

Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting 22 January 2019

Present Jon Allen (Chair), Veronica Mellings, Anne Williams, Ted Laidlar, Peter Marquis, Richard Bolton, Roy Mason, Alison Jackson, Richard Jackson, Mark Willis, Gill Allen
(Treasurer)

1. **Apologies** were received from Sue Williams, John Williams (Vice Chair), Jane Stirling
2. **Minutes** of meeting of 13 September 2018 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising and action sheet**
 - 3.1. Mobile phone signal – outstanding issue - John Williams to continue to follow up
 - 3.2. Stream maintenance – completed, with thanks to all who took part in the clearing sessions and thanks to Michael Williams for moving the resulting debris.
Outstanding issue is the need for repairs to the retaining wall, and Jon Allen will continue to chase Shropshire Council to complete the work.
 - 3.3. Daffodil planting – completed, with thanks to Ted Laidlar and all who took part.
 - 3.4. Environmental survey – Jon Allen confirmed that a letter had been sent to all residents asking for suggestions for environmental improvements. There had been NIL replies, so the meeting **agreed** ‘no further action’.
 - 3.5. Potholes in Buttercup lane near the entrance to Hopton Woods– Jon Allen confirmed he was still chasing Shropshire Council to complete the work.
 - 3.6. Contact with Pearce’s cycles (PC) – Jon Allen confirmed that he had been in touch with PC to arrange a short, preliminary meeting regarding event management and noted the concerns of some residents at the apparent increase in significant events. Richard Jackson confirmed that he had minutes of a meeting with PC from 2004 which set out details of the arrangement, including commitments regarding cycle traffic flows which he would send to Jon Allen. Jon Allen to report back to the next meeting.
 - 3.7. Amendments to footpaths at Great Hagley – completed.
4. **Vacancy for Parish Meeting Clerk** Jane Stirling has resigned from the role after a long stint as clerk, and she was thanked for her contribution and commitment. Richard Bolton kindly offered to take up the role with effect from the next meeting.
5. **Financial report . Noted.** Gill Allen has organised online banking for receipts and statements but payments will continue to be by cheque, signed by two out of the four agreed signatories.
6. **Budget and precept for 2019/20** The meeting **agreed** its previous recommendation to raise a precept (approximately £15 per household) for Hopton Castle Parish for 2019/2020 totalling £700, to ensure sufficient funds to support the

maintenance/replacement (over time) of the defibrillator and any other commitments that arise. Gill Allen will submit the form to Shropshire County Council by the deadline of 31 January 2019.

- 7. Defibrillator** Jon Allen reported that the defibrillator was now fully operational, and that all the repairs to the box and electrical work had been completed. Ted Laidlar was thanked for the significant amount of work and time he had contributed to the project, supported by many others in the village. There was a discussion about the need to hold community awareness sessions every year and it was **agreed** that there should be one in 2019 but that after that the community should be consulted about the need to have one annually.

Arrangements for an opening ceremony were discussed and the afternoon of 23 or 30 March suggested as possible dates. Veronica Mellings **agreed** to ask her journalist contact (Shropshire Journal) which date she would prefer and then liaise with Jon re arrangements.

The meeting considered a paper outlining how to set up a Volunteer Emergency Telephone System scheme supported by the Community Heartbeat Trust, but decided not to proceed on the grounds of both cost and relevance.

Ted Laidlar, Richard Jackson and Peter Marquis agreed to assist in a rota to undertake weekly checks on the defibrillator.

- 8. Slurry spreading near Great Hagley** Jon Allen reported that he had had unsatisfactory contact with both the Environment Agency and the council's Environmental Health Department. The meeting expressed its concern at the continuing deposits of waste material in the fields adjacent to Great Hagley. Jon Allen **agreed** to continue to pursue the matter with the Environment Agency as the most likely responsible agency.

- 9. Response to Forestry Commission consultation. Noted.**

- 10. Great Hagley Woods consultation Noted**

- 11. Planning application for the construction of a zip wire at Great Hagley**

Mark Willis explained that the zip wire was to provide additional facilities for the Princes Trust programmes that are conducted at Great Hagley. The programme is a 14 week course – one week of which is run at Great Hagley to provide team and confidence building for disadvantaged young people and to assist them into paid employment. Approximately 30 of these weeks are held each year. There is no intention to open up the use of the facility to the general public. The meeting was generally supportive of the application which was **noted**.

- 12. AOB** A vote of thanks was passed to Anne Williams, who has resigned as a committee member after many years of service.



Jon Allen
Chair 14th May 2019