

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting January 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th January 2018 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr R Bowen, Mr P Sharp, Mr J Miles, Parish Clerk
Ms E Lewis,

1 Parishioner was present

Public Time: The road sweeping programme was raised, and confirmed that it appears that one side of the road has been swept. The Clerk will check the status of the programme with the locality steward.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Anne Walker, Adrienne Boxhall and Cllr Roger Phillips.
2. **Minutes of the meetings held on 11/12/2018 & 27/11/2017:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27th November 2017 and extraordinary meeting held on 11th December 2018 were **agreed** and signed.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** Councillor Phillips had sent an email report in his absence. He was attending a meeting with other rural councils who provide evidence to government on extra funding required for delivering services in rural communities. Current priorities are how to support the rural economy post Brexit and the cost of providing health and social care in rural areas. Herefordshire Council are currently confirming the budget for 2018/19, with council tax likely to raise by 4.9 % which includes a 2% rise for social care.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** PC Dean Wall attended and introduced himself to the council. He will shortly be undertaking the training necessary to enable him to carry out speed checks in the area.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £34,194.31 and the High Interest account £74,374.93.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows: Clerk wages - £379.99, Clerk mileage, office allowance and stationery - £106.14
 - 6.3 **Lloyds Treasurer account and addition of 3 existing signatories:** It was **agreed** to open a Lloyds Treasurer account and transfer the Santander current account over to the new account. The three existing signatories (Mrs Walker, Mr Sharp and Mr Macdonald) will be added to the new account with the intention that Mr Stokes will replace Mr Sharp as a signatory once the account has been established. It was agreed that plans for the High Interest account would be discussed once the new current account is set up.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **174648 – Shobdon Farm – proposed erection of gatehouse for poultry unit:**
 - 7.2 **Update on any other planning issues:** It was **agreed** the Parish Council had no objection to the application for a gatehouse at Shobdon Farm to serve the existing poultry unit. The need to enhance bio-security at the unit was understood, but the Parish Council would ask that assurances are received that this new gatehouse will have no impact on the footpath which runs through the site and is regularly used by walkers.

8. **Neighbourhood Development Plan - Housing site criteria and assessment:** Following the independent examiner's decision not to allow the NDP to progress, it needs to be resubmitted for a regulation 14 consultation. A working meeting had been held prior to the Parish Council meeting to discuss a draft paper and housing site criteria. The criteria will be revised following the discussion. The assessment of all housing sites against the criteria will be discussed and agreed by the Parish Council at the next meeting. The draft NDP will then be submitted for regulation 14 consultation.
9. **Parish Council Solicitor:** The instructions and schedule of costs for Lloyd Cooper acting for the Parish Council in the purchase of the land by the MUGA were **agreed**. The Chair signed the documents.
10. **Grit Bin:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would purchase a grit bin to be sited on the MUGA up to a cost of £200. It was confirmed that the Parish Council will be responsible for refilling this. There has been a stock of grit at the Oxhouse and the Clerk will check whether BBLP will refill this.
11. **Road resurfacing:** A draft letter to be sent to Herefordshire Council detailing concerns about the parlous state of the roads in the Parish had been circulated and it was **agreed** that this be sent, with the addition of a note about the lights failing on the pedestrian crossing.
12. **Information, Consultation and Response:**
- 12.1 **Data Protection update:** The Clerk had circulated an update on the new Data Protection Regulations following attendance at HALC training and a briefing circulated by the Society for Local Council Clerks. The update was **noted**.
- 13 **Updates and action**
- 13.1 **Playground working group:** The bingo evening raised £837 and the £1000 donation from the Julia Morris trust has now been confirmed. A further donation of £250 has also been received. The expression of interest application to the Leader fund has been successful which means that a full application for the £17,000 can now be submitted.
- 13.2 **Lengthsman and PROW:** The outline plans for 2018/19 need to be submitted by the 28th February. The Clerk, footpath officer and locality steward will be meeting to discuss footpath plans and the Clerk will draft the lengthsman plans and circulate prior to the February meeting.
- 13.3 **Footpath Bridge:** The revised drawings for the bridge have been received for the structural engineer. The Clerk will forward these to the solicitor and landowners with whom the lease for the bridge will be agreed. It was **agreed** that the Clerk ask the solicitor to begin the legal work to obtain the lease for the land on which the bridge will be situated.
- 13.4 **Cycle Path:** Stonewater Housing Association have been in contact indicating they are willing to sell the land by the grove to the Parish Council. They have been asked to provide a valuation for the land based on both the open market value for the land with no restrictions and the value of land with covenants regarding use (such as no development / building). They will also look at potential lease options for the land. There has been no news on Stonewater's plans to consult with residents of Bar Meadow about the proposed path into the village car park and the Clerk will contact them to try and progress the matter.
14. **Items for the next agenda.** World War 1 centenary plans will be discussed at the next meeting.
15. **Date of next meeting:** The meeting dates for 2018 had been circulated and were **agreed**. The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 26th February, Monday 26th March and Monday 23rd April.