

**MINUTES**

**OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD AT HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL**

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 at 7.30pm**

**049/24 - Present**

Cllr. G Watts  
Cllr. L Gray  
Cllr. S Jones  
Cllr. T Madeley

**Apologies received from:**

Cllr. P.Jenkins

**In attendance:**

Clerk, Mrs J de Russett, Shropshire Cllr. C Motley and one member of the public.

**050/24 – Notice convening the meeting**

In accordance with statute, the Notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the parish notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and on the parish website.

**051/24– Reports**

**051/24/1 - Chairman's Welcome and Annual Report for the Parish Council for the year 2023 - 2024**

I commence my report by thanking my fellow councillors, Shropshire Councillor Cecilia Motley and our Clerk for all their help and support during the parish year 2023/2024.

At our January 2023 meeting we agreed a precept budget of £5,588 to cover the administration of the parish council for the year 2023/2024 and we kept well within that budget during the financial year. The Precept Budget is available to view on our website, as will be the auditor's report and the annual return documents for the financial year ended 31st March 2024.

We applied to the Police & Crime Commissioner for a grant towards the cost of a second Speed Indicator Device, to be sited on the B4371 to alert traffic travelling from Church

Stretton into Hope Bowdler of the speed limit, having found that the one sited at the Much Wenlock end of Hope Bowdler worked well in slowing traffic down. Unfortunately, we were not awarded a grant this year due to the PCC having insufficient funds.

The Parish Council has considered four planning applications in the past year which the council supported, and it also considered one application for a lawful development certificate and a variation of an existing planning consent. We have also raised a query about the siting of a large mobile home for which we had seen no planning application.

The Parish Council has raised numerous issues with the Highways Department concerning the state of the roads in the parish. It also continues to arrange for strimming, road sign cleaning and bus shelter cleaning to be carried out.

Progress of Shropshire Council's Community Governance Review, which centres on possible revisions to town and parish boundaries, has still been delayed due to a re-organisation of the divisional boundaries in Shropshire. We had hoped by now that there would have been an amalgamation between this parish council and Rushbury Parish Council. The current indications are that work on the Review is unlikely to take place before 2025. This is frustrating as all parish councils have to hold elections in May 2025 to elect their quota of councillors, in our case seven councillors, who then remain in post for four years. Due to the delay in implementing the parish boundaries review it is difficult to see whether the May 2025 elections will be for an amalgamated parish council, or just for Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council. It is to be hoped that Shropshire Council will give some clarification as to the time table for this Review as soon as possible. It is not our intention that Hatton will be transferred to Acton Scott Parish.

The Parish Council meets 10 times per year, generally no meetings being held in August and December. We alternate our meetings between Ticklerton and Hope Bowdler village halls. The agendas for our meetings are on our website ([www.eatonhopebowdler.co.uk](http://www.eatonhopebowdler.co.uk)) and notice boards and members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings to raise any issues with the councillors.

Graham Watts

Chairman - Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council

### **051/24/2 - Shropshire Councillor Cecilia Motley's Annual Report to Corvedale Parishes - May 2023 – May 2024**

Cllr. Motley reported that Shropshire Council found itself saddled with £50m worth of debt following the Covid pandemic, since when adult and social care costs for the elderly and the cost of supporting children with special needs has risen exponentially, taking up 76% of SC's 2023 – 2024 budget, leaving only 24% of the budget to fund all the other services SC provides. Several LA's have been forced to declare themselves bankrupt,

leading to them being forced to take draconian measures such as selling off assets and closing or withdrawing non-statutory services such as leisure centres and libraries. SC had worked hard to save money, which has led to some redundancies and saved £22m by using domiciliary care rather than residential care for some people with complex needs and co-morbidities.

The Local Government Boundaries review is now finally completed although it took 18 months. There have been a number of constituency and parish boundary changes, the only one effecting this area is Cardington has become part of the Corvedale parishes group. There are some changes to polling stations and SC are working hard now to get everything ready for the snap general election called for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. All this will result in the parish boundary review to be postponed further: it is unlikely the proposed amalgamation between Rushbury PC and this council will occur before 2025.

Cllr. Motley then outlined some changes to the health boards. A Health & Well-Being Bus is visiting livestock markets to cater for the farming fraternity The Health & Well-Being Board is being integrated with the Integrated Health Care Board, which will be exploring alternative options for medical services, including X-Rays, to be carried out in GP's surgeries, or locations such as village halls.

Cecilia Motley  
Councillor, Corvedale Division

#### **052/24 – Open Forum**

No issues were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY**

**DATED**