

# HOW CAPLE, SOLLERS HOPE AND YATTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

At Brockhampton Village Hall

**Present:** John Jackson (in the Chair), Clerk Helen Tinson, Ward Cllr Barry Durkin (arrived 6.39pm) and 4 members of the public.

### 1. Chairmans Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone present for attending.

### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hugh Bodington and parishioner Fiona Fyshe.

### 3. Minutes:

Those present considered and approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2024 as a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

Cllr Jackson provided a report from the last twelve months. He extended his thanks to all Councillors who have served in the last twelve months, the Clerk, Ward Councillor Durkin for his ongoing support and PCSO Kirsten Kysow for her regular attendance at Parish Council meetings. He particularly wished to thank Brendan Beal for his contribution as a Parish Councillor noting his recent resignation. The Parish Council still have four remaining vacancies.

The Chairman reported matters that have progressed throughout the year:

- 4.1 The installation of the Speed Indicator Devices is progressing, though painfully slowly. Both devices have been purchased and are ready to be installed pending the construction of the two bases and installation of posts that are to be completed by Balfour Beatty.
- 4.2 The Parish Council were successful in applying for a local drainage grant totalling £11,500 from Herefordshire Council. The works included a range of local drainage projects across all three parishes, jetting and a drainage survey. All works are to be completed by the Lengthsman before the end of June 2025
- 4.3 The new Three Churches Walk is coming together. The Chairman and the Clerk walked a route from Yatton to Marcle Ridge identifying stiles to replace with gates via Public Rights of Way funding available from Herefordshire Council. Gates are currently on order and will be installed again before the end of June 2025 by the Lengthsman. A further route in How Caple has been walked in readiness to apply for the 2026 funding.  
Walkers are Welcome are also improving accessibility along the Wye Valley Walk between Sollershope and Woolhope as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wye Valley Walk.
- 4.4 Three litter picks were again organised during the spring and supported by a number of councillors and parishioners. It was noted that the rubbish collected was less than the previous year but still amounted to approximately 15 bags.

- 4.5 The defibrillator installed at Wilmot House last year has been regularly checked throughout the year. The Parish Council hosted a defibrillator training session provided by Herefordshire Heartstart in July 2024 which was very successful. Approximately 18 parishioners attended. The recommendation is to hold a refresher each year which will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 4.6 Hills Ford ran their closed road rally in September 2024 and are currently consulting on a repeated rally for September 2025. The proposed route will pass through Yatton. The Parish Council are seeking the views of parishioners to feedback to Herefordshire Council.
- 4.7 Finances are stable with adequate reserves and a balanced budget. The budget for the forthcoming year was set and the annual precept was increased slightly to £10,500 to meet increasing costs.
- 4.8 The Coronation bench, to be paid from donations received at the Coronation event in May 2023, is in progress and is to be sited on Barrell Hill.

## **5. Open Forum:**

- 5.1 A parishioner (and landowner) requested permission to supply and install a new gate to replace a stile along PROW SH8 towards C1298. The Clerk suggested that a gate may be available via Herefordshire Council and will make the appropriate application.

There were no further questions or comments so the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 6.46pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_