

## Shobdon Parish Council Meeting February 2021

### Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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. It was confirmed that lack of internet service was accepted as a reason that Mrs Whittaker would possibly be absent from meetings for a period of over 6 months.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Chris Jaques declared a pecuniary interest in items 6.1 and 6.2 and Bill Stokes declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.1 It was **agreed** that both would leave the meeting for discussion of the relevant items.
3. **Public Participation**
  - 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** The road resurfacing in Shobdon has started. The Herefordshire Council budget has been agreed with a 4.9% rise in council tax.
  - 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 at the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and the extraordinary meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021:** Both sets of minutes were **agreed** as a correct record 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 £22,609.04 and the High Interest account has a balance of £55,382.95.
  - 5.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows - Information Commissioner £40.00, Clerk-zoom subscription and office allowance £24.39, Hi Trees £1,584.00, HALC - annual subscription £668.90, Clerk – wages £627.28, HMRC £61.40.
6. **Planning:**

*Chris Jaques and Bill Stokes left the meeting*

  - 6.1 **202713 (Reconsultation) - Land at Park Top Poultry Site - Redevelopment of site including demolition of two life expired poultry houses and one domestic dwelling:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no further comments to make on this application.

*Bill Stokes rejoined the meeting*
  - 6.2 **210089 - Mortimers Cross Farm - Proposed agricultural building - cover to existing stock handling area:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported the application.

*Chris Jaques re-joined the meeting.*

**6.2 Update on any other planning issues:** It was **noted** that work had commenced on the field entrance on the B4362 by Woodside Cottage.

**7. Updates and action**

**7.1 Lengthsman and PROW – to include plans for 2021/22:** It was **agreed** that the Clerk would submit the expression of interest form for the 2021/22 scheme and draft the maintenance plans which would be circulated amongst councillors prior to submission to BBLP.

**7.2 Footpath Bridge:** It has finally been confirmed that Herefordshire Council do not want to adopt the planned footbridge, instead the footbridge will be delivered as a Parish Council project that will require planning permission. The Clerk is waiting for confirmation of the planning fee, and once this has been confirmed plans will be developed and submitted. Once planning permission has been obtained, work can then recommence on the transfer of land either side of the bridge and the actual build.

**7.3 COVID 19:** There were no issues to report, and the volunteer network remains active. A parish scarecrow festival is being organised, which will involve a scarecrow trail and prizes for the best scarecrow.

**7.4 New Parish Council website:** The Clerk and Mrs Boxhall have both been trained on the new website and will start work on building the site content prior to it going live before the end of March.

**8. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.

**9. Date of next meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*A resolution was be passed to exclude members of the press and public from the following item (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:*

**10. Appointment of New Parish Clerk:** A candidate for the post had been interviewed but subsequently withdrawn their application. It was **agreed** to readvertise the position on facebook and the Clerk will contact both the SLCC and HALC re clerk cover should a replacement not be found before the end of March.