



HODNET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024 in the Lyon Hall, Hodnet at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Alan Cope, Steven Freeman (Chair), John Parker, John Powell, Maryjayne Rees, Jason Watts, Lin Sherwin, John Matthews, Sarah Crump, Paul Gill

In attendance: 3 members of the public, Parish clerk

1. Welcome

Councillor Freeman (chair) welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 30th March 2023 to be agreed and signed

Cllr Parker proposed that the minutes be signed as a true copy of proceedings, Councillor Powell seconded this, all agreed.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Freeman gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 1.

4. Shropshire Council Report, Hodnet Ward

Cllr Gill gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 2.

5. Lyon Memorial Hall Report

Cllr Parker gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 3.

6. Hodnet Medical Centre Patient Participation Group Report

Michelle Holland sent a written report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 4.

7. Hodnet Primary School Report

Cllr Freeman gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 5.

8. Hodnet Charities Trustees Report

Cllr Powell gave a report which is attached to these minutes in Appendix 6.

9. Hodnet 2000 Report

Cllr Underwood sent a brief report to inform the meeting that they had not been actively fundraising and sadly they noted the passing of one of their trustees.

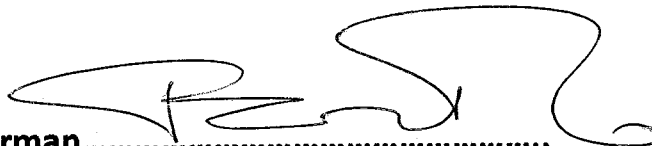
10. Public Session

No questions were asked from members of the public.

There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.25pm

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2024

Minutes accepted and approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2025.



Signed by the Chairman.....

APPENDIX 1

Chair Report:

In the time since our last meeting we have had Ross Underwood step down as a Councillor due to a move outside the Parish, and return (without too much nagging). Our clerk, Jayne, has continued her professional development and continues to keep us on track. Councillor Crump joined

Unfortunately we have had to raise the Parish Council contribution of the Council Tax charge in line with inflation. This was required due to increases in ongoing operating costs with the high levels of inflation.

This year we held a successful village fete event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on the Recreation Ground on May 8th. The event was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, with an extremely enjoyable tug of war competition taking place, ending up with the Parish children pulling a tractor across the field! Thank you to all involved in putting the event on.

The construction of the 50 new homes behind Abbots Way has started, and we expect to see the Parish grow in 2024, and hopefully supply more children for the local school!

Parish sporting teams have had a mixed year with the very successful football team disbanding, with many players joining Market Drayton teams. Hodnet & Peplow cricket club managed to attract a few more players this year, including ones from a younger generation. This helped the team to maintain their position in the Shropshire Cricket league.

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APPENDIX 2

SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT - MARCH 2024

I am pleased to provide an annual report including an overview of the key issues relating to Shropshire Council. At a local level, community concerns raised with me range from speeding on rural roads, heavy vehicles damaging roads, planning applications, pot holes and flooding. I continue to work in support of the Parish Council.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

It will not be a surprise to any one that the major focus this year has been on financial stability, and this will continue into the next financial year and beyond. This is not just a problem in Shropshire. Councils across England are suffering, and our plight is made worse due to the rural nature of where we live.

There is no doubt that for most top-tier councils who have responsibility for social care services, upwards of 75% of their budgets are spent on this area. The demand, cost and increased complexity is pushing up these costs all the time and this is almost entirely the cause of our financial difficulties. There is a hangover of high inflation but in the main, it is the cost of looking after our most vulnerable people for which we have a legal and ethical responsibility.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES

The Council has saved £41 million of spend in this financial year which is more than has ever been achieved in a single year. The Council is seeing unprecedented demand in Social Care in the current year with demand estimated at £26 million over and above predicted increase in last year's budget.

The finances are already cut to the bone and the proposals set out in the budget will see more visual changes to residents than have been seen to date. Council tax will rise, a charge will be introduced for your green bin and parking fees will rise, as will all discretionary fees the Council charges. There will be a complete review of some service areas. Some services may be reduced, some may cease all together. We will also look to find other ways of achieving savings and all ideas are welcome.

We will also look to leave Shirehall as we will be a much smaller organisation, and this will save £1.5 million a year in running costs.

The Capital Programme continues, and this is different to annual revenue spend and is funded mainly by developer's contributions and external grants This includes £84 million for housing, £27 million for schools and £40 million for highways.

