

## Minutes of Hopton Castle Parish Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 held at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.00pm

Present: John Williams (JW - Chair), Duncan Price (DP - Clerk), Jane Price, Neville Rollason, Katie Rollason, Charles Jackson, Ann Jackson, Elaine Dean, Jonathan Dean, Jack Chapman, Chris Gadd, Mike Lynskey and David Miller.

- 1) Apologies: Steve and Meadie Waterhouse, Sue and Nigel Williams, Steve and Nicky Williams, and Peter and Jenny Marquis.
- 2) Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed
- 3) Matters arising:
  - a) Stream retaining wall – Still no further progress, despite promises. DP to contact Alan Meyrick for an update but had little optimism for the repairs ever to be made.
  - b) Defibrillator training –DP had spoken to Chris Savery, who had agreed to arrange the training and was expecting the training session to be in March/April. There was still interest from Clungunford in taking part (and sharing the cost). DP to follow up.
  - c) Defibrillator rota – DP noted that the rota had some gaps due to people leaving the village. Katie Rollason, Mike Lynskey and Steve Waterhouse all kindly agreed to be added to the rota. DP to issue new rota.
  - d) Potholes – there had been some repair works carried out, particularly on the Bedstone lane, but everyone was encouraged to keep reporting new potholes.
  - e) Electricity Supply – no progress had been made but JW explained the relevance of 3-phase electricity to the meeting and agreed to keep chasing.
- 4) Finance Report for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

DP noted that the only transaction passing through the bank account since the last meeting was a charge for the late filing of the AGAR form of £48. There was therefore a balance of £2,881.67 in the bank.

- 5) Budget/Forecast for 2024/25

DP reported that the budget had remained unchanged since the September meeting. In the Forecast for the year, the social costs (£75) for the meetings had been removed from the budget as they had never been claimed. Additionally, in the light of a lack of progress on the refurbishment of the village hall kitchen, it was agreed to transfer the £500 in the Refurbishment fund back to the General fund. If the refurbishment was to go ahead, this could be transferred back.

Currently, the expected surplus remained at £211 (allowing for defibrillator training costs, website hosting and training/subscriptions amounting to £295) of which £165.00 would be transferred to the defibrillator replacement fund. Total reserves were expected to be £2,634.67 including £990.00 for the defibrillator, which was 60% of the expected replacement cost and £1,644.67 in the General Fund.

6) Annual Precept Setting

DP explained the main purpose of the meeting was to decide on the level of precept to be levied for the coming year 2025/26. Given that a precept of £668 had been raised for each of the last 2 years primarily to cover the contribution to the kitchen refurbishment, which hadn't happened, DP suggested no precept be raised for the coming year, unless members had suggestions for spending the monies currently held. There was some discussion around the bridge and railings, but it was agreed no precept would be required. **Noted.**

7) Castle Trust matters of interest.

Peter Marquis was not present, so the report was deferred to the May meeting. JW raised the issue of the continuing flooding of the Bedstone lane due to the works to the pond and the lack of dredging. DP agreed to pass this message onto Peter, who could address it at the next meeting.

8) Date of future meetings – the next meeting has been provisionally agreed as:

☐ Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

9) Any other urgent business:

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed.....13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

John Williams