

## Minutes of Hopton Castle Annual Parish Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 held at Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall 7.00pm

Present: John Williams (JW - Chair), Duncan Price (DP – Clerk/Finance), Jane Price, Neville Rollason and Katie Rollason, Isobel and Robert Date, Jan and Gareth Jones, Charles Jackson, Ann Jackson and David Miller.

1) **Apologies**

Peter and Jenny Marquis, Chris Gadd, Steve and Meadie Waterhouse, Sue and Nigel Williams, Jonathan and Elaine Dean, Charlotte and Kevin Bellamy.

2) **Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were agreed.

3) **Matters arising:**

- a) Stream retaining wall – DP reported that, despite promises and the arrival of the materials to carry out the works, they had once again been postponed. This was because the contractor had not applied for a Road Space Permit. It would take too long to obtain said permit and carry out the works before the deadline of 31 October. The repair has now been put forward for the 2026 budget and would not start before April 2026 (*if ever*).
- b) Defibrillator training – it was felt that another training session may be needed with new people arriving in the village but this would be decided on at the next meeting.
- c) Defibrillator rota – DP asked if there were any new volunteers for the rota, as he was intending to move away from the area. Robert and Isobel Date agreed to take over DP's sittings. DP also asked if anyone could take over Peter Marquis's sitting, at least until he was able to resume them. Katie and Neville Rollason agreed to do this. The revised rota will be available on the website.
- d) Potholes – there had been some repair works carried out but new holes were always appearing. Everyone was asked to report potholes to the council.
- e) Electricity Supply – JW reported that he had spoken to someone at National Grid, but unfortunately it did not appear that this upgrade was currently on their radar.

4) **Chair's Report**

JW made an oral report which effectively stated very little had happened in the parish over the past year other than things already discussed.

5) **Finance Report for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

DP presented the accounts for the 9 months, noting that there had only been 2 payments (defib training and maintenance) and no receipts so far. The deficit for the period was £267.00 and there was therefore still a balance of £2,614.67 in the bank including £1,155.00 (70%) for the cost of replacing the defibrillator.

6) **Budget/Forecast for 2025/26**

DP reported that no more transactions were expected, except possibly a charge for web hosting in relation to the website. Otherwise the finances would remain the same.

7) **Precept**

DP explained the need to decide whether to raise a precept in 2026 for expenditure expected in the year, which would be recharged in the council tax charge. No-one at the meeting had any suggestions for improvements or maintenance in the village, and it was considered that the existing reserves were sufficient, so no precept was required.

8) **Castle Trust matters of interest.**

Peter Marquis was not present, so DP gave an update on his behalf. There was to be a meeting at The Old Granary (date to be agreed) for trustees of the castle to update their Companies House records. This was a legal requirement and was not difficult but a little tricky. Further details would be forthcoming.

9) **Date of future meetings**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

10) **Any other urgent business:**

DP noted that Jon and Gill Allen were leaving the village in the next few weeks, and given that they had served as the Chair and Clerk respectively for many years it was agreed to incorporate a farewell drink at The Old Granary along with the castle trustees meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed.....13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

John Williams