

Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting held on 9th January 2023 at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.00pm

Present: Jon Allen (JA - Chair), Neville Rollason, Chris Gad, Jonathan Dean, Jack Chapman, Peter Marquis, Charles Jackson, Ann Jackson, and John Williams

1. **Apologies:** Elaine Dean, Jenny Marquis Duncan Price, Jane Price, Sue Williams, Katie Rollason and Steve Williams.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 12th September 2022 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Stream retaining wall** – JA has spoken to the Highways Officer responsible for this area and has been assured that budget provision has been made to undertake the repairs to the wall during the 2023/24 financial year. A meeting between the highways officer and the contractor is due within the fortnight and it is expected the work will be completed before September. **Noted**.
 - b. **Community Energy Scheme.** A questionnaire for households in Hopton Castle has now been drafted and will be circulated shortly. It was agreed that any household energy assessments should address the issue of what is possible for buildings that are listed. **Noted**.
 - c. **Notice Board Replacement.** Chris Gad has taken the notice board away for assessment and hopes to have the repairs completed shortly. **Noted**.

4. Bedstone and Hopton Castle Village Hall kitchen refurbishment:

JA declared an interest in this item as he has been involved in much of the detailed planning. John Williams took the Chair and read out the email received from Chris Savoury, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, requesting the Parish Meeting consider contributing towards the cost of the project. After some discussion it was **agreed** that residents be consulted on whether they wished the Parish Meeting to contribute to the project.

5. Finance Report September to December 2022

This was **Noted**.

6. Budget and precept for 2023/24

The budget was **agreed**, and it was further **agreed** that a precept be raised for 2023/24 at the same level as that for 2022/23.

7. Date of next meeting

15th May 2023 was **agreed**. It was noted that this will be the Annual Meeting.

8. Any other urgent business:

- a. Peter Marquis informed the meeting that the Trustees of the Hopton Castle Trust are to consider whether to organise a civil war re-enactment in the area as part of its fundraising activities. If the Trustees were to agree in principle that there was a business case for such an event, then appropriate consultation with interested parties will be undertaken before any final decisions are made. This was **noted**
- b. John Williams raised a concern regarding the potential for excess water flow in to Bedstone Lane from the stream within the castle grounds. Peter Marquis assured the meeting that later in the year advice will be received concerning what, if any, action is required by the Castle Trust. This was **noted**.
- c. It was **agreed** that a letter be written to Ted and Chris Laidlar thanking them for the contribution they have made towards the village in the years they have lived here and to wish them well in their new home.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm


Signed.....15th May 2023

Jon Allen