

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting February 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr R Bowen, Mr S Macdonald, Mrs A Boxhall, Mrs S Whittaker, Mr C Jaques, Mrs A Walker, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis

3 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Roger Phillips and the Police.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Chris Jaques made a declaration of non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 9.2 and signed the book accordingly.
3. **Public Participation**
 - 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** Cllr Phillips was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency meeting in Eardisland to deal with flooding. He had met with the Chair of the Parish Council on the 22nd February and would send an update for the next edition of the newsletter.
 - 3.2 **Report from West Mercia Police:** A report from the police had been sent. In January a caravan was stolen from a residential property in Shobdon, the caravan was found and suspects arrested. Damage had been caused to a window at the Bateman Arms and the offenders were arrested and dealt with on the night in question.
 - 3.3 **Views of local residents on Parish matters:** The damaged manhole cover in the verge by Old School House was raised. The Clerk has reported this numerous times to BBLP and will contact them again to confirm what is happening. The status of environmental issues was raised and the Chair confirmed that the Parish council is looking into what it can do in response to the climate emergency, and that this might be dealt with in a future iteration of the Parish plan.
4. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27th January 2020:** The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record and signed.
5. **Finance**
 - 5.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The Current account has a balance of £17,378.70 and the High Interest account has a balance of £55,119.51.
 - 5.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows – ICO £40.00, HALC – annual subscription £673.11, Clerk – invoice (office allowance, mileage and domain name costs) £81.33, Clerk wages £605.43, HMRC £39.60, HiTrees (3 invoices – mowing, MUGA mowing and lengthsman) £1,440.00, Hi Trees (lengthsman and bin emptying) £357.60 and Bucknell Nurseries (trees) £14.40.
 - 5.3 **Quote for tree work:** The Clerk was awaiting a second quote for work on trees on Parish Council land and it was **agreed** to defer this item until the quote had been received.
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1 **200216 Lower Cross Farm Kingsland – resurface farmyard with concrete:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no comment on the application.
 - 6.2 **NDP Settlement Survey:** As part of work on the new Core Strategy, Herefordshire Council have circulated a settlement survey to all parish councils on facilities available within the parish to inform the ranking of settlements for the purpose of delivering housing in the county. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would complete the elements of the survey where the information was available.

- 6.3 Gigaclear update:** The Chair and Clerk met with Ben Stone, Community Engagement Manager for Gigaclear, to discuss progress with the Gigaclear build in Shobdon. The problems with laying cables across the existing footbridge were discussed, as the cable in the parish cannot go live until this is completed. Gigaclear are potentially interested in using the planned new footbridge for their cables and a meeting with their Build Manager had been suggested; the Clerk will chase Ben to get the meeting arranged.
- 6.4 Update on any other planning issues:** The transfer of the road at Bateman Close to Herefordshire Council from Taylor Wimpey is still in progress.
- 7. Parish Storm Impact – update:** The heavy rainfall has made the potholes on the road noticeably worse and in many areas blocked or damaged drainage systems are making this even worse. Overflowing drains on the pavement on the Canterbury Road have been reported to Welsh Water.
- 8. VE Day 8th May 2020:** It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact the school, Pearl Lake, the airfield and the Bateman Arms to see what plans they have for celebrations on and around VE day.
- 9. Updates and action**
- 9.1 Lengthsman and PROW:** The hedge on the edge of Bar Meadow needs trimming back and the Clerk will email Stonewater to ask that the work is done. A letter from the Accessibility Working Group concerning making footpaths accessible, and drawing up circular routes that were stile free, had been received; it was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact the group to discuss further. The fence at the car park needs cleaning and the lengthsman will be asked to do this.
- 9.2 Footpath Bridge - revised plans:** The Clerk and Chair met with the owner of the Bateman Arms, who was fully supportive of the plans for a pedestrian footbridge but wanted to ensure that the footpath on the pub side of the bridge had a wall alongside it to ensure pedestrian safety and keep them clear of cars entering and leaving the car park. Revised plans have been drawn up for the bridge on this basis, which are based on a concrete base rather than a wooden built bridge. The plans were **agreed** and these will be sent to the owners of the pub and Welsh Water for comment prior to being submitted to Herefordshire Council for planning permission.
- 9.3 Cycle Path:** The path from the village car park into Bar Meadow has now been completed and is open, this will be tarmacked at a later date. The Clerk will ask Mark Evans to fence off the path at the back of the playground.
- 9.4 Grove Field – to discuss possible adopt a tree scheme:** There had been a lot of interest in a possible adopt a tree scheme and the Clerk will draft a scheme for agreement by the Parish Council at a future meeting.
- 10. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 11. Date of next meeting:** Monday 30th March 7.45pm