

Minutes of a meeting of Hope Mansell Parish Council

Held on 10TH March 2025

at

Bailey Lane End Chapel

Present: Lori Weber (Chairman); Diana Tobin (Vice Chairman); Ellen West; Tim Hardie (Footpaths Officer); Sheila Heath; Geoff Phelps and Bill Sparkes (Clerk).

Visitors: Rob Davies and Janet Wall

Apologies: None

Open Forum: None

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters arising:

- (a) New Hope Mansell Defibrillator - Councillor Hardie reported that the power supply to the defibrillator had tripped, probably due to a power cut, but was now fixed. After discussion it was agreed that the light should be left on permanently as an indication of a power supply. The Chairman asked the Council's thanks to Pete Taylor, Ian Lewis the resident of Mill House and Ray Margrett be recorded.
- (b) Defibrillator Training - this was to be provided by HeadStart on 5th April at Hope Mansell Village Hall. Details would be published in Weston News and on the WN website. A maximum of 15 could attend with priority given to Hope Mansell residents and people with no previous training. 5 people had already registered an interest at the time of the meeting. Councillor Heath suggested that Martyn Thomas should be included as he is the volunteer custodian of the Dancing Green Defibrillator. A donation had been suggested by HeadStart (but was not mandatory) and it was suggested the Council should donate between £50 and £150.00. Councillor Heath suggested £100, which was agreed. Hope Mansell Village Hall had offered the hall at no charge.
- (c) Vehicle use of Eunice Saunders Way - Councillor Phelps raised concerns regarding the use of Eunice Saunders Way by heavy Forestry Commission vehicles and requested that the Council investigate the possibility of a Weight Restriction being put in place. Councillor Hardie offered to set up a meeting with a Herefordshire Council representative and Councillor Phelps to discuss the issue.
- (d) Drainage Grips - Councillor West reported that she had not been able to make any progress on this matter due to a lack of response. She reported that she had been informed that more money would be available in 2026.

- (e) Grit Bins - the Chairman had not been able to find who was responsible for replenishing grit bins and Mr. Davies reported that no grit supply had been delivered to his farm during the current winter. The Chairman undertook to research the cost of replacement bins and private refill by Balfour Beatty on the road from Eunice Saunders Way to Newtown.
- (f) Gas Canisters - no reported canisters had been collected.
- (g) HM3 Fallen Tree - Mr. Davies had spoken to land owner/contractor and at present ground conditions were too wet, but this should improved in a few weeks. The oak tree would be dealt with first and the stile would then be repaired.
- (h) Drainage Basin, Dancing Green - Councillor Phelps reported that a drainage basin was overflowing. After discussion, the Council agreed that the Clerk should contact the Forestry Commission to report this and ask what action should be taken.
- (i) Vehicle access to Forestry land opposite Tump Cottage - Councillor Phelps also requested that contact be made with the Forest to notify them of his concerns regarding the safety issues involved with the vehicular access to the Forestry land opposite Tump Cottage.

Standing Items

- (a) Correspondence Received. The Clerk had received an email from the Council regarding the cutting of verges asking whether HMPC required one or two cuts this year. It was agreed that only one cut was necessary.
- (b) The Clerk had also received an email from Clair Denton, Police Constable asking for confirmation of the date of the next HMPC meeting after the 1st April. The Clerk had duly responded.
- (c) Mrs. Mary Wheeler, a resident of Hope Mansell had reported difficulty in opening a newly closed gate access to a footpath passing Cherry Tree Cottage. Mr. Davies mentioned the new owner would be shortly be installing a more convenient pedestrian gate.

(d) Financial

Bank Balance brought forward	£3217.00
Payments Hope Mansell Village Hall	£50.00
Clerk and PAYE	£160.00
Balance Carried Forward	£3007.00

Clerk reported that a £1250 precept was due in April.

- (e) Roads and Footpaths - Councillor Hardie reported problems with "Off Road" vehicles using HM14. He had met with a Herefordshire County Council representative and had been informed that consultations are currently taking place

regarding Traffic Control Regulations. It was thought this matter would likely be brought up at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

(f) Local Amenities/Planning - None

(g) Policing - Discussion between Councillors took place regarding a Whatsapp Group for communication.

Any other business

Renewal of SID Guarantee was discussed and Councilor Heath agreed to investigate whether this was necessary.

The Clerk pointed out to the meeting that, to comply with the law after 5th April, it would be necessary to increase his hourly rate to £12.21. It was therefore also suggested that his contracted hours be reduced to 6.5 to keep his remuneration at the same level. All Councilors agreed.

Matters arising for next meeting: SID Guarantee Renewal.

Date of next meeting - Hope Mansell Village Hall, Monday 12th May. 6:30 Parish meeting 6.30. 7pm AGM, followed by the usual Council meeting.