

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting January 2021

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.45pm via zoom

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Sue Whittaker.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
3. **Public Participation**
 - 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** Discussion of how to alleviate the current planning issue due to phosphates is ongoing, and Herefordshire Council is looking at possible wetlands projects to alleviate the issue. A new Chief Executive has been appointed and will start work in April.
 - 3.2 **Report from West Mercia Police:** No report had been received.
 - 3.3 **Views of local residents on Parish matters:** No residents were present.
4. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 14th December 2020, the extraordinary meeting held on the 21st December 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on the 11th January 2021:** The minutes were **agreed** and will be signed after the meeting.
5. **Finance**
 - 5.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £25,615.01
 - 5.2 **Cheques:** It was **agreed** that cheques would be signed after the meeting as follows – Clerk (Jan wages) £627.28, HMRC £61.40, Alan Jones - tree works £780.00, Clerk (office allowance and zoom subscription) £24.39.
 - 5.3 **Bank reconciliation:** The January 2021 bank reconciliation was **noted**.
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1 **Update on any other planning issues:** No issues to report.
7. **Updates and action**
 - 7.1 **Lengthsman and PROW:** The lengthsman has been asked to clear the ditch and grips on Easthampton Lane prior to the road resurfacing work. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would obtain quotes for laying the hedge on the verge from Bateman Close to the Birches and check whether there were funds left in the footpaths budget that could be vired to fund this work.

- 7.2 Footpath Bridge:** The Clerk had a zoom catch up meeting with Bruce Evans from Herefordshire Council at which he had indicated that there were two possible options to take the footbridge project forward. The first option is that the Parish Council proceed with the project on the basis that the Parish Council retains ownership/responsibility for the bridge; the Parish Council would then need to apply for planning permission. The second option is that the project is seen as a Highways improvement which will lead to adoption by Herefordshire Council. This will not need planning permission but will require Approval in Principle of the bridge design from BBLP/HC for which the Parish Council will be charged; Bruce needed to check how much this might likely be but thought it might be at least £2,000.00. Concern was expressed that one of the key aims of the discussions with Herefordshire council and BBLP over the past 8 months had been to ensure that the design of the footbridge met their requirements, and the suggestion that the Parish Council would still have to pay for approval of any design negated all this work. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact Bruce Evans to clarify the position.
- 7.3 COVID 19:** The volunteer network is still working successfully with no new issues to report.
- 7.4 Recruitment of New Parish Clerk:** It was **agreed** that any application received by the 1st February deadline would be shortlisted by a panel comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk, who would also form the interview panel.
- 8. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 9. Date of next meeting:** 22nd February 2021.