

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
HOPE MANSELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2025
at
HOPE MANSELL VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Lori Weber (Chairman), Councillor Diana Tobin (Vice Chairman), Councillor Tim Hardie (Footpaths Officer), Councillor Ellen West, Councillor Sheila Heath.

Apologies: Councillor Geoff Phelps

Members of the public also attended: Mr Nigel Mummery, Mr Mark Holland, Mr Rob Davies, Ms Janet Wall and Mrs Susan Mountcastle.

1. Election of Chairman

Mrs. Lori Weber was proposed by Councilor Hardie and seconded by Councillor Tobin – unanimously agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest and Written Requests for Dispensation.

No change. Mr. Phelps had been supplied with a copy and had no comment.

3. Open Forum

- (a) Mr Nigel Mummery made a point of order mentioning that the agenda of parish council meetings and any notice of meetings should be placed on Parish notice boards at the same time. The council would discuss.
- (b) Mr Mark Holland made several points of order about the forthcoming HM14 meeting. He also advised that the arrows on the footpath posts around the Jubilee Walk (including HM14) and on the main noticeboard at the foot of School Lane were incorrect. This would be looked into. He also gave a lengthy description of the historic designation of BOAT and byways.
- (c) Further discussion took place regarding HM14 and the repair of stile and footbridge on HM9.
- (c) Discussion took place regarding the placement and supply of grit bins.
- (d) The Council's Planning Policy was raised by Mr Nigel Mummery who requested regular site visits to inspect planning applications in the Parish. This would be looked at as part of the ongoing review of policies.

Matters Arising from minutes of meeting held 10th March

a) SID

The Council unanimously agreed not to extend the warranty on the Bailey Lane End apparatus.

b) Drainage Grips

Councillor West stated that permission had been received from the Forestry Commission regarding drainage grip works on their side of Hawthorns Road and the Lengthsman had been notified.

c) **HM3**

The trees had now been cleared. Mr Rob Davies was thanked by all present.

d) **Grit Bins**

The Chairman stated that she had researched the supply of Grit Bins on the Forestry track to Newtown and the cost would be £120 per bin. Councillor Tobin also mentioned Grit Bins on the Forestry track to Bailey Lane End Chapel and suggested the Council could contribute. Further discussion would take place at the next council meeting.

e) **Gas Canisters**

These were not now visible on Eunice Saunders Way and activity seemed to have died down.

f) **Defibrillators**

Mr. Martin Thomas who is custodian of the Dancing Green defibrillator, had requested a payment £18.00 per year to cover the cost of electricity he supplies to the Dancing Green defibrillator. The defibrillator had been in place on his wall for at least 5 years. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the cost of electricity to all Parish defibrillators at £18.00 a year.

Councillor Tobin mentioned thanks should be conveyed to Mr. Pete Thomas regarding his help with Defibrillators.

Training provided by HeartStart had been well attended, delivered and received.

g) **Volunteer Insurance**

The Council was covered by Insurance for volunteers - strimming or litter picking.

4. **Election of Officers**

The appointment of the Vice Chair, Diana Tobin was proposed and seconded. All councillors were prepared to stand again and were unanimously accepted. The Chairman proposed Ms Janet Wall as a new Councillor, seconded by Councillor Tobin and her appointment was unanimously agreed. Mr Bill Sparkes, the Parish Clerk tendered his resignation and Mrs. Susan Mountcastle was unanimously appointed as Clerk to begin on 1st June 2025. The Chair thanked Bill Sparkes for his contribution during his year as Clerk.

5. **Review of policies and amendments**

The Chair stated that these would be taken in sequence and reviewed at forthcoming meetings. The aim would be to have all the policies reviewed and amended if necessary over the next 6 months.

6. **Correspondence received**

Herefordshire Council had emailed regarding the continuation of the Lengthsman's Agreement. This would be circulated, reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

7. Finances

The Clerk confirmed that accounts for the year 24/25 had been submitted to all councillors and were approved. The precept of £1250 had been received in April and after further payments the balance at the bank on 12th May was £3912.00.

The accounts had been audited by the internal auditor and approved.

The relevant AGAR form (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) had been signed by the internal Auditor and other necessary AGAR forms were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.

8. Roads, footpaths and rights of way

- (a) The Footpaths Officer reported HM2 was obstructed. This had been reported to the Council.
- (b) Stile on HM9 was in need of repair.

9. Planning

The Clerk reported 2 local Planning Applications had been received details of which he had forwarded to the Chairman. Proposals at Cherry Tree Cottage and Grove Cottage were being looked into by the Chairman and would be forwarded to councillors.

10. Policing and Crime Prevention – None

11. Communication - None

12. Matters to be raised at next meeting

- (a) Online banking
- (b) HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils)
- (c) Lengthsman's agreement
- (d) Next steps for HM14

13. Date of Next Meeting – Bailey Lane End Chapel, 14th July 2025.