

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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**Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 22nd June 2026,
held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs. R Hartas, J Bowers, B Day, J Campion.

Absent:, Cllr T Record, Unitary Cllr J Dickin.

Apologies: Cllr T Record, Unitary Cllr J Dickin.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr T Record's reasons for absence were **approved**. **Resolved**.

2. Co-option of new councillors: None.

3. Declarations of i) Disclosable Pecuniary and ii) Personal Interests, and written requests for dispensations: None.

4. Minutes of the (Annual) Parish Council meeting 26th May 2026: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved**.

5. Public Participation: None.

6. Unitary Councillor Report: None.

7. Planning: New applications: 26/01974/LBC and 26/01973/FUL, proposed barn conversions east of Oaker, Aston, proposed conversion of farm buildings into two residential units with installation of PTP system foul drainage. Council considered the application and **resolved** to **object**, on the grounds that the sewage infrastructure proposed was inadequate for potential future numbers of residents/guests. The proposed development appeared to be 2 properties with 7 bedrooms in total which could mean a load of 14 people or more. The sewage infrastructure proposed did not have enough capacity for that number of people, whereas it should be built to accommodate the maximum number of possible persons. Furthermore, insufficient information had been provided regarding (existing/future) discharges to the ground.

8. Chair/Clerk Reports: The Chair reminded Council that the Kangaroo pub was currently registered with Shropshire Council as an Asset of Community Value. The registration would lapse in December 2026. Council should consider whether to take action to renew the registration, or whether to allow it to lapse. The issue would be an agenda item later in the year.

The Chair informed the meeting that the results of the West Mercia PCC consultation on possible police force mergers had been that the majority were against this proposal. Out of over 3,300 responses, 57% opposed police force mergers. 22% were in support; and 21% were undecided.

A car had been left parked at Broome Green for a fortnight, believed to have broken down. The vehicle being taxed and MOT'd, the Police and Shropshire Council could do nothing as yet.

Reports relating to agenda items are minuted under those agenda items.

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9. Correspondence: Including various bulletins, newsletters, and information sheets, including a report from a member of the public of overgrowth obstructing a pavement on the B4368 in Aston on Clun; Shropshire Council Local Plan consultation (agenda item 10), and a grant request from Acton Scott (agenda item 17 related).

Councillors were unsure from the report exactly where the path was obscured by overgrowth in Aston. More than one councillor had investigated prior to the meeting but it was still unclear. The Clerk had asked by email for further details but these had not yet been forthcoming.

Temporary parish road closures: Unnamed Road by Aston on Clun (to Clunbury) 3rd – 28th August for bridge repairs; Twitchen Rd Clunbury 11th August, BT poles.

10. Shropshire Council Local Plan, scoping consultation: Council briefly discussed the ongoing consultation and it was agreed that while councillors and members of the public were welcome to respond individually (the Chair and the Clerk had both already done so) it was not possible for Council to submit a response due to the complex nature of the consultation questions.

11. Councillor Recruitment / Numbers of Councillors: The current situation was discussed. Due to a recent resignation, there were only 5 councillors again and it was generally felt that more were required to enable Council to function well and to be dynamic, as councillors who were able to volunteer for duties at events and participate in working parties and other tasks were needed for Council to achieve its aims and responsibilities. It was suggested that instead of aiming for the full complement of 9 councillors, Council should instead aim for 6 or 7 as being a good working number. Councillors were heartened to hear that 2 enquiries from interested persons had been received following the appeal for new councillors on the reverse of the shop grant consultation form. Although enquiries were at an early stage it was hoped that both would progress to applying to be co-opted. Council would revisit recruitment progress regularly, and the subject would alternate as a standing agenda item.

12. Local Council awards Scheme: Council generally agreed that this would be a good award to go for, but there were various steps necessary before Council could be in a position to apply. The subject should be a Standing Agenda item but not at every meeting – it should alternate with the previous agenda item.

13. Parish Consultation re Community Shop: Council briefly discussed the rolling out of the consultation and the drop in evening, and agreed that notices reminding residents of the drop in, and of the deadline for return, be posted within the parish to increase community awareness. Councillors were asked to mention the consultation to every resident they met during the relevant period. **Resolved.**

14. Finance:

AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return): Council **noted** that the Certificate of Exemption has been received by the Internal Auditor, and that the AGAR and Notice of Public Rights (period from 3rd June – 14th July) had been published on Council's website and on parish noticeboards. Council also **noted** that all documentation required to be published under the Transparency Code had been published by the due date.

Online Banking Authorised Signatory: Council **resolved** to **approve** the addition of Cllr Campion to the list of authorised signatories with Unity Trust Bank.

Council **noted** a **Bank Reconciliation** that had been previously circulated. There were no variances. As at 31st May, Council had £36,147.25p in the bank. The Chair signed the Bank Reconciliation.

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INVOICES TO PAY:

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Method
15, 16	Staff costs/HMRC	June 2026 Salary, PAYE tax, NIC, homeworking	Salary, tax, admin, Employer NIC	766.22	SO, BACS
17	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, June instalment	292.33 Aston Green 58.47 VAT	350.80	SO
18	Shropshire Council	Annual electricity charge	Electricity 93.97 VAT 18.79	112.76	BACS
19	Cllr Hartas	Stationery expenses		117.17	BACS
20	Community Shop	APM beverages		20.18	BACS
21	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service fee	admin	7.00	fee
Total				£1,374.13p	

Council accepted the Finance Report and authorised all payments as listed. Resolved.

15. Aston Green: The green was rolled with a heavy roller on 14th June. Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Campion for ensuring the new fruit trees were watered during the recent hot spell, and for arranging a refill of the water butt. The Chair commented that the wildflower areas were thriving, illustrating Council's continuing efforts to align with the county-wide LNRS.

Council is still awaiting a response from Mark Holmes from the Shropshire Council Flood Team regarding ideas on repairing the Silt Trap, and from the Shropshire Council Dog Warden who had promised to visit. Councillors discussed ways of apprehending offending dog walkers who chose not to pick up after their dogs, including installing CCTV and other cameras for identification.

No reports of anti-social behaviour at Aston Green and the Village Hall car park had been received.

16. Risk Register Rolling Review: Council reviewed Risks 4 and 11. Both risks were reviewed, and Council **agreed** that current measures were adequate. **Resolved.**

17. Council Small Grants: Council **resolved** to approve minor alterations in the recently reviewed Grants Policy, highlighting the priority for grants to groups and activities within the parish. A recent request for grant help from Acton Scott Farm Museum would therefore not be considered.

18. Policies reviews: Council reviewed its High Consequence Infectious Diseases policy, deferred the Planning Protocol Guidelines, and deferred approval of a remote meetings policy so that a minor change could be made. **Resolved.**

19. Meetings Attended: none.

20. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: none.

21. Next Meetings: Mondays 20th July, 24th August 2026.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: