

## Shobdon Parish Council Meeting October 2020

### Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.45pm

**Attendance:** Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr C Jaques, Mrs A Walker, Mr R Bowen, Mrs S Whittaker, Cllr Roger Phillips, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis

1 member of the public was present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr Boxhall.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
3. **Public Participation**
  - 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** Herefordshire Council have started their consultation on the 2021/22 budget and are waiting for confirmation of their funding settlement from central government.
  - 3.2 **Report from West Mercia Police:** There have been reports of poaching in the area, although not in Shobdon, and residents were asked to remain vigilant. The police have been made aware that there may be some social distancing issues around school collection times in parks and are patrolling schools in the afternoon where possible. The police had been asked whether there was any official guidance being issued on trick or treating at Halloween, and are checking the position so that any guidance can be shared with the village.
  - 3.3 **Views of local residents on Parish matters:** A query was raised about trick or treating, and it was noted that general guidance is that this cannot be done safely in current circumstances.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2020:** The minutes were **agreed** and signed as a correct record after the addition of a note under item 3.3 to record that residents had asked that road signs be installed on Canterbury Road.
5. **Finance**
  - 5.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**; the current account has a balance of £30,350.64 and the High Interest account has a balance of £55,382.95.
  - 5.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows - Wigmore Book Prize £30.00, PKF Littlejohn external audit £360.00, Clerk- Oct wages £627.28, HMRC £61.40, Mortimers Cross Building Supplies £5.93, Clerk - office allowance and printer ink £20.87.
  - 5.3 **2019/20 audit conclusion:** The conclusion of the audit of accounts for 2019/20 was **noted**, with no issues having been raised.
  - 5.4 **Date for finance working party:** It was **agreed** to hold the finance working party on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.45pm.
6. **Planning**
  - 6.1 **203402 - Woodside, Shobdon:** The Parish Council **agreed** that whilst it supports the sympathetic development of the site, it objects to the application for potentially 3 dwellings on a site of this size, where previously there was only one. The site is not suitable for this amount of dwellings - Policy s6d of the adopted NDP states that development proposals should "Provide sufficient garden space that would enable residents to enjoy their use with appropriate degrees of privacy" and the Parish Council does not believe that the site would be able to meet this requirement for three dwellings, as well as providing the required car parking spaces.. The Parish Council ask that any proposals for the site clearly demonstrate how they will enable connectivity of new dwellings and residents to the village and address policy S3 of the NDP -

particularly the need for active travel to be encouraged and promote. The ability of pedestrians to safely access the site and walk to the rest of the village must be built into any proposals and the outline plans submitted with the application do not demonstrate any defined path/pavement on the site which would enable pedestrians to access the site without coming into the direct path of vehicles accessing the site. The Parish council also asks that any dwellings on the site meet the defined need in the parish (as stated in the NDP) for starter homes for young families and homes for the elderly.

- 6.2 **Update on any other planning issues:** Discussion is ongoing at Herefordshire Council regarding how to alleviate the phosphate issue.

7. **Updates and action**

- 7.1 **Lengthsman and PROW:** A stile has been replaced with a gate at the Beeches and the footpath officer will be meeting with Hi Trees to look at a quote for work in the two fields behind Pearl Lake owed by the Motocross association. The hedges on the Buzzards road are over growing and starting to obstruct the road and the Clerk will report this to Balfour Beatty.
- 7.2 **Footpath Bridge:** A meeting was held with Bruce Evans from Herefordshire Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the project. At the meeting it was agreed that Herefordshire Council are going to visit the site and check measurements, check the situation re planning permission, adoption and straightening of the wall and that the clerk would contact Pontrilas timber to arrange a meeting with them to discuss design and supply of a bridge. Since the meeting, the Clerk has spoken to Pontrilas timber, who can only supply bridge materials to a design specification, so the Clerk will go back to Herefordshire Council to try and confirm next steps in confirming the footbridge design and supplier.
- 7.3 **COVID 19:** The volunteer network is still active, and the two co-ordinators are now involved in the Herefordshire Council Community Champion initiative; Herefordshire Council have also restarted the system of area co-ordinators for volunteer groups to link into. A further leaflet delivery to all houses in the parish is underway, to ensure all residents are aware of support available should they need to self-isolate.
- 7.4 **Parish Christmas Tree:** It was **agreed** that a parish Christmas tree will be erected at the end of November, the Clerk will contact the Methodist chapel about a connection to their electricity supply in return for a donation. A decision about the format of the light switch on will be taken nearer the time, dependant on lockdown conditions.
- 7.5 **Storage of Village sandbags:** The village sandbags are currently in storage in a councillor's shed and need to be moved. It was **agreed** that a notice will be put on facebook offering the bags to any resident who contacts the parish council, otherwise these will be disposed of.
- 7.6 **Remembrance Sunday:** The flag will be lowered and a 2 minute silence observed at the war memorial, but no service will be held in line with current guidance.
- 7.7 **Grove field – adopt a tree scheme:** An exemplar wooden plaque had been provided by Jim Williams. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would get this engraved and councillors could then confirm whether to proceed with this as the plaque to be used for all those wishing to adopt a tree. Once this is confirmed, the scheme can be formally launched in the new year.
8. **Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
9. **Date of next meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020