

Shobdon Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2018

Present: Chairman of Parish Council Mr Bill Stokes, Arrow Ward County Councillor Roger Phillips, PCSO Steph Annette, 14 Parishioners, Parish Clerk Emma Lewis

1. **Chairman's welcome and introductions:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Parish Councillors present, the Clerk and the speakers.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Adrienne Boxhall.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of held on 8th May 2017:** The minutes of the meeting were signed as a correct record. Proposed by Anne Walker and Seconded by Steve Macdonald.
4. **Chair's 2018 annual report:** There is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council and a new councillor will be co-opted at the next meeting. The Parish Council is represented on the village hall, link to airfield, playground group, 2 village trusts and the neighbourhood watch.
Finance: - The annual precept saw an increase from April 2018, mainly to cover a further decrease in money from Herefordshire Council for the lengthsman; this has now reached the point that it is funded solely by the Parish. Grants have been received to cover NDP work, and where possible the Parish Council applies for funding for the various capital projects it has planned.
Newsletter: - Adrienne Boxhall continues as editor of newsletter, which has now reduced to two issues per year. A questionnaire will be issued to parishioners about the newsletter and how they would like to see it continue. It needs a dedicated team to pull together articles, deliver to every house in the parish and a constant stream of material written by parishioners if it is to have meaningful content.
NDP: - The plan went through two regulation 16 consultations but was then turned down at the independent examination stage as sufficiently robust evidence of site selection had not been provided. Additional work has now been completed and the revised NDP will be going back to Reg 14 consultation this week. Currently the sites recommended for development include Pearl Lake, next to the Humbers and opposite Barr Meadow. Following the latest consultation, the NDP will then need to undergo a further regulation 16 consultation, independent examination and can then proceed to referendum. Until the plan is approved the parish is at risk of speculative developers applying for planning on sites other than those identified in the NDP.
Planning – The Parish Council had 11 planning applications to review in the last 12 months, including the proposal for 10 houses behind New Cottages.
Lengthsman/footpaths – Hi Trees are providing an excellent service and Richard Bowen continues to keep a close eye as footpath officer. Lara Edwards continues to be an excellent BBLP locality steward. In the summer of 2017 we had a number of dropped kerb crossings installed around Moor Meadow / The Grove. The Parish Council did not find the quality of this work satisfactory and challenged BBLP to return and undertake remedials. Two new benches have been installed on the MUGA site. The Parish Council has entered the PROW scheme with Herefordshire Council which means some funding towards works to the footpaths around the parish. The footpath officer has identified a number of improvements to bring the gates and stiles up to standard over the coming years. Plans are being put in place to name 6 of the village footpaths after the 6 people named on the village war memorial in commemoration of WW1.
Neighbourhood Watch – Thanks were extended to Phil Sharp for his work over many years as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch. A new chairperson, Lucy Sockett, is in place. The annual village litter pick was held in April

Highway: - Following a campaign of naming the potholes on social media, the Parish has had the good news that the centre of the village is to be resurfaced in 2018.

Footbridge Project: The Parish Council has a plan to provide a footbridge next to the existing bridge by the Bateman Arms. A grant to the Kingspan Community Trust for the project has been submitted and the legal permissions with the landowners on either side of the stream are being sorted out.

Village Cycleway / Footpath Project: It is an aspiration of the Parish Council to have a footpath / cycleway linking the major housing estates of the village with the school / shop with the minimum amount running alongside the B4362. The Parish Council is in the process of purchasing the land between the Birches and the MUGA. The area will then be cleared and fenced so it seamlessly forms part of the open space between the two estates. The Parish council is in discussions with Stonewater Housing Association regarding the ownership of the old Grove play area. This is ongoing but with the intention to eventually connect the footpath on Bateman Close into the centre of the Grove.

Park and Stride car park / Barr Meadow Play Area: The major project for the coming year is the refurbishment and upgrade of the Barr Meadow play area and associated footpath works. Alongside the money being raised by the playground group a Leader Fund grant application for £22,000.00 has been submitted. There are also plans to connect the footpath in the play area with the bottom of the car park, and a link through to Barr Meadow bungalows. This will mean people coming across the pedestrian crossing will be able to get to the school without crossing the path of any cars. A note of thanks to Donna Davies and Kylie Bowman for leading the fundraising, which now amounts to nearly £10,000, was recorded.

Phil Sharp: Phil joined the Parish Council on the 19th May 2003. After 15 years of service the meeting joined with the current and past Parish Councillors with whom he has served, as well as Roger Phillips, in thanking him for his loyal service to our community.

5. **Report by West Mercia Police:** PCSO Steph Annette introduced herself to the meeting. Two new PCSOs will be joining the team in the next few months. There has been one recent burglary in Shobdon, but the parish remains a low crime area. PC Dean Wall will be undertaking speed check training in June, after which he will undertake checks in the parish.
6. **Report from Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** A written report was circulated and introduced by Councillor Phillips. Since 2010 there has been cuts to Herefordshire Councils budget of £67 million coupled with huge increases in care costs for both social care and children's social services.
7. **Any questions:** The state of the pavement in parts of the village was raised, and Councillor Phillips will take these concerns to Herefordshire Council. A question was raised about Kington Medical Practice not being able to undertake medicals, and Councillor Phillips will look into this.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and all those who contribute to life in the Parish. Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments and view the plans for the new playground.