

**HOPE MANSELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the  
**MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HOPE MANSELL VILLAGE HALL**  
7pm on **TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

In Attendance : Cllr Lewis , Cllr Heath , Cllr Phelps ,Cllr Tobin , Cllr Billings

Clerk : Liz New

- 1 Apologies for absence – R Hibberd
- 2 Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations - None declared.
- 3 Open Forum – Ward Councillor William Wilding.
  - WW Apologised for only attending once since being elected.
  - When elected he said he would work for “minimum wage” , which means he works only 12 hours a week.
  - WW Aiming to do a surgery the first Monday of the month.
  - Herefordshire Council (HC) is currently working on the 22/23 Budget. WW would like to get Parishioners view on what the increase in Council tax should be.
  - Current HC Target for reduction in budget is £20Million (out of c£350m) . Cllr Tobin asked if there was any view on where this saving would come from. WW confirmed not as yet.Cllr Tobin asked if its possible to have a review before November.
  - WW stated that HC are referring to the roads as a “managed decline”
  - WW Discussion on the free buses on weekends was that the budget had to be spent on transport. Take up was very good. Cllr Billings asked if there is an evaluation available to review. WW to respond. Cllr Phelps suggested that Students should be given free Bus travel from that budget.
  - Cllr Lewis discussed the Culvert at Parkfields & the TRO at Harechurch Lane. WW to chase up the TRO (currently no procedure!) . The Culvert at Parkfields is under review by BB.
  - Cllr Heath commented that taking BB work “in House” to HC isn’t working that well. WW agreed. Only Planning & approval was bought in house. It seems that senior staff are contractors. WW will flag this up to HC.
  - HC still has reserves of funds.
  - Children’s services (not schools) are “unfit for purpose” per OFSTED, the report on this has been delayed
  - WW will attend the next meeting

WW can be reached at :- [William.Wilding@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:William.Wilding@herefordshire.gov.uk)

- 4 Minutes of last meeting – approved.
- 5 Standing Orders / Policies – Update in hand.
- 6 Roads / Culvert / Grit / Drainage – Awaiting confirmation of Balfour Beatty Schedule. Harechurch Lane TRO is still in hand with WW. Rose Cottage drainage still awaiting BB response. Grit bins repeatedly reported.
- 7 Report from Footpath Officer (s) – Stile Repairs. Stile at Cherry tree cottage from Green Farm, Needs repairing. Cllr to contact the Lengsthman. Budget agreed at £150. All agreed.
- 8 Signs – Hope Mansell Village Hall, Bailey Lane Gate. New sign designed & costed. Proposal to go 50/50 with Village Hall. C£70 – All Approved.

- 9 Viewpoint – Update. Cllr Lewis has made contact with the owners of Hillside Cottage. Tree to be removed & two replacement Saplings sourced, which the Owners of Hillside will plant elsewhere. Owners of Hillside to continue to log the antisocial behaviour. Police are already aware.
- 10 Emergency Preparedness .Cllr Billings Commented that during the Heatwave, it was felt that the area should be prepared for Forest Fires. Cllr Billings to contact the Forestry Commission for advice, as no response received as yet From Herefordshire Fire Services.
- 11 Neighbourhood Power = Cllr Lewis suggested we think about how we as a community generate power – solar / Wind.
- 12 SID update / Village safety initiative – Cllr Heath confirmed the BLE community is fundraising.
- 13 Defibrillator (recommend replacement every 5-7 years) Cost between £500 - £1500
  - Dancing Green Summer 2019 ( replace 25 /6)
  - BLE May 2017 ( Replace 23/4)Cllr Heath to find whether they have to be replaced. NOTED
- 14 Review Councils Finances. NOTED
- 15 Litter Picking – thanks, as always, to Mari Mayhew, Geoff Phelps & Richard Cook
- 16 Use of Funds
  - Cllr Lewis suggested that Coronation gift.
  - Cllr Heath suggested something for every house ( as done at the millennium in BLE )
  - Parishioners are invited to comment – to **hopemanselparishclerk@outlook.com**
- 17 Fastershire – Broadband will NOT be going to Newtown BB. An interim solution may available & is being investigated. Fastershire is being succeeded by project gigabit. The public information gathering is underway. This maps existing infrastructure & provides a list of postcodes. Jon Billings is currently the Newtown / BB contact.  
Booked 6 weeks of Roadwords to the Drybrook / Hope Mansell turning. Scheduled to start 27<sup>th</sup> January.
- 18 To Raise matters for next meeting
  - a. Hedge Trimmer - Purchase
  - b. Spend Local.
  - c. Broadband
  - d. Use of Funds
- 19 To note date of next meeting – Nov 8<sup>th</sup> BLE