

DRAFT

Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting 25th September 2023 held at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.00pm

Present: Jon Allen (JA - Chair), Duncan Price (DP - Clerk), Gill Allen, Jane Price, Katie Rollason, Neville Rollason, Chris Gad, Peter Marquis, Steve Waterhouse, David Miller and Jack Chapman.

1. **Apologies:** Jenny Marquis, Charles Jackson, Ann Jackson, Meadie Waterhouse, Elaine Dean and Jonathan Dean.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2023 were **agreed**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Stream retaining wall** – JA attended a meeting between the highways officer and the contractor to agree the programme of works and obtain a price. However there has been no progress since then and the highways officer has not responded to emails from JA and DP. This has now run beyond the deadline of the end of September, after which work will not be permitted. JA to follow up to attempt to include the works in next year's highways budget. **Noted.**
 - b. **Bedstone and Hopton Castle Village Hall kitchen refurbishment** – the funding application by the village hall had been rejected so new funding sources were being investigated. At the May meeting it had been agreed the village would contribute £500 from existing funds and a further £500 from next year's precept. **DP to speak to the Chair of the village hall committee to inform him of the decision and to see when the initial £500 would be required.**
 - c. **Community Energy Scheme.** JA had tried several times to contact the assessor training company to arrange the training but had received no response. Chris Gad has carried out some research into oil purchasing schemes which is available on the website, as well as in a leaflet which was available at the meeting. **JA to telephone the training company or attend their offices in person.**
4. **Finance Report for the year to 31st August 2023** – DP ran through the Finance Report, reporting a surplus for the period of £386.00, of which £165.00 would be transferred to the defibrillator replacement fund. DP noted total reserves now stood at £2,423.67 including £825.00 for the defibrillator, which was 50% of the expected replacement cost. **Noted.**
5. **Castle Trust matters of interest** – the proposal for hosting a Civil War re-enactment in 2024 was ongoing. Preparation for wildflower seeding had been completed. There were no further matters of interest.
6. **Date for Stream Clearance** – it was agreed that this should take place on Saturday 11th November;

7. **Any other urgent business:**

- a. The Sarn refurbishment – the issue of whether the cage to the front of the premises was still required was raised, as it was causing a general obstruction, as well as being unsightly. **JA to speak to Nick (the owner) to see if this could be taken down.**
- b. The light in the defibrillator box needed replacement/repair. **Katie Rollason to provide a local electrician's contact details to DP.**

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed.....25th September 2023

Jon Allen