

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 12th MAY 2025 at 7.30pm

053/25 - Present

Cllr. G Watts
Cllr. T Madeley
Cllr C Pugh

In attendance:

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett

054/25– 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.

055/25– Chairman’s Report

The seven members of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council continued to serve the parishioners of the Parish diligently during the past year, but sadly three of our members decided not stand for re-election in the May 2025 elections and one was unable to get his nomination papers in on time. No new candidates presented themselves for election so as of the 1st May we have only three councillors, myself, Tony Madeley and Colin Pugh. It will be very difficult for the parish council to operate with only three members so we have been actively seeking new candidates to be co-opted onto the council and indeed have some willing candidates here tonight.

I am very grateful to Lynne Gray, Steve Jones and Peter Jenkins who all supported me in my role as Chairman and worked hard on behalf of our parishioners. Lynne Gray deserves special thanks as she was one our

longest serving councillors. We also had to say farewell to Corvedale Division Shropshire Councillor Cecilia Motley who has represented this community for many years at Shropshire Council. We thank her for her service. We look forward to meeting our new Corvedale Division councillor, Dr Colin Stanford of Middlehope.

We held eleven Parish Council meetings in the year April 2024 to May 2025. Our meetings alternate between Hope Bowdler and Ticklerton Village Halls. 10 minutes of each meeting is set aside for us to hear from any parishioners who wish to raise a problem, but such attendance is rare. Generally, parishioners contact their local councillors or the clerk direct, and they bring the parishioner's concerns to one of our council meetings for our consideration. We make every effort to deal helpfully with any problems drawn to our attention. The main issues of concern this year were of flooding, blocked drains and gullies, and the parlous state of our roads. The Highways Department at Shropshire Council advise us that they have no funds to carry out highways maintenance as 76% of Shropshire Council's annual budget is spent on adult and social care.

The Parish Council is funded by its' annual Precept, which primarily covers the cost of the Parish Council's administration and insurance, and part is used to keep the bus shelters clean and in repair, for ditches to be cleared and the area around the War Memorial in Ticklerton to be kept tidy. We also make small grants towards the maintenance of the churchyards in Hope Bowdler and Eaton as they are community assets. We have always endeavoured to keep the Precept as low as possible and will continue to do so, despite being urged to carry substantial reserves in our accounts.

During the past year we have considered and responded to four planning applications. On three occasions the Parish Council supported the applications, but the Planning Department at Shropshire Council refused permission for one we had supported, for no good reason we could discern. The Parish Council objected to the fourth application as in our view it constituted an over-development of the site: a decision is awaited from the Planning Department on that case.

The Parish Council has been involved in reporting any problems with footpaths and bridleways. Information about footpath or bridleway closures are available on our website. Also on our website are details of road closures, news items and planning applications information.

We spent some considerable time and effort in negotiations with Rushbury Parish Council with a view to amalgamating our two parish councils under Shropshire Council's Community Governance Review. This Review came to halt when the government introduced constituency boundary reviews, which took precedence over the review of town and parish boundaries. We wait to see if the Community Governance Review is to be revived.

The names and contact details of all Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Councillors are displayed on our notice boards or can be obtained from the Clerk – please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any local areas of concern - we are here to serve our parishioners.

Graham Watts

Chairman – Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council

056/24 – 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 Graham Watts

DATED 16th June 2025