

## Shobdon Parish Council Meeting July 2020

### Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.45pm via zoom

**Attendance:** Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mrs A Boxhall, Mr C Jaques, Cllr Roger Phillips, PC Dean Wall (items 1- 3.2 only), Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Anne Walker; apologies were also received from Richard Bowen and Sue Whittaker and it was **noted** that this was due to issues with accessing Zoom rather than not being available to attend the meeting.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** There were no declarations.
3. **Public Participation**
  - 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** Talk Community is currently looking at how it can continue to support local COVID 19 volunteer groups in Herefordshire to ensure these local networks are not lost. Work on the new roundabout at Lawtons Cross will start soon and take 11-12 weeks. Cllr Phillips and the Chair of the Parish Council took the cabinet member for infrastructure (Cllr Harrington) to see the parlous state of the bottom of New Road, and particularly the impact the disappearance of the verge is having on the wall of the adjoining field. In the short term, Cllr Phillips has asked that red reflectors be put at the bottom of the road to try and ensure the integrity of the verge and wall.
  - 3.2 **Report from West Mercia Police:** It was confirmed that no criminal charges are being brought in the fatal road accident in the village but that the matter will be going to the Coroners Court. A report was received on the 5<sup>th</sup> July of a suspicious group of men near Belgate Farm and the incident is being followed up. There are a number of scams going round at the moment, particularly linked to track and trace and residents were asked to remain vigilant.
  - 3.3 **Views of local residents on Parish matters:** No residents were present at the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020:** The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record and will be signed by the Chair after the meeting.
5. **Finance**
  - 5.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**; the current account has a balance of £23,364.25.
  - 5.2 **Cheques:** The following cheques were agreed for signing - MCBS (PROW) £56.78, Clerk - July wages £592.23, HMRC £52.80, Clerk - invoice (office allowance, zoom subscription, newsletter printing) £79.39.
6. **Planning**
  - 6.1 **Gigaclear update:** Gigaclear are currently working on installing a green box on the Birches, but the next stages of their programme have not been shared with the Parish Council.
  - 6.2 **Update on any other planning issues:** There were no other planning issues to report.
7. **Parish Council Website:** The Clerk had circulated a paper looking at options for the website to ensure it meets the new accessibility regulations, including four quotes for providing a new website; it was **agreed** to proceed with commissioning Aubergine to build a new website for the Parish Council. It was also **agreed** that a website working party would work with Aubergine to look at how the website can act as a community information hub and sit alongside the village facebook and twitter sites; membership of the working party will be the Chair, the Clerk and Adrienne Boxhall.

- 8. Parish Council Grove field adopt a tree scheme:** The Clerk had circulated a draft scheme and form, which was **agreed** in principle with some minor amendments. It was confirmed that applications to adopt a tree will come to the Parish Council for approval, and that there will be a limit on the number of trees available for adoption. The suggested donation for adopting a tree was discussed and **agreed** that the final amount would be confirmed once the cost of the wooden dedication plaque to be included was confirmed. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would purchase an example plaque, and possible local suppliers of similar plaques would be investigated. Once the details of who will be providing the plaques has been confirmed the scheme can be publicised in the parish.
- 9. Updates and action**
- 9.1 Lengthsman and PROW:** It was **agreed** that HiTrees would be asked to clear the weeds from the pavement by the birches.
- 9.2 Footpath Bridge:** The Chairman and Cllr Phillips met with Cllr John Harrington and representatives from Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty on site to discuss next steps in the project. HC and BBLP would prefer that the footbridge be a removable timber bridge on concrete foundations to make it easier for them to undertake maintenance to the road bridge. At the meeting, Herefordshire Council confirmed they would discuss whether they could fund the design of the bridge by Balfour Beatty, so that the Parish Council can work to these designs. Herefordshire Council also agreed to provide the Parish Council with some recommended wooden bridge suppliers that they have used previously.
- 9.3 COVID 19:** The Bar Meadow playground has re-opened successfully with people abiding by the regulations to keep use COVID 19 compliant. It was **agreed** that a reminder to people using the playground to limit their time if the playground is busy, would be put on the village facebook page.
- 10. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 11. Date of next meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020