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Minutes of Hopton Castle Annual Parish Meeting 25 May 2021

Present Jon Allen (Chair), Tanya Peppiatt, Jack Chapman, Gill Allen, Katie Rollason, Neville Rollason, Peter Marquis, Ted Laidlar. Steve Williams, John Williams, Chris Gadd, Jonathan Dean and Elaine Dean

1. **Apologies** were received from Jan Jones and Gareth Jones, Jane Price, Duncan Price, Veronica Mellings, Richard Bolton, Roy Mason
2. **Minutes** of meeting of 12 January 2021 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 **Stream Wall Repairs** Progress has been made with the Highways Department, and they have confirmed that the work has been commissioned and is scheduled to take place when the water is at its lowest. John Williams has spoken with council officers and will keep monitoring the situation.
 - 3.2 **Pot holes** Jon Allen reported that the Highways Department had reorganised the pot hole service, recognising that there are a lot of problems. In the meantime, Jon recommended that everyone reported local potholes onto the Department's dedicated online complaints line at https://my.shropshire.gov.uk/masterlogin/?category=b434ca64-bdff-e811-a97f-00224800c719&redirecturl=https://my.shropshire.gov.uk%2FAccount%2FLogin%2FExternalLogin%26returnUrl=%2Fsupport%2Fcreate-pothole-case&provider=https://myshropshire.b2clogin.com/tfp/45ad53d5-1755-480f-a392-76b74c7241dd/b2c_1_signupandin/v2.0/
 - 3.3 **Car passing places** There was a discussion on the pros and cons of creating more passing places in the village, and the consensus was 'no further action' at the moment.
 - 3.4 **Footbridge fencing** Ted Laidlar reported on work to repair and maintain the footbridge, which was noted.
 - 3.5 **Sign post** Gill Allen reported that she had some difficulty in getting information from the Highways Department on the cost of adding a sign 'to the church', and would report back at the next meeting.
4. **Chair's annual report.** Noted
5. **Finance report** . The meeting noted the finance report from April to date, including receipt of the precept of £688. Balances carried forward on 10th May were £1777.26
6. **Annual Accounts and Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20**
 - 6.1 **Annual Accounts.** The meeting **approved** the accounts, noting that the Parish Meeting had raised a precept from Shropshire County Council of £688. Balances carried forward on 31/3/21 were £1433.26.
 - 6.2 **Annual Governance and Accountability return.** The meeting **agreed** the completed paperwork and Annual Governance Statement, and Gill Allen confirmed that she would submit the Certificate of Exemption to the auditor and that all papers would be posted on the website for public scrutiny.

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7. **Election of Chair** Jon Allen was elected (proposed by Jonathan Dean; seconded by Ted Laidlar). John Williams was elected as vice-chair (proposed by Peter Marquis seconded by Ted Neville Rolason)
8. **Appointment of clerk and finance officer.** There were no volunteers. Gill Allen agreed to continue with both roles, for one more year.
9. **Castle Trust matters of interest.** Peter Marquis gave a brief report on the Trust's continuing work to remedy the loss and damage to trees caused by the micro burst last year, and noted that there is plentiful wood for sale. Other developments included a successful application to Shropshire County Council for wild flower planting in the castle grounds. Visitor numbers continue to be between 3000 and 4000 a year, despite the pandemic, which is important in terms of voluntary contributions **to the upkeep of the castle.**
10. **Stream maintenance.** It was agreed that there would be a stream maintenance day on 2nd October, following the repairs to the walls.
11. **Date and arrangements for defibrillator awareness sessions.** Jon Allen will contact the Community Heartbeat Trust and arrange two sessions – one daytime and one evening and share the event with Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall Committee.
12. **Dates for next meetings 7 September 2021, and 2 January 2022**
13. **A.O.B. Update on Sarn**

Jon Allen gave a report on the current state of repairs and rebuilding work to the Sarn. Various consents, including planning, are currently being sort so that the rebuilding work can commence in earnest.

The meeting closed at 20.15hrs.