CLIMATE CHANGE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Grant Funding - The Climate Team has attracted Government capital and revenue grant funding awards totalling £4.3m to date.

Projects and work continue around Pyrolysis / Biochar, Green hydrogen feasibility, Low Carbon Community Buildings and Electric Vehicle Chargers.

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Waste is the biggest contract in the Place Directorate. There has to be significant savings made to the service so difficult decisions have had to be made. This includes:

- Charging for Green Waste (opt in service at an estimated charge of £52 per year).
- Potential Closure of 2 HRCs (consultation needed before decision on which 2 HRCs will close).

Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment – The Smithfield Riverside consultation saw a lot of engagement from residents across Shropshire. The first phase (demolition of the Riverside Med practice and Riverside Shopping Centre followed by the development of Roushill Park), has achieved Planning permission. Work should begin later this year.

Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy

Consultation on the Movement and Public Space Strategy is ongoing. The vast majority of respondents have been positive. This project will see improvements to the gyratory by the Railway Station, Active Travel routes, Pedestrian Priority Zones, better Public Transport though the town and a series of traffic loops.

Active Travel

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has been in development over the past year. The Plan will come to Cabinet this month (13 March). Having a Plan will attract more funding for Active Travel throughout the Council area.

PLANNING & REGULATORY SERVICES

The Draft Local Plan seems to have been dragging on forever. A report will come to Cabinet in April or May confirming our interactions with the inspectors. It is likely there will need to be a short period of consultation which will focus on any additions. It is still envisaged that this plan will be adopted in early 2025.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Caring for vulnerable adults is one of the Council's most important statutory duties, whether vulnerable adults with learning disabilities or mental health issues between the ages of 18 – 65 or our 65+ residents. We have a duty of care to ensure people are safe and properly looked after, either in their own homes, with domiciliary care support or in residential care or nursing homes. We work closely alongside partners from health, the voluntary and private sectors to deliver the most appropriate support to ensure people can remain in the heart of their communities for as long as possible.

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

As you may be aware, we recently had a spotlight return visit by OFSTED. We have formed a Children's Improvement Board to focus on retention and recruitment of social workers to aid not only case management levels of our teams, but address agency spends. We are not alone in this; this is a challenge nationally that all councils are facing and recent media around this has suggested there are as many as 6,000 vacant positions.



CULTURE & DIGITAL

The council has continued to deliver a wide range of facilities and activities across Shropshire. With outdoor recreation sites, leisure facilities, libraries, theatres, museums, armed forces support and more it is very easy to forget how much we provide and are involved with.

HOUSING & ASSETS

Shropshire Council's two owned housing companies, STAR and Cornovii, are performing well, with over 200 homes under construction across the county. These are delivering a mixture of high-quality affordable homes, low energy homes, local needs homes and specialist accommodation.

Homelessness continues to be an area of high pressure for Shropshire Council, with about 250 households in need of temporary accommodation at any one time.

HIGHWAYS

In Highways the major project of the North West Relief Road continues to make good progress with the signing off at Council on 29th February of the extra spend necessary to get to the position of Full Business Case hopefully by September.

We are firmly in pothole season, but since May 21 the trend of outstanding potholes is in a long-term decline of numbers. There is still a lot to do.

Paul Gill
Shropshire Councillor

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APPENDIX 3

LYON MEMORIAL HALL REPORT 2023/2024.

The Lyon Hall Management committee met on five occasions during 2023/2024 with the A.G.M. in September. The committee comprises of nine members and the officers from the previous year were re-elected at the A.G.M.

The accounts show a considerable loss for the year. A large proportion of these losses are due to the exceptional payments for repairs to windows, external painting and electrical five year testing and repairs.

Hirings are slowly improving especially towards the end of 2023 and into 2024. Hopefully this will continue for the rest of the year.

Fund raising events were held as usual although the regular Cheese and Wine evening had to be cancelled due to a clash with the Rugby World Cup and it was almost impossible to sell any tickets. A new venture for the Lyon Hall, on a trial basis, is Flicks in the Sticks film nights. This is in conjunction with Marchamley Club on an alternate monthly basis. Two films have been shown so far and have been reasonably well supported. We will have to consider whether to continue as the licence to show a film is almost £100.

