

HOW CAPLE, SOLLERS HOPE AND YATTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held at 6pm on Sunday 7th May 2023

At Wilmot House, How Caple

Present. John Jackson, Liz Glover, Brendan Beal, Hugh Bodington, Ed Rogers, Clerk Helen Tinson and 4 members of the public.

1. Chairmans Welcome:

The Chairman, John Jackson, opened the meeting and thanked everyone present for attending. He acknowledged the preceding Coronation celebration which had been highly successful.

2. Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

3. Minutes:

Those present considered and approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2022 as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Jackson provided a report from the last twelve months, acknowledging the Local Elections that took place on the 4th May 2023 and thanking all Councillors who have served in the last twelve months. It was noted that Cllrs Chris Jones, Victor Yapp and Barbara Cole had decided not to stand again for various reasons. Cllr Hugh Bodington was co-opted within the year, and Ed Rogers stood for election in May and was elected. It was noted that there are four vacancies across all three parishes.

The Chairman also extended his thanks to the outgoing Clerk, Linda Yapp, who stood down in December 2022 recognising her work during her tenure as Clerk, and welcomed Helen Tinson who took over the role in March 2023.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Tuesday 16th May, 7pm at Brockhampton Village Hall, and it was proposed that Brockhampton Village Hall is continued to be used for Parish Council meetings going forwards. The Chairman for 2023/24 will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Finance: The budget was considered and prepared in November 2022 and approved in January 2023. The precept was set slightly higher this year recognising an increase in costs and that the it had been reduced the year before. However, Band D ratings for the group have dropped

slightly over last year. Moving forwards, the draft budget for 2024/25 will be considered again in November 2023 for approval in January 2024.

Highways: The Parish Council continues to be represented on the B4224 Multi Parish Strategy Group, working with a number of other local councils and Herefordshire Council to reduce the volume, weight and speed of traffic using the B4224.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been purchased and delivered and is currently being stored as we are still waiting for BBLP/HC to approve appropriate locations before it can be sited. Current proposals considered at a meeting with HC/BBLP were 1) on the B4224 in the dip by How Caple Estate and 2) on the B4224 opposite Falcon Cottages. A priority for the Parish Council will be to push this forward to site agreement and installation.

Additional grant funding via Herefordshire Council for the Lengthsman Scheme was announced earlier this year and will provide funding for five years from 2023-2027. Whilst we have no control over the B4224, we will be able to use this funding to improve our C and U roads. The priority this summer will be to get work done before the winter.

Footpaths: Unfortunately, there is no additional funding available for footpaths at the moment. The dangerous condition of the bridge at Sollers Hope Church has been reported to Herefordshire Council and they have been to inspect it, though there has been no action yet and the bridge has not been closed.

The Lengthsman normally strims around the main stiles off the main road once a year in August, and this will continue but the Parish Council will also speak to landowners encouraging them to maintain any Public Rights of Way on their land.

Communication: This will be a key focus for the Parish Council in 2023/24. The new Clerk is building a database for regular emailed newsletters to disseminate information concerning the Parish Council, Herefordshire Council updates and general information that may be of interest to parishioners including road closures or emergencies. Parishioners were encouraged to contact the Clerk and sign up to the newsletter.

Finally, the Chairman extended his thanks to Wilmot House for their hospitality and allowing the use of their grounds for the Coronation Celebration and the Annual Parish Meeting. They had gone to considerable effort to provide a marquee, bunting and coronation decorations and cakes and it was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

5. Open Forum:

A member of the public raised a query concerning the Parish Footpaths Officer. It was noted that the Parish has two Footpaths Officers but anyone else interested would also be welcomed. Any reports concerning footpaths can be reported to Herefordshire Council via the 'Report a Problem' page on their website. It was noted that Herefordshire Council took back responsibility for PROW on 1st April 2022.

A further query was raised concerning a stile in Yatton. Cllr Hugh Bodington volunteered to inspect the stile and speak to Clay Estates.

A question was asked about whether the additional Lengthsman funding could be used for potholes. It was noted that HC have responsibility for pothole repairs and the funding would be used primarily for drainage issues.

There were no further questions or comments so the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 6.18pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____