

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting March 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.45pm in the village hall

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

8 members of the public were present.

Public Time: Progress on the purchase of the Grove field was raised, and it was reiterated that once the Parish Council owns the field, a gate will be put in at the Grove entrance to the field; in the longer term the village will be consulted on future use of the land.

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** No Apologies were received.
2. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 25th February 2019 and the extraordinary meeting held on the 21st March 2019:** Both sets of minutes were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Chris Jaques made a disclosure of non-pecuniary interest in item 10.3 and signed the book accordingly.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** Gigaclear work is progressing. The purdah period leading up to the council elections on the 2nd May 2019 has now started.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** There have been several crimes in the village in the past months, including bicycle thefts, a break in at the football club and theft from the airfield; there are named suspects for four of the offences. Residents were urged to report any theft, or suspicious behaviour to the police via the 101 number.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £34,286.26 and the High Interest account has a balance of £74,714.30.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows: HALC (19/20 affiliation) £627.07, Groundwork (NDP grant repayment) £931.00, Clerk March wages £592.43, HMRC March tax £52.60. It was **agreed** that cheques for the purchase of the field behind the Grove (£10,000 plus legal fees) and the pre-commencement sum for the playground would be signed before the next meeting. (Both items are already agreed in the budget.)
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **190765 – Woodside Agricultural Land:** It was **agreed** the Parish Council had no objection to the application provided this meets all the highways requirements for visibility.
 - 7.2 **190631 – Beechwood 27 Hanbury Green:** The Parish Council **agreed** they wished to object to the application for a two-storey extension to 27 Hanbury Green. The Parish Council would support a small-scale extension to the property but feel that the proposed extension is out of proportion and will not be subservient to the existing dwelling. The plans are not in keeping with the surrounding properties and will be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbouring bungalows, and therefore contrary to policies S4 a and b of the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan. (S4a) dwellings should be in scale with the general density and massing of existing properties and should be designed sympathetically to respect their character and feature, S4b) development should not adversely affect the amenity of adjacent properties.)
 - 7.3 **190485 – Shobdon Village Green Relocation of War Memorial:** As this application was submitted by the Parish Council, no comment was offered.
 - 7.4 **190871 – Yew tree House works to tree covered by TPO:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council wished to support the application.

- 7.5 Bateman Close:** The fact that the adoption of the road at Bateman Close by Herefordshire Council had not yet been completed has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council. This means that Taylor Wimpey are still responsible for the road. Correspondence with Herefordshire Council indicates that the delay relates to Taylor Wimpey needing to resolve a land issue with a local landowner. The Parish Council has no formal role in the issue, but it was **agreed** to invite Bateman Close residents to a short meeting prior to the next Parish Council meeting (Monday 29th April) to update them on the situation and encourage them to contact Taylor Wimpey to press for the matter to be resolved.
- 7.6 Fastershire/Gigaclear:** A meeting was held on the 14th March at which Herefordshire Council, Gigaclear and Complete Utilities provided an update on work to provide full fibre broadband to the village. Work in Shobdon is due to commence in April, with the village set to go live at the start of September 2019
- 7.7 Update on any other planning issues:** It was **noted** that planning application 190490 concerns prior approval application for a farm reservoir, therefore, Herefordshire Council do not carry out any consultations on it.
- 8. Information, Consultation and Response**
- 8.1 Rural Services Network Campaign for a Rural Strategy:** The email concerning the campaign had been circulated prior to the meeting and was **noted**.
- 9. War Memorial**
- 9.1 To agree new names to be added to the war memorial:** This item was postponed until the April meeting.
- 9.2 Wording for plaque at site of original war memorial:** It was **agreed** that the plaque would read "This was the site of the Shobdon War Memorial 1922-2018".
- 9.3 Update on progress with repair and relocation:** Simon Hudson has finished work on one of the milestones and it was agreed to look to relocate this on the other side of the B4362 (in a safer location), with the landowner and highways permission. The war memorial is being collected in the next few weeks in order that repair work can commence. A scope of works for the installation of the repaired war memorial at Hanbury Green will be drafted by the Chairman and it was **noted** that Pearl Lake have offered to lay the paving around the war memorial. The condition of the existing chain and link fence at the edge of the land had been raised by local residents, and it was **noted** that this had not been installed by the Parish Council but by a previous resident of Hanbury Green. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council were happy for this to be removed and the holes filled in. The Clerk will investigate costs of a replacement flag pole or repair to the existing one and report back to the council.
- 10. Updates and action**
- 10.1 Playground:** Hi Trees are hoping to start work on clearing the playground in the new few weeks, this will mean the playground will likely need to be closed from 8th April. Sovereign are due to start work on installation of the new play equipment on the 23rd April. The scope of works for the remaining work on the paths in the car park, and tarmacing the paths in the playground is being redone so that further quotes can be obtained for the work, with the intention that this work will be undertaken in May. This means that any formal opening of the playground will be delayed until after this work is complete, which is likely to be at the end of May.
- 10.2 Lengthsman and PROW:** It was **noted** that the path at Downwood by Pearl Lake still needs clearing in places, and the Chairman will contact Pearl Lake to ask them to get the work completed. The Clerk has not heard back from the locality steward about the responsibility of clearing the ditches on the U92414 and will contact her again.
- 10.3 Footpath Bridge:** The contracts for the land transfer for the two parcels of land for the footbridge had been received and it was **agreed** that these be signed and returned to the solicitor.

- 10.4 Cycle Path:** The fencing on the land at the Birches has now been installed. It was **agreed** to ask Mark Evans to add a small section to return the fence to the boundary of the bungalow at the north end of the land. The invoice for the purchase of the field behind the Grove has been received, and a cheque will be raised for this in April (start of new financial year). It was **agreed** that once the purchase has been completed, a gate will be installed at the South end of the field, but work to put a path through the field and a community meeting to discuss future use of the field, will be delayed until Autumn when work on the war memorial and playground is complete.
- 11. Items for the next agenda:** The gate for the Grove entrance of the field will be discussed at the meeting following the purchase of the land being completed.
- 12. Date of next meetings:** Monday 29th April 2019
Monday 13th May 2019 (Parish Annual Meeting)
Monday 20th May 2019 Annual Parish Council Meeting