its housing requirements as Rushbury are more inclined towards housing development.

130/23 - Finance Report for November 2023

1. Precept Funds – balance b/fwd from October 2023 **£6,879.19**

LESS; Payments to be made on 20th November 2023 from Precept Fund

• HSBC bank charges	£ 5.80	
• Clerk's net salary for November 2023	£176.46	
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's November 2023 salary	£ 44.20	
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in November 2023</u> <u>paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>		
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for November. 2023 @ £20 p.m.	£20.00	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper from Tesco's	£ 4.75	
• 1 set of 4 compatible ink cartridges (Badgers Inks)	£12.98	
• Postage on letter, map & photos to Julian Beeston with Certificate of postage	£ 1.20	
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 20.11.23 to Ticklerton Village Hall		
Total: 32 miles	<u>£14.40</u>	
Total of November 2023 admin. expenses	<u>£53.33</u>	<u>£ 53.33</u>
	£279.79	<u>£ 279.79</u>
Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to January 2024		<u>£6,599.40</u>

Cllr. Madeley **proposed** that the cheques listed above totalling £279.79 be approved for payment

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Pugh

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

<u>Environmental/Maintenance Fund</u> balance c/fwd from Oct. 2023	£1,161.78.
<u>Neighbourhood Fund</u> – balance c/fwd from October 2023	£ 451.59

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

Precept Fund	£6,599.40
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£1,161.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	£ 451.59
	<u>£8,212.77</u>

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The Clerk’s reconciliation between the council’s Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 145 for November 2023 was verified by the Chairman.

131/23 – To consider draft Precept Budget for 2024/2025 – to be finalized and adopted at the meeting on 15th January 2024

Councillors considered a draft Precept Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year. Once again NALC had published the prevailing pay rates for Clerks at the end of the financial year rather than the beginning, so the Clerk is due arrears of £208, which will be paid in a lump sum in March 2024. At the October meeting Cllr. Madeley had urged the parish council to purchase a speed inductor device for the Church Stretton approach of the B4371 into Hope Bowdler, especially due to the presence of the nursery school. The Clerk had established that the machine would cost approximately £5,000. The Police & Crime Commissioner is making grants towards such machines but parish councils have to contribute with match funding. The Chairman advised no one in Hope Bowdler had asked him for a second SID and he thought they were too expensive. The Clerk was asked to establish how much the grant is in order to establish the match funding figure the parish council would need to fund.

The 2024/2025 Precept Budget will be agreed and adopted at the January 2024 meeting.

132/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council
Monday 15th January 2024, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall**

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED 15th January 2024