

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF

Held on 20th January 2025 at Hope Mansell Village Hall

**Present:** Lori Weber (Chairman), Diana Tobin (Vice Chairman), Ellen West, Tim Hardie (Footpaths Officer) Sheila Heath, Rob Davies (Visitor) and Bill Sparkes (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillor Geoff Phelps

### 1. Open forum

Mr Davies stated that the new defibrillator did not appear to be lit (having been lit when installed) and discussion took place regarding the light, charging and related cost of electricity. It was suggested the Council should offer a contribution towards this cost to Mr Ray Margrett. Councillor Tim Hardie would check with Ray and/or the resident at Mill House that the power was still connected to ensure the battery was charging.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting

These were agreed and signed.

### 3. Matters arising

- a. Heavy lorries in Eunice Saunders Way. Councillor Phelps was still in contact with the Forestry Commission and the matter was ongoing.
- b. Drainage Grips in Hawthorn Road. Discussions with both the Forestry Commission and Balfour Beatty were ongoing.
- c. Nitrous oxide gas canisters in Eunice Saunders Way. Councillor West reported that she had been in contact with the Forestry Commission and it appeared her earlier email had been mislaid, therefore the matter is still ongoing. Contact would be made to meet with PC Claire Denton to discuss patrolling and other actions we could take to deter the illegal activity.
- d. Councillor West also reported that the damaged salt bin in Eunice Saunders Way had been replaced.
- e. The Clerk reported that that he had researched the estimated cost of an election which should be between £1500 and £1800.
- f. It was unanimously agreed that £50 per year should be paid to Hope Mansell Village Hall as rent for Council meetings.

### 4. Standing items

#### a. Financial

Bank balance brought forward      £4198.0

Payments:

Insurance                                      £651.00

Hope Mansell Church                      £60.00

Bailey Lane End Chapel                  £110.00

Clerk and PAYE                              £160.00

Total    **£981.00**

Bank balance carried forward      £3217.00

The Clerk noted that a further payment of £1250.00 would be due in April 2025, from Herefordshire County Council

b.    **Roads and footpaths**

The Footpaths Officer mentioned a fallen tree on HM3 above Hopes Ash Farm. Mr Davies said he was in contact with the owner of the land and discussions were taking place. It was likely that the tree would not be removed until the weather and ground conditions had improved. At this time replacement fencing and stile would be erected.

c.    **Local amenities**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Phelps had raised concerns regarding an overflowing basin near Spring Cottage, Dancing Green and the type of access to the Forestry land opposite Tump Cottage.

A vote of thanks to “litter pickers” was unanimously agreed.

d.    **Planning** – none

e.    **Communications / correspondence**

An enquiry had been made from Mrs Gibbons of Oak Cottage, Dancing Green regarding hedge cutting. The Council agreed that any hedge cutting which had taken place had been initiated by land owners, that it was their responsibility and not that of the Council.

5.    **Any other business**

**Grit bins**

It was agreed that salt grit bins should be kept in good repair and requests made to keep them topped up (via the HCC portal). The Chairman had been in contact with Balfour Beatty, Forestry Commission and HCC about responsibility for salt grit bins along U70212 near Bailey Brook and New Town. She had also emailed Harry Braemer to ask if he could request clarity and action at HCC.

**Road conditions**

It was suggested that recommendations to residents should be repeatedly published suggesting any road repairs be reported on the Herefordshire Council portal or “Fix My Street”

**Defibrillator training**

The Chairman reported she was researching defibrillator and CPR training for Hope Mansell residents. The Council agreed that funding should be made available. A donation may be forthcoming from Hope Mansell Village Hall Trustees.

**Date of next meeting**

Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at Bailey Lane End Chapel at 7pm.