

DRAFT

Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting 12th September 2022 held at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.30pm

Present: Jon Allen (JA - Chair), Duncan Price (DP - Clerk), Neville and Katie Rollanson, Chris Gad, Jonathan Dean, Jane Price, Jan and Gareth Jones, Jack Chapman and David Miller.

1. **Apologies:** Elaine Dean, Ted and Chris Laidlar, Gill Allen, Peter and Jenny Marquis, Charles and Ann Jackson and Steve Williams.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2022 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Stream retaining wall** – JA is still pressing for the work to be scheduled through various channels. No progress is expected for the foreseeable future. **Carried forward.**
 - b. **Veronica and Geoff Mellings** – DP noted the “Open House” would take place at Castle Beams (The Old Granary) from 2pm-5pm on Saturday 1st October and all would be welcome. **Jon and Gill Allen offered to purchase a present and make the presentation.**
4. **Community Energy Scheme:**

JA noted that the small group taking this forward had made good progress in researching both energy creation and energy efficiency possibilities. Energy creation schemes are very difficult for a small community and whilst research in this area would continue it would be in the longer term. There were, however, several possible ideas for energy efficiency.

 - a. **Group Oil Purchasing Scheme** – CG had obtained several quotes in relation to bulk purchasing. There was a national scheme, other villages were involved in local schemes, which we might be able to join, or we could set up our own scheme. DM commented that he had been involved in such schemes previously for a number of years, but with the energy price cap being extended to oil, the price is likely to be at the cap, and therefore produce little saving in the short term. JA suggested the residents be asked to complete a survey to establish the level of interest in such a scheme. This was **agreed.**
 - b. **Energy Efficiency Assessments** – JA noted that an organisation called Lightfoot, based in Bishops Castle, were currently training people to carry out energy efficiency assessments. They could provide this training to a number of residents in the village at no cost. If people were interested they could then have an assessment by a trained resident (or possibly someone from Lightfoot) to advise them on potential energy saving ideas. It was proposed that the survey above should include whether residents were interested in training to be an assessor or having an assessment on their property. This was **agreed.**

- c. **Climate Emergency Workshop** – DP/JA noted that Shropshire Council was holding a workshop over 2 days in November, which would educate parishes on the challenges and practical solutions of climate change. It was thought this would be a useful course and requested approval for the £55 cost. This was **agreed**.

JA noted that he had created a link on the parish website to all the reports, papers and other materials in relation to climate change. This can be found at <https://wp.me/P3vE9h-pA>

- 5. **Finance Report for 2022/23 to date:** DP presented the finance report. This was **agreed**.
- 6. **Notice Board Replacement** – it had been agreed at the previous meeting to approve funds for the new notice board and JA asked if anyone knew of a carpenter that might be able to carry out the work. KR agreed to speak to Adam Baker at Oakheath in Hopton Heath. CG noted that he might be able to make the notice board and would look at the existing one and report back to JA.
- 7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th January 2023 at Bedstone Village Hall.
- 8. **Any other urgent business:**
 - a. The date for cleaning the stream was provisionally agreed to be Saturday 12th November.
 - b. JD noted it was a busy time for hedgehogs and asked everyone to be careful when strimming or lighting bonfires.
 - c. DM commented that he had been in contact with Western Power about the number of minor power outages recently. They had been very helpful and were looking into the causes. Meanwhile they requested people to call and notify them of any loss of power.
 - d. JA asked if people were interested in further defibrillator training and several attendees confirmed they had missed the last session and would like some training. DP noted this was outwith the budget and the cost (last year £105) be approved. This was **agreed**.

Signed.....12th September 2022

Jon Allen