

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting January 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th January 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

6 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Roger Phillips.
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Chris Jaques made a declaration in respect of item 8.3.
3. **Public Participation**
- 3.1 **Report from Ward Councillor:** Cllr Phillips had circulated a report via email. The quality of the repairs to potholes is being raised with Herefordshire Council, as is the possibility of getting additional signage at the junction on the B4362 by the turning to Downwood Farm. The transfer of the road at Bateman Close to Herefordshire Council is moving forward, and once some minor issues are resolved the transfer can take place.
- 3.2 **Report from West Mercia Police:** No report had been received, but it was **noted** that a caravan has been stolen from the village and there has been a spate of thefts of catalytic converters from cars. The theft of a gate from one of the village footpaths was also reported (with the gate now having been replaced).
- 3.3 **Views of local residents on Parish matters:** A resident raised some missing reflectors opposite Grove House and was encouraged to report this to Herefordshire Council. The damaged manhole cover by Old School House was raised; the Clerk has reported this to the locality steward and will chase. Speeding in the village was raised; this was discussed at the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and the possibility of starting a Community Speedwatch scheme is being relooked into. It was confirmed that the Parish Council supports the introduction of such a scheme and the Clerk will email the police liaison to this effect. It was **noted** that the investigation into the fatal accident in the village is still ongoing.
4. **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16th December 2019:** The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
5. **Finance**
- 5.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was agreed. The current account has a balance of £20,744.17 and the High Interest account has a balance of £55,119.51.
- 5.2 **Cheque:** Cheques were signed as follows - Shobdon Methodist Church £40.00, Clerk wages £605.43, HMRC £39.60, Village Hall £27.00, Richard Bowen (trees for Grove field) £486.00.
- 5.3 **Quote for milestone repair:** Simon Hudson had quoted £775 plus VAT to repair the milestone by Yew Tree place, although he will not be able to undertake the work until late 2020 or early 2021. It was **agreed** to ask Simon for a breakdown of the quote and that the Clerk would look for some additional quotes for consideration.
- 5.4 **Quote for tree work:** As the quote for the required tree works had not been received, it was agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting.
6. **Planning**
- 6.1 **Use of remaining s106 money:** Following investigation, Herefordshire Council planning department have confirmed to Cllr Phillips that, contrary to previous statements to the Clerk, there is still some s106 money remaining for Shobdon amounting to £1,055.07. It was **agreed** that this money should be put towards the construction of the path through the Grove field.

- 6.2 Update on any other planning issues:** The problem with the footpath link from Walpole Close into the village (behind New Cottages) was raised and the Clerk continues to press Herefordshire Council planning department to resolve this.
- 7. VE Day 8th May 2020 – initial discussion:** The celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE day will take place on Friday 8th May 2020 (which is a bank holiday). It was suggested that a village meal/party be held and that there were residents willing to organise this; it was **agreed** that further discussion on this would be held at the February meeting.
- 8. Updates and action**
- 8.1 Parish Council Project Planner:** The project planner was reviewed and discussion on different projects recorded below.
- 8.2 Lengthsman and PROW:** The Clerk was asked to check with the BBLP locality steward whether the Parish Council can mow the verge by the road up to the cemetery.
- 8.3 Footpath Bridge:** The Clerk and Chair met with the owner of the Bateman Arms, who confirmed his support for the plans. Revised plans for the bridge will be drawn up for the next meeting, following which the application for planning permission can be submitted.
- 8.4 Cycle Path:** Work on the path to link Bar Meadow into the village car park will begin on the 10th February.
- 8.5 Grove Field:** Twenty trees have been planted in the field and a willow arch will be added in the next few weeks. The possibility of introducing a scheme for residents to dedicate or adopt a tree was discussed, as was the naming of the field; it was agreed that a post would be put on the village facebook page asking for suggestions for a name and to gauge interest in an “adopt a tree” scheme.
- 8.6 Inspection Log:** It was **agreed** that the Clerk would draw up a list of jobs from the inspection log and that a work morning would be organised in the Spring to tackle some of the tasks.
- 9. Items for the next agenda:** VE day celebrations, planning for footbridge.
- 10. Date of next meeting:** Monday 24th February 2020