

Minutes of Hopesay Parish Council

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Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 30th March 2026, held in Aston on Clun Village Hall, 7.30pm.

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

Absent: Cllr Johnson, Cllr Record.

In Attendance: Unitary Councillor J Dickin, 2 Members of the Public.

Clerk: Mrs M Gwilliam.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Johnson, Cllr Record.

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 Parish Council meetings 23rd February 2026: The minutes were approved as an accurate record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them. **Resolved.**

5. Public Participation: A member of the public voiced residents concerns about the equipment and vehicles apparently abandoned in a poor state on the Broome Industrial Estate, and querying whether there was run off of chemicals leaching into groundwater etc.

6. Unitary Councillor Report: Cllr Dickin gave a report and mentioned the increasing water leaks and other water issues at Severn Trent. He also mentioned the threat of closure to bus service 745, and concerns about the Shropshire Council 'Fix my Street' reporting system.

7. Planning: New applications: 26/00831/AG1, Tadymor Farm, Hopesay, Erection of a steel portal framed building as a roof over a collecting yard. Council had no objection to this application.

8. Broome Industrial Estate: Council discussed reports from residents about the untidy and possibly hazardous state observed. However the Clerk had already contacted Planning who had replied saying it was not a planning issue. The Clerk had also contacted Environmental Protection who were looking into the issue. The Parish Council did not have powers to act in the matter.

9. Hopesay to Aston road resurfacing: The work had been completed and the new surface was excellent.

10. Hopesay Parish Trust: Council **resolved** to nominate Ms S Robinson as the second of 2 Council nominated Trustees to the Parish Trust.

11. Shropshire Council Devolution: The Chair reported on a meeting about Shropshire Council Devolution he had attended. At the meeting it was stated that in future Shropshire Council would only deliver legally required services due to severe financial constraints. Any discretionary services would no longer be undertaken. Shropshire Council is hoping to devolve some non-statutory

services to appropriate Town and Parish Councils. This is being trialled in larger councils first such as Shrewsbury Town Council. It was as yet unclear exactly which services were to be devolved but it appeared that Shropshire Council hoped that parish and town councils would take on more responsibilities and that local people would volunteer to take up activities currently undertaken by Shropshire Council. However, no funding would be available from Shropshire Council for these services, and in fact the Shropshire Council Precept would go up not down.

12. Chair and Clerk Reports: The Chair reported that the Annual Parish Meeting this year would take place on Thursday 14th May. Various speakers had been invited.

Flood prevention works had been undertaken and completed in Broome. However there had been two burst water mains in Broome recently causing disruption to parish residents.

Information about the Council's move to a .gov domain had been posted on notice boards and the website.

13. Correspondence: Including OPCC public consultation on police force mergers (18/3/2026).

Temporary parish road closures: Hopesay Aston road 24th – 30th March, resurfacing & drainage works. School Bank, Hopesay Rd Aston, 29th – 30th April, Openreach.

14. Policing Priorities: Council **resolved** to agree that the 3 top policing priorities for the parish for the next six months were: speeding, theft - outbuildings, theft – livestock. The Clerk to inform Police.

15. Community Shop Replacement and consultation: Council formally approved a brief letter to the Chair of the Community Shop supporting the re-build as requested by them. **Resolved**.

Discussions on the format for the consultation would take place at a future meeting.

16. Aston Green: The Chair reported that 2 new trees were purchased from Frank Matthews Ltd for the Orchard to replace ones that had died. One was a Somerset Apple Cider tree in memory of Mr Paul Jennings. Aston Green could do with a 'spring clean'. Field mats will be laid at the Orchard field entrance to protect the ground from vehicles in wet weather.

Dog mess at Aston Green was getting worse. Council will consider a Public Space Protection Order. Council discussed closing access to the lower field to prevent car parking if/when weather dictated. Council **resolved** that it reserved the right to close vehicular access to the orchard field if bad weather indicated that vehicles might cause damage to the field surface.

Standing Agenda item: There had been no reports of anti social behaviour at Aston Green or in the Village Hall car park.

17. Finance: **Bank reconciliation:** A bank reconciliation had been circulated. There were no variances. Council **accepted** the reconciliation.

Budget Monitoring Report: The RFO had presented a Budget Monitoring Report to end January at the February meeting, and councillors were shown it again. Several budgets were underspent including the £4,000 budgeted for play equipment.

Virements: Council **resolved** to vire £1,206 from the unused Play Equipment Budget, to a new Silt Trap Earmarked Reserve.

Council **resolved** to vire £400 from the underspent Aston Green Management Budget, to Aston Green Earmarked Reserve.

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INVOICES TO PAY:

Voucher	Name	for	Budget (from)	£amount	Method
82, 83	Staff costs	March 2026 Salary, tax, NIC, homeworking costs	Salary, tax, admin	766.22	SO, BACS
84	Ditton Services	Grass cutting, Feb instalment	284.16 Aston Green 56.83 VAT	340.99	SO
85	Absolute Games (Andy Holmes)	IT work on Clerk's computer installing new email account	IT	40.00	BACS
86	SALC	Training Fundamentals 19 February J Campion	training	45.00	BACS
87	Clerk	Copier paper £8.99p, salary year end adjustment 91p	Admin 7.49, VAT 1.50, salary .91p	9.90	BACS
88	R Hartas	Purchase of replacement tree for Orchard	Aston Green management	62.65	BACS
89	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service fee 31/3/26	admin	7.00	fee
Total				£1,271.76p	

Council resolved to accept the Finance Report and authorise all payments as listed.

18. Risk Register Rolling Review: Council reviewed Risks 2 and 3, and **resolved** that current controls were adequate.

19. Dot Gov Website: Council's migration to a dot gov domain and emails had not gone smoothly. Unfortunately, Vision ICT, the Council's website and email provider, had experienced a company wide major issue with all email accounts affecting all town and parish council customers. This issue was delaying the migration causing significant temporary problems. It was hoped that the situation would be resolved and the migration completed soon, as the Clerk and RFO needed to work on the Annual Return and end of year accounts, and the Internal Auditor would expect to access Council's website as part of his audit process.

20. Asset Register: Council reviewed its Asset Register and **resolved** that the document was up to date and fit for purpose.

21. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations: Council reviewed its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and **resolved** that they were accurate and up to date.

22. Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant: Council discussed the possibility of applying for the grant if offered in 2026 2027. There was work to be done, such as footpath clearing. Further information and discussion was needed. The matter would be revisited at a future meeting.

23. Meetings Attended: None not already reported on.

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24. Reports of Parishioners Issues, Future Agenda Items: The Broome Station Rubbish Bin and the Grit bin had both been removed. It was not known by whom. Clerk to contact Network Rail.

25. Next Meetings: Council approved a date of Tuesday 26th May for its Annual Parish Council meeting. **Resolved**. Council further approved the **cancellation** of the meetings on Monday 1st June and Monday 29th June, and approved a new date of **Monday 22nd June. Resolved**.

The next Council meetings were now Monday 27th April, Tuesday 26th May, Monday 22nd June, and Monday 27th July 2026.

NOTE: The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** (not a Council meeting but the annual meeting of Electors) would be held on **Thursday 14th May 2026**.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.15pm.

Chair Signed:

Date: