

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting July 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th July 2018 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr R Bowen, Mr J Miles, Mrs A Walker, Mrs A Boxhall, Mr C Jaques, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis, Councillor Roger Phillips, PCSO Emma Dunne (items 1-5).

4 Parishioners were present plus two members of the Save Mortimer Forest Group (items 1- 6 only)

Public Time: The boundary responsibilities for the field behind the Grove were raised, these will be clarified with Stonewater during the purchase of the land so that the Parish Council is clear on what responsibilities it is taking on. It was confirmed that Stonewater had agreed to the gate going into the fence at the end of Bar Meadow so that the path from the playground/village car park could be linked through to Bar Meadow and that this would replace the path (which is not a public right of way) that goes through the playground.

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
- 2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2018 and the extraordinary meeting held on 18th July 2018:** The 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 11.3 and signed the book accordingly.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor:** The route for the Bypass has been agreed but this will not be dual carriageway.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** A call relating to suspicious activity on Bateman Close had been made which turned out to be a cold caller. An incident of criminal damage in a garden on Hanbury Green has also been reported. Some speed enforcement has been done in the village and more are planned. The issue of HGV and lorry drivers not using the official diversion and getting abusive with residents was raised, and residents were encouraged to take number plates and report this to the police on the 101 number.
6. **Report from Save Mortimer Forest Group:** The representatives from the Save Mortimer Forest group introduced their campaign. Forest Holidays plan to build 68 holiday homes near High Vinnalls in the forest and the group is gathering support to oppose the plans. It was clarified that full plans for this have not yet been submitted to Herefordshire Council, and that once they have people were encouraged to register their opposition
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £33,918.22.
 - 7.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows - Village Hall £49.50, Stonewater Ltd £300.00, Clerk July wages £379.99, Clerk stationery £34.46, Herefordshire Council dropped kerb application £50.00.
 - 7.3 **Audit update:** The Clerk has clarified two minor queries over variance explanations with PFK Littlejohn (external auditors).
 - 7.4 **Purchase of WW1 commemorative footpath plaques:** A quote of £85.50 plus VAT to provide 30 footpath plaques had been received from RBLI and it was **agreed** to purchase the plaques on this basis.

- 7.5 Food and Flying Festival Donation to Parish Council:** The Food and Flying festival is donating £2,500 to the Parish Council; this may be used towards the war memorial (item 11.5 refers) or another current project. The Parish Council thanked the food and flying festival for their generosity.
- 8. Planning:**
- 8.1 Road resurfacing:** A meeting had been held between councillors, Roger Phillips and Simon Hobbs (from BBLP Traffic) to discuss the possibility of not reinstating the white line down the middle of the road once the resurfacing in the village is complete, but rather put white lines down the side of the road. This is used as a visual means of slowing traffic as it passes through the village. It was **agreed** to ask BBLP to proceed with line marking on this basis. The Parish Council had been provided with a project brief and costing for the preliminary design for the installation of the underground works for the potential upgrade to a signalised crossing. It is hoped that these works will be undertaken during the resurfacing of the road in late August, and the costs will be met from the remaining s106 money available to the village. The costs for the preliminary design only were indicated to be £3,806.57. It was **agreed** the Clerk would contact Herefordshire Council to query the level of costs for the work being provided.
- 8.2 Update on communication with Harpers (site behind New Cottages):** The Clerk had spoken to one of the site managers at Harpers concerning communication over the build behind New Cottages and they have offered to come to a future Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the Herefordshire Council planning website is still showing that the planning conditions on the site have not been discharged and the Clerk and Ward Councillor will contact Herefordshire Council about this.
- 8.3 Update on any other planning issues:** An application has been received relating to skydiving at the airfield and it was **agreed** the Parish Council was happy not to comment on this.
- 9. Cycle Path**
- 9.1 Quote for fencing at the land between the Birches/MUGA:** A quote of £1,600.80 (incl VAT) had been received from MJ Evans for the fencing at the site; Border Fencing has also been asked to quote for the work but had not responded. It was **agreed** to accept the quote from MJ Evans and noted that this expenditure would come from the MUGA money. Hi Trees have cleared much of the site, but cannot complete the work until Western Power have arranged for the trees that are growing across their power lines to be cut back. The Clerk is in communication with Western Power to confirm when this work will be done. Balfour Beatty have confirmed that a full dropped kerb application is not required for the site, and that a reduced fee of £50 will be charged for their site visit once work is complete. The Clerk will submit the required paperwork so that a start date to install the dropped kerb can be confirmed.
- 9.2 Village Trust response to changes to path in car park:** The Village Trust have confirmed that they are happy for the new pathway from the playground down the side of the car park and then across the back of the car park to be installed by the Parish Council. This will link with the gate into the road behind Bar Meadow to provide a safe route through to the playground and shop. Trustees had raised concerns about the possibility of children using the new gate at the back of the playground to then go to the shop across the bank at the back of the playground/front of the village car park with associated danger of encountering cars entering the car park. It was confirmed that the intention is to part fence the path coming from the back of the playground, so that it keeps pedestrians away from the car park and guides them to use the path across the back of the car park to access the shop.
- 9.3 Update on purchase of land behind the Grove:** The purchase of the land is being progressed by the solicitors.
- 10. Information, Consultation and Response**
- 10.1 Aymestrey NDP Regulation 16 consultation:** It was **agreed** the Parish Council had no comments to make on the plan.

11. Updates and action

- 11.1 Playground working group:** The Leader fund raised a few minor queries which have been clarified by the Clerk. They had also suggested that the bid had more chance of success if it allowed for 90% intervention, rather than the current 100%; the bid had been amended accordingly to ask for £20,834.00 funding. The Food and Flying festival rat pack evening raised £5,000 which meant a donation of £2,500 to the playground fund, for which a note of thanks was recorded.
- 11.2 Lengthsman and PROW:** It was **agreed** to ask the lengthsman to clear the road sign on the Milton Road, which are currently being obscured by hedgerows. An account will be set up at Mortimer Cross Building Supplies to allow the footpath furniture to be ordered.
- 11.3 Footpath Bridge:** The application to the Kingspan Community Trust has been successful, meaning £8000 funding towards the purchase of the footbridge. It was confirmed that this grant can only be used on material for the footbridge and not on solicitor's costs. The revised contracts for the transfer of land are still being awaited from the solicitors. A meeting with representatives from Welsh Water is being held on the 3rd August to discuss the project and confirm any required permissions from them.
- 11.4 NDP:** The revised NDP has been sent to Herefordshire Council who are now revising the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment. Once these have been received, together with the updated basic conditions statement and consultation statement, an extraordinary Parish Council meeting will be called to approve the set of documents prior to submission for regulation 16 consultation.
- 11.5 War Memorial – to agree next steps with repair:** The Clerk has received two quotes for repair of the memorial and is in communication with insurers concerning claiming the money for this from the car driver's insurance. Since news of the accident has been in the press, there has been contact from a number of local historians indicating that there are additional names of fallen from the First World War that should be recorded on the monument. The possibility of relocating the memorial to a sight where it was more secure and could be more safely used for remembrance services was raised. It was **agreed** that a public meeting should be organised to discuss the possibility of adding names to the memorial and relocating it; this meeting will be held on Sunday 2nd September at 2pm in the Village Hall.
- 12. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 13. Date of next meetings:** Monday 24th September
Monday 29th October