

## **Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting 12 January 2022 held at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.30pm**

**Present:** Jon Allen (Chair), Gill Allen (Clerk), Elaine Dean, Jonathan Dean, Jane Price, Duncan Price, Jan Jones Gareth Jones, David Miller, Ted Laidlar, Peter Marquis, Neville Rollanson,

1. **Apologies:** Chris Gad, Katie Rollanson, Chris Laidlar, Jenny Marquis, Ann and Charles Jackson, and Veronica Mellings
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Stream retaining wall** – because of the failure of Shropshire Highways Department in obtaining the necessary permits and licences, work on the retaining wall cannot now begin until May 2022 at the earliest. Duncan Price raised a concern about the disrepair of the safety barriers around the collapsed wall by The Sarn. This need replacing. It was **agreed** that Jon Allen will seek to obtain a date for the repair work from the Highways Dept. and the provision of replacement barriers.
  - b. **Potholes and general road maintenance** - Some improvements have been noted, however Jon Allen emphasised that the best way to continue to apply pressure with improvements was to go on line to the dedicated *report a porthole* website. **Noted.**
  - c. **Defibrillator awareness session** - The session on 4<sup>th</sup> December was well attended and received. It was **agreed** that these sessions should continue on a regular basis at least once a year.
  - d. **Defibrillator check rota** - This is available on the website if anyone wants to review the document. **Noted.**
4. **Finance Report:** This was **noted**
5. **Precept for 2022-23.** Jonathan Dean proposed the same precept for 2022-23 as in 2021-22 [£668]; seconded by Ted Laidlar. This was **agreed**
6. **Castle Trust update:** Peter Marquis gave a short update on maintenance and tree activity within the castle grounds. This was **noted**
7. **Date for the Parish Annual Meeting:** This was **agreed** as Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

8. Any other urgent business:

- a. Duncan Price volunteered to take over the joint role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. This was **agreed** with thanks.
- b. It was noted that Veronica and Geoff Mellings had moved out of the parish, after many years. All present wanted to acknowledge the enormous contribution to the life and well-being of the village that they had made, in so many different ways. Gill Allen suggested a card should be sent in the first instance and further thought given to how their contribution could be more tangibly recognised by the parish. This was **agreed**.
- c. Jonathon Dean asked that further information on the timing of logging in Hopton Woods be obtained from Forestry England. It was **agreed** that Jon Allen would request the information and report back.
- d. David Miller raised the question of the digitisation of telephone services within the village. It was **agreed** that Jon Allen would try and seek further information from BT Open Reach on its plans and timetable.



**Signed**.....9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Jon Allen