

# **HOPTON CASTLE PARISH MEETING 1 MAY 2018**

## **Present**

Jon Allen (Chair)  
John Williams (Vice-Chair)  
Gill Haynes (Treasurer)  
Anne Williams  
Jane Stirling (Clerk)  
Veronica Mellings  
Sue Williams  
Alison Jackson  
Richard Jackson  
Ted Laidlar  
Peter Marquis  
Jenny Marquis  
Jonathon Dean  
Elaine Dean

## **Apologies**

Chris Laidlar  
Richard Jackson

## **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were agreed by all and initialled by the Chair, Jon Allen.

## **Election of Officers for 2018-19**

- John Williams Vice-Chair (proposed by Jane Stirling, seconded by Jonathan Dean);
- Gill Haynes elected to the committee and to replace Anne Williams as Treasurer (both appointments proposed by Jane Stirling, seconded by Elaine Dean). Anne Williams will continue as a member of the Parish Meeting.

## **Matters arising**

- Thanks to Ted Laidlar for repairs to the Parish notice board.
- Jon submitted to SCC planning further objections to the proposal to build chicken units at Hopton Heath. So far there has been no feedback but he will be alerted when the proposal returns to SCC Planning.
- SCC denied permission for the name change of Fold Barn to Hopton Castle Barn.

- Veronica reported that SCC will shortly repair the 9 potholes around Hopton Castle.
- Jane Stirling will apply for a precept from SCC at the appropriate time (Jan/Feb 2019).
- Peter Marquis has not yet contacted the Environmental Agency re guidelines on stream maintenance, but will do so. A hydrologist, Richard Cheal has contacted 5 environmental associations, including Natural England, about producing an advisory leaflet on stream maintenance for national distribution. The report is in preparation.

#### **Update on the defibrillator – report by Jon Allen**

Installation will occur in late May or early June after BT has decommissioned the phone box. Several points need to be clarified before set up:

- Volunteer needed for a weekly check of equipment and signage: – Peter Marquis offered to do this.
- Jon Allen will check with Western Power about the power supply to the phone box which is currently above ground. He will ascertain who will be responsible for the transfer of cables underground at the appropriate time.
- Peter Marquis pointed out that the phone box door has rotted and requires repair. Jon Allen will write to the Community Heartbeat Trust to check who is responsible for structural repairs. The Parish is responsible for painting the phone box in the traditional shade of red.

#### **Update on Paths and Stiles – Ted Laidlar**

Ted read out the following statement about the duties of the Parish Path Partnership (P3):

*The P3 agreement is a country-wide scheme to use volunteer organisations to help maintain the network of rights-of-way over our glorious countryside. Be they paths, tracks, bridleways or BOATS, they all have stiles, kissing gates or county-provided gates that require maintenance. Volunteers are provided with materials and training in the safe use of strimmers, chain saws and in the installation of stiles and gates.*

*Not every parish in our county has a P3 group but approximately 70% are covered and this figure is rising. Last year, more than 10,000 hours of volunteer labour were reported across the county.*

*If any member of the public or landowner finds a stile or county-provided gate that is defective in any way, or if access to them is restricted by overgrowth, I should be obliged if they would report it to me for action as soon as practicable.'*

*([ted.laidlar123@btinternet.com](mailto:ted.laidlar123@btinternet.com); 01547530924)*

### **Hopton Castle – report by Peter Marquis**

The castle is owned and run by the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust, which ensures it remains a free and safe tourist attraction. Volunteers from the community have carried out ground work around the castle, including the setting up of a donation box. Sheep grazing helps to keep down the grass and hedges are cut at appropriate intervals by a contractor.

### **Any other business**

- Traffic passing through the village has gone onto some verges making a mess. Ted Laidlar reported that new resident Neville Rolleston will mow the verges on both sides of the road by The Vicarage, which may deter cars from mounting the sides. He also suggested that daffodils (diverse varieties) be planted to fill the gaps in the current display. Ted will estimate the number and cost as well as leading the 'planting team'.
- Veronica reported that SCC will send in a vehicle to sweep the parish roads.
- George Morris has commented that the bridge over the brook by the church can be slippery underfoot and has requested treads to counter this problem. In addition, tree roots have lifted the church side of the bridge and so more extensive repairs may be needed. Ted Laidlar will contact the P3 group in the first instance, but it may be necessary to contact SCC or Rural England to resolve the issue.
- The mobile phone mast on the Black Hill causes intermittent problems to users, sometimes lasting several days. John Williams will contact EE, but past attempts to

rectify the problem have only resulted in reduced tariffs for complainants and not improved signals.

**Next meetings**

Future meetings will be held in the village hall on:

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7.30

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, 7.30

**CLOSE**

## Action sheet

Item	Action	Person responsible
<b>Precept</b>	Request precept of £10-15 per household in Jan/Feb 2019	Jane Stirling
<b>Phone box</b>	Check with Western Power re underground cabling Contact CHT re repairs to phone box door	Jon Allen
<b>Handover</b>	Handover of relevant information	Anne Williams to Gill Haynes
<b>Daffodils</b>	Guestimate number of bulbs needed and cost. Organise planting at appropriate time.	Ted Laidlar
<b>Bridge</b>	Contact P3 re repairs and treads	Ted Laidlar
<b>Mobile phone</b>	Call EE	John Williams
<b>Next meetings</b>	Book village hall	Jane stirling