One piece of good news is that the outstanding Hodnet Hub debt for hiring the hall has finally been paid albeit a couple of years late,

The hall is in a good state of repair with good facilities for the community and hopefully next year will show an improvement in income from hirings.

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LYON MEMORIAL HALL

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30th June 2023

	2022	2023
£18,025.13 Current Account		£8,409.94
£3,601.02 Scottish Widows		£3,613.42
£21,626.15 Balance		£12,023.36
-£3,331.48 Trading profit/loss		-£9,395.09

£23,310.80 OPENING BALANCE	£21,458.58
-£1,852.22 Trading loss for year	-£9,395.09

£21,458.58 CLOSING BALANCE	£12,063.49
£167.57 Variance	-£40.13

LYON MEMORIAL HALL

INCOME STATEMENT

1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023

	2022	2023
£3,114.50 Due		£4,671.20
£192.00 Paid from 2022		£228.00
-£228.00 Owing for 2023		-£452.00
Written off from last year (Hub)		-£153.00
£3,078.50 Actual income for year		£4,294.20

Other income (SCC grants)		
Total	£3,114.50	£4,294.20

Expenditure	£4,966.72	£13,689.29
Trading profit/loss for year	-£1,852.22	-£9,395.09
Shropshire CC Grants		
Overall Profit / Loss	-£1,852.22	-£9,395.09



APPENDIX 4

PPG Annual Update

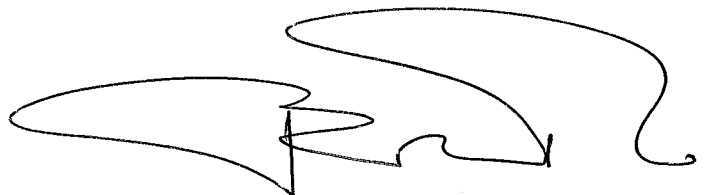
Dear Member

We are aware that the PPG have not had a meeting within the last year. This is mainly due to the lack of secretary and chairman to organise the meetings and the agenda. We would like to update the group on the practice news within the last year.

When we last met, we discussed the increasing patient list size and that we were trying to move our boundary in order to keep a manageable list size. This application has been unsuccessful, and our patient numbers are now up to 3,800 which is rise of approximately 150 patients in the last year. As you know we have been trying to recruit additional staff but had been unsuccessful when we last met. However, during the last year we have recruited a full-time receptionist, an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) and increased medical secretary hours. We are also pleased to announce that in April we have a new salaried GP starting two days a week which will replace our reliance on locums.

We would like to see the group active again and will support you when you are able to find a secretary and chairman.

Hodnet Medical Centre

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APPENDIX 5

School Report:

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting there has been access improvement works carried out at the school, with new lighting and a path widened with the help of Pickstock Homes. The school is hopefully due to have a partial new roof over the next 12 months, i

Over the past year school results remain good achieving the required standard in all disciplines of reading, SPAG and maths. Achievement at all years continues to be either above or comparable to both Shropshire and national levels, with the Key Stage 2 Sats results being some of the highest nationally.

The school transitioned away from the Local Authority control to be part of the 3-18 Trust in February 2024, securing a more stable future for the school, and tying in with like minded and similarly performing schools.

PTA events continue with the annual bonfire night making a record profit.

Looking ahead the school is expecting another visit from Ofsted in 2024, where they are aiming to maintain or improve upon their current 'Good' rating.

School changing for swimming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

APPENDIX 6

Hodnet Charities Trustees Report 2024

The Trustees have met 4 times during the past year, including a meeting in September convened to discuss the re-writing of a form of constitution, which is completely outdated, having been drawn up in 1916. This work has not yet been completed.

There are several investment accounts with the COIF, some very small, which it is suggested will be amalgamated into the main investment from the sale of the development land at Market Drayton.

Other properties held by the Charities are a 6 acre field on the Drayton road out of Hodnet, and 6 acres of land on the outskirts of Wem on the Ellesmere road. Both these fields are let for grazing, and are unlikely to be developed.

Some 120 Christmas vouchers were distributed, to the value of £30 for an individual, and £50 for a couple.

All the Scouts/and Guides sections have recently been supported, and there was concern expressed over the state of repair of the Headquarters building, which is also limited in space, both inside and out.

Many years ago there was a suggestion that the existing old schoolroom is sold, assuming planning permission is granted for change of use, and a new building put up on the recreation ground. The Trustees are keen to assist with this plan.

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