

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting November 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 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, Cllr Roger Phillips, Parish Clerk, Ms E Lewis

4 members of the public were present (2 for public time only).

Public Time: Dog fouling at the field at the Grove was raised and a notice will be put on facebook reminding people to clean up after their dogs. Drainage at the pedestrian crossing was also raised, as when there is any rainfall the edges of the crossing are under water; this has been raised with Balfour Beatty and Cllr Phillips will follow up on this.

1. **Apologies for absence:** No apologies were received.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2019:** The minutes were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** Taylor Wimpey are close to an agreement with the landowners at Bateman Close, following which the adoption of the road by Taylor Wimpey can take place.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** An email report had been received. The investigation into the fatal road traffic collision outside of the Primary School is still ongoing and the police will be conducting speed watch events in the village in the future. There was a burglary from a property in Moor Meadow in November and the investigation into the incident is ongoing. A theft of red diesel from the airfield was reported in November. A number of telephone scams have been reported with fraudsters targeting elderly and vulnerable residents trying to con them out of money by pretending to be police officers. The next police surgeries in the village will take place on Saturday 30th November 2019 and Saturday 4th January 2020 at 10am at the shop.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £17,009.87 and the High Interest account has a balance of £55,119.51
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows - Clerk Nov wages £605.43, HMRC £39.60, UK aggregates Ltd (bike stands) £187.15, Clerk – annual website hosting cost and mileage £107.78.
 - 6.3 **Budget and precept for 2020/21:** The draft budget had been discussed at the finance working party and was **agreed**. The precept for 2020/21 was set at £25,000.
 - 6.4 **Updated reserves plan:** The updated reserves plan was **agreed**.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **Gigaclear Update:** The Chair and Clerk had met with representatives from Gigaclear to discuss possible location of two cabinets on Hanbury Green and cabling work on the Parish Council land at the Birches. Maps and contracts for both areas were discussed and **agreed**, and the Chair will sign the documents. A section 58 agreement (prohibiting work on the resurfaced part of the B4362) may delay Gigaclear work in Shobdon until autumn 2020, and clarification has been requested on the impact this will have on the timescale for the rest of the village going live.

- 7.2 NDP Review:** The Chair and Clerk had attended the NDP briefing in early November. NDPs stop holding full weight in planning decisions two years after they have been made and the options for reviewing an NDP were outlined at the briefing. (The Shobdon NDP was adopted in March 2019.) There are 3 levels of review, each with different levels of external scrutiny dependant on how many changes are being made. The Council Core Strategy is also currently due for review, and once this review has been completed NDPs will likely need to be updated to reflect the new Core Strategy, however no timescale was given for when this piece of work would be completed. A questionnaire on the NDP had been sent to all parishes, and it was **agreed** that the Clerk, Chair and Vice-Chair would meet in the New year to complete this.
- 7.3 Update on any other planning issues:** The pedestrian access from the new houses at Walpole Close into the village, which is currently not fit for purpose, has been raised with both the developers and Herefordshire Council.
- 8. Field between the Grove and Bateman Close:** The open meeting to discuss the future use of the field was held on the 3rd November, and overall the feedback from the this, and the returned consultation forms, was that people wanted to see the area kept as open space, with some wildflower and tree planting and perhaps some picnic benches. The possibility of people being able to plant memorial trees was also raised. It was **agreed** that an initial tree planting plan would be draw up, so that trees could be planted in the New Year. The problem of dog fouling in the field was raised, and it was **agreed** that two signs would be purchased asking people to keep their dogs on a lead in the area and clear up after them; the Clerk will also investigate the cost of providing a roll of dog poo bags at the entrance to the field. At the consultation event, the possibility of more facilities being provided for teenagers near the MUGA had been raised, and it was **agreed** that work on this will start in the New Year.
- 9. Updates and action**
- 9.1 Lengthsman and PROW:** The lengthsman will be asked to cut back round the cider press on Hanbury Green, clear the grips on Ledicot Lane and cut back the overgrowing vegetation on the pavement beside the B4362 from the Birches down towards the centre of the villager. Hi Trees are meeting with Richard Bowen to look at quotes for work on the footpaths in the fields owned by the AMCA.
- 9.2 Cycle Path:** A start date for the work to connect the path from the village car park into Bar Meadow has not yet been confirmed, but this may be in the New Year. A map of the cycle route/safe route to school will be produced and circulated to all parents and carers via the school.
- 9.3 Christmas Tree:** It was **agreed** that the tree will be put up on Saturday 30th November and the lights will be switched on at 5pm on Sunday 1st December. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Methodist Chapel.
- 9.4 Tree Survey:** The tree survey has been completed by Grove Tree services and the report will be sent in the next few weeks. A branch of the oak tree on Hanbury Green is pressing against the BT phone wire, and it was **agreed** that Grove Tree Services would be asked to cut this back as soon as possible to ensure the wire is not damaged.
- 10. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 11. Date of next meeting:** Monday 16th December 2019