

## Draft Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting held on 12 January 2021

**Present** Jon Allen (Chair) Veronica Mellings, Jack Chapman, Tanya Peppiat, Gill Allen, Neville Rollason, Katie Rollason, Steve Williams, John Williams, Peter Marquis, Jane Price, Duncan Price

1. **Apologies** were received from Sue Williams
2. **Minutes** of meeting of 18 August 2020 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising:**
  - A. **Stream Wall Repairs** Jon Allen reported that despite many phone calls during the last few months, there had been no information or action from Shropshire County Council until this week, when it was confirmed that due to the many calls on council budgets relating to last year's floods, there was no money left in the 2020/1 budget. However, they have committed to scoping the work in May/June this year, and carrying out the work in the summer. **Action: Jon Allen to follow up**
  - B. **Stream Maintenance work** Date for next session to be agreed at the May meeting.
  - C. **Defibrillator** Jon Allen reported that there were no planned awareness sessions due to the current lock-down, but that he had posted an information video on the parish's website on how to use the AED machine and CPR.
  - D. **Road Maintenance** It was agreed that Jon Allen would contact the Highways Department about the poor state of repair in Bedstone Lane.
4. **Election of Clerk** No volunteers forthcoming. Gill Allen to continue pro-tem.
5. **Joint Castle Working Party** The meeting thanked Peter Marquis and Ted Laidlar for their paper setting out a number of ideas for improving the castle grounds and village environment. It was agreed that the working party (membership agreed at the August meeting - of Ted Laidlar, Peter Marquis, Duncan Price, Jane Price, Gill Allen) should meet to consider these ideas and report back to a future meeting setting out how any proposals might enhance the amenities for residents of the village; outline costings attached to them and the extent to which they might commit the Parish Meeting to future expenditure. It was noted that we could hold an additional meeting before the next scheduled one, if required. **Action : Peter Marquis to convene working party meeting**
6. **Finance Report** This was **noted**
7. **Precept for 2021/22** It was proposed by Peter Marquis; seconded by Duncan Price that the Parish Meeting should raise a precept for 2021/22 of £668 (circa £15 per household). This was **agreed**. **Action: Gill Allen to complete the forms and submit to Shropshire CC by 29 January.**
8. **Any other business** Peter Marquis summarised a paper from Ted Laidlar relating to various improvements to the village which included upgrading the fencing next to the footbridge, excavation of a proportion of the green triangle by the track up to the church to create a duck pond and review the number and siting of car passing places on the approach road to Hopton Castle. **Action: Jon Allen to discuss further with Ted Laidlar and put more detailed proposals to**

**the next meeting.** Veronica Mellings proposed the purchase and installation of a signpost to the church. **Jon Allen to investigate costings for the sign and report back to the next meeting.**

- 9. Next meeting will be the annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021**