

MINUTES OF HOPE MANSELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 12TH March 2024

Present: Jon Billings (Chairman) Diana Tobin (Vice Chair) Tim Hardie (Footpaths Officer) Ellen West
Sheila Heath, Geoff Phelps.

Apologies: Lori Weber

1. Council Governance:

2. Declarations of Interest – None

3. Open Forum – None

4. Dark Skies. Yolande Watson explained about the project and produced light meters which are held up to give 3 levels of reading, green, amber and red in respect of light pollution, which has a bad effect on both humans and animals. In some Cities birds sing at night due to light pollution. Bright outside lights can make security worse. Surveys are needed to make people aware as there is very little information in this country. A Parish Council survey has shown that people are interested in this topic. Also discussed was a flood management scheme re “Flash Flooding” grants are available (item 6).

The Council is to hold a public meeting on 6th April at 10 a.m. at Hope Mansell Village Hall at which Yolande Watson will explain to local parishioners who have been invited to attend.

5. Minutes of Parish Council meeting of 9th January and Minutes of sub-committee meeting were signed as correct.

6. Correspondence Received – Walford Parish Clerk regarding Natural Flood Project Management – it was agreed to collaborate with Walford on this topic.

7. Update Personnel Sub Committee – replacement clerk has now been appointed.

8. GDPR Policy Review has to be agreed and signed off alongside other policies in May 2024.

9. Finance. Report accepted by Committee. Clerk’s wages to be shared between initially by Mrs. New and Mr. Sparkes.

10. It was suggested that there should be a Defibrillator Sub Committee and also agreed that regular CPR training was beneficial, and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries of providers e.g. St. Johns. New batteries and electrode pads had been purchased for the Dancing Green Defibrillator.

11. Cheques were signed and approved as donation for Bailey Lane End Chapel and Hope Mansell Church.

12. The Council agreed to the purchase of a Laptop and Printer for the new Clerk and a budget of up to £500.00 was agreed.

13. The Chairman thanked Connor Challenger for installing the new defibrillator at Hope Mansell free of charge and Mr. Ray Margrett was also thanked for allowing the defibrillator to be placed on

his wall at the bottom of School Lane.

14. Precept. Proposals for any future increase needed a costed plan - to be discussed with at the Council meeting in May.

15. CILCA training was suggested to help the new Clerk and agreed.

16. Roads Footpaths and Rights of Way. It was agreed that the Footpaths Officer would liaise with the Lengthsman in connection with clearing lay-bys on the road down to Hope Mansell.

17. Footpath Officers Report:-

(a) Mr. Hardie planned to attend Herefordshire Council meeting for all Footpath Officers on 19th March 2024.

(b) Simon ? and David Weber were thanked re: work on fallen trees in Perlieu Wood

It was agreed to explore how the Council's Insurance applies for volunteers.

(d) The stile and bridge near Bailey Brook Cottage needed attention – Tim Hardie to discuss with landowner.

It was noted that any Lengthsman work on rights of way could not be funded from the Lengthsman grant.

16. Litter Picking. Thanks were recorded to Meri Mayhew, Geoff Phelps, Harriet New, Kiely Walton, Nigel Carter and Richard Cook.

Councillor West agreed to draft a document for volunteers with Insurance in mind.

18. Viewpoint. A meeting was held at the Viewpoint with Police and Parish Council representatives after concerns expressed by locals. Press reports made of arrests following meeting. Chairman noted the Council's approval of the Police action.

It was agreed that ownership of the layby/viewpoint needed clarification before any further action by the Council. All aspects of restricting vehicular access needed to be examined before any decisions.

19. It was agreed that the Climate Change meeting on 6th April should be promoted on Facebook, Weston News etc.

20. Date of Next Meeting 14th May at Hope Mansell Village, this will include signing off Policies, Annual Parish Meeting and Public Meeting.