

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting June 2020

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 29th June 2020 at 7.45pm via zoom

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

1 member of the public was present for items 1,2 and 7.1

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Richard Bowen and Sue Whittaker and it was **noted** that this was due to issues with accessing Zoom rather than not being available to attend the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation: No declarations were made.
Item 7.1 was taken after item 2 but the minutes record discussions in numerical item order.

3. Public Participation

3.1 Report from Ward Councillor: Cllr Philips has been following up on residents' concerns about the new traffic restrictions proposed for market towns and continues to push for more extensive repairs to New Road. His monthly update will be issued next week.

3.2 Report from West Mercia Police: No report had been received

3.3 Views of local residents on Parish matters: No issues were raised.

4. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 18th May 2020: The minutes were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

5. Annual Accounts – 2019/20

5.1 Annual Governance Statement: This statement was considered and **agreed**. It was confirmed that the Chair and Clerk would sign the statement after the meeting.

5.2 Annual Accounting Statements: The clerk introduced the statements and the headline figures from the annual accounts. It was **noted** that the internal audit had raised no issues for consideration. The statement was considered and **agreed**, and noted that it will be signed after the meeting.

6. Finance

6.1 Financial statement: The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £25,413.91.

6.2 Cheques: Cheques were signed as follows - Gill Vaughan (internal audit) £150.00, Clerk (wages) £592.33, HMRC £52.80, Alan Jones (tree works) £1530.00, Herefordshire Council (2019 elections) £85.02, Clerk (office allowance and zoom subscription) £24.39.

6.3 Budget update and reserves plan: The budget update and reserves plan were **agreed**.

7. Planning

7.1 201549 Land at Pearl Lake Caravan Park – change of use: The Parish Council **agreed** that they supported the application but asked that the safety of those walking the footpath and the visual amenity of the landscape be protected by ensuring that the height of the new hedgerow being planted adjacent to the footpath in the fields be kept under four ft.

7.2 Gigaclear update: Numerous issues with the build have been reported to Network Build, and the Clerk and Chair continue to ask for updates on the schedule of work for Shobdon. It was confirmed that work will start in Moor Meadow in the week of the 29th June. Gigaclear have managed to connect cable across the footbridge, so the broadband in Shobdon will soon be ready to go live, although a date for this has not been confirmed.

- 7.3 Update on any other planning issues:** Herefordshire Council is still in discussion with Natural England to look at ways to address the phosphate problems, and whether plans for introducing wetlands can help counteract the pollution problem. Currently planning permissions which would expire are being given an extension until March 2021 due to the pandemic.
- 8. Website Accessibility Regulations:** The Clerk has attended 2 webinars on the website Accessibility Regulations which come into force in September 2020, these require the Parish Council website to meet legal accessibility standards. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would look into options and costings to ensure compliance with the regulations, including getting a new website developed, so that these can be discussed at the July meeting.
- 9. Updates and action**
- 9.1 Lengthsman and PROW:** The Clerk had drafted a footpath policy statement which was **agreed**. It was **agreed** to ask the lengthsman to clear the weeds from the gutter at the Birches (by the MUGA) and to shovel up the dead weeds on the pavement of the B4362 opposite Old School House.
- 9.2 Footpath Bridge:** The Chair, Clerk and Cllr Phillips had attended a virtual meeting with representatives from Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty to discuss the footbridge project. It was agreed at the meeting that the best way forward would be for BBLP to design the bridge, as this would ensure the Parish Council built something that met all the required safety standards. Herefordshire Council will discuss this with BBLP, with the intention that Herefordshire Council fund the design; the Parish Council would then work to build the bridge and Herefordshire Council would look to possibly adopt the bridge and footpath. Discussion will progress on this basis.
- 9.3 COVID 19:** Requests for help to the volunteer network are declining, but the network will continue working to support anyone who may need to self-isolate or vulnerable/shielded residents who need support. It was **agreed** that the MUGA could be re-opened from the 4th July following the further easing in lockdown restrictions, but that further information would be needed before the playground at Bar Meadow could re-open safely. It was also **noted** that Hitrees may be able to complete some maintenance tasks in the playground in the next few weeks. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would look into the matter further and a decision be taken onto confirm a date for re-opening the playground via email, hopefully by the 18th July.
- 10. Items for the next agenda:** Adopt a tree scheme for Grove field.
- 11. Date of next meeting:** 27th July 2020, 28th September 2020