

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting January 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th January 2019 at 7.45pm in the village hall

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

5 members of the public were present

Public Time: The question was raised as to whether Herefordshire Council can recycle foil trays and it was confirmed that at present this is not possible; it was suggested that washed foil trays could be donated to the school/pre-school for junk modelling. Future plans for a Christmas tree in the village were queried, and noted that the Parish Council intends to erect a tree again in future years and to possibly plant a tree on Hanbury Green for future use.

1. **Apologies for absence:** No apologies were received.
2. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17th December 2018 and extraordinary meeting held on 11th January 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 10.4 and signed the book accordingly.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** The county council budget for 2019/20 is being finalised, with council tax likely to rise by 4.9%. Councillor Phillips has been working with officers on a proposal to introduce a “rural roundabout” at Lawtons Cross on the A4110, that will hopefully be included in the 2019 capital works programme. Kingsland Parish Council wants to divert all the HGVs from Cobnash to this junction.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** No report had been received.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £42,310.83 and the High Interest account has a balance of £74,714.30.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows - Data Orchard (NDP) £432.00, HALC (training) £36.00, Village Hall £27.00, Clerk (wages) £592.43, HMRC (Jan tax) £52.60, Clerk (£68.98, Notice Board Company £513.60, HiTrees (lengthsman) £252.00. It was **agreed** that a cheque for the playground equipment deposit be signed as soon as the invoice was received.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **Update on planning issues:** The clerk had been in contact with Gigaclear who had indicated that they were likely to be starting work in late March. The planned work will involve a duct/cable being required where the new dropped kerb is being installed at the Birches. The Clerk is liaising with Gigaclear to get the specifications for the duct so that this can be installed done prior to the new path/kerb being completed.
8. **War Memorial**
 - 8.1 **Hanbury Green:** The Clerk had discovered that Parish Council ownership of the land at Hanbury Green was not registered with the land registry, and it was **agreed** to instruct the Parish Council solicitor to undertake the process of formally registering the land for the Parish Council.
 - 8.2 **Planning Permission:** The plans for the new site of the war memorial at Hanbury Green had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was **agreed** to submit these to Herefordshire council for planning approval. (The fee for this will be £117.00.)

9. Information, Consultation and Response

9.1 Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation: It was **noted** that the draft plan includes provision for the re-opening of the quarry at Shobdon, which is currently mothballed. The site is currently very overgrown, and the fence line is in an extremely poor condition causing a potential safety hazard. It was **agreed** that whilst the Parish Council had no objection in principle to the re-opening of the quarry, they would like Herefordshire Council to hold Tarmac to account on timescales for the possible re-opening of the site. If the site is not to be used in the foreseeable future, then Tarmac should be required to manage the rehabilitation of the site to ensure future safety and remove their waste and scrap from the land.

9.2 Shobdon Eco-school Committee: The Parish council had received a letter from Shobdon School eco-committee concerning litter in the village and proposing several initiatives to address this, including a litter pick, posters and more litter bins. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would meet with the group to discuss ways the school, Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch could work together to tackle the problem.

10. Updates and action

10.1 Playground: The Parish Council has received confirmation that they have been successful in their application to the European Leader fund for £20,000 towards the new play equipment at Bar Meadow. The Chair and Clerk have met with the Herefordshire council officers who manage the funding to confirm the funding agreement and agree timescales. The plan is for Sovereign to install the play equipment in the week of the 23rd April. A meeting of the playground working group will be held on the 30th January to look at work to be done and agree dates/plans.

10.2 Village website – domain names: An informal meeting on promoting volunteering in the parish had been held with representatives from the School governing body, village hall, church, neighbourhood watch and parish council. Amongst the issues discussed included communication in the village and the possibility of a parish website to sit alongside the village facebook page. This would hold simple contact information for all the groups active in the village. The available domain names linked to “Shobdon village” had been investigated and it was **agreed** to purchase “shobdonvillage.com” and “shobdonvillage.info” at a cost of £9.99 and £10.95 per annum. (It was **noted** that shodonvillage.co.uk is currently not available, but if this does become available the Parish council may look to purchase this domain as well.) The hosting costs for a website are likely to be £80 per annum, and proposals for this will be brought to a future meeting.

10.3 Lengthsman and PROW: Six new gates have been installed as part of the PROW scheme, with 2 more planned for footpath SO9. These are on/adjacent to forestry commission land at Shobdon Hill Wood and the Clerk will contact the BBLP locality steward to try and ensure Hi Trees can get access to the forestry commission paths to install the gates. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would submit the expression of interest form for both the PROW and lengthsman schemes for 2019/20. The Clerk and Footpaths Officer will work on a draft PROW plan for 2019/20 and bring these to the next meeting for approval.

10.4 Footpath Bridge: The Clerk is still awaiting confirmation from the solicitors that the contracts for the land transfer are ready to be signed. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact the Kingspan community fund to see if the July 2019 deadline for the grant towards the bridge can be extended.

10.5 Cycle Path: The Clerk had received draft contracts from the solicitor, but these had contained several errors and had been sent back for redrafting. The new path from Bar meadow into the village car park, to the playground and shop will be installed as part of the work on the playground.

- 10.6 War Memorial:** The working group is finalising their research on additional WW1 names to be added to the memorial and will bring these to the Parish Council for approval at the April 2019 meeting. The Clerk is now obtaining quotes for the repair of the memorial and move to Hanbury Green with the target for completion being end of June 2019, so that a rededication ceremony can be held in mid to late July.
- 10.7 NDP referendum – 28th February 2019:** The referendum on adoption of the NDP has been confirmed for the 28th February and will be held in the village hall. This will be publicised in the parish.
- 11. Items for the next agenda:** There is a NSI account held for the Parish Council which still has money (£629.84) left from the Queen's birthday celebration in 1977 to be spent on trees or other landscaping. Phil Sharp and John Andrews are the signatories to the account. It was **agreed** that discussion of this would be on the next agenda.
- 12. Date of next meetings:** Monday 25th February 2019
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