

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting November 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th November 2017 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr R Bowen, Mr P Sharp, Mrs A Walker, PC Dave Boden, Ward Cllr. Roger Phillips Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis,
1 Parishioner was present

Public Time: A query was raised about sweeping of the gullies in the village and when this might be done. Balfour Beatty have changed the way this work is planned and rather than working on a reactive basis, the work is being scheduled progressively across the county.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mrs Boxhall and Mr Miles. **Accepted.**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held 30/10/2017:** The minutes were **agreed** and signed.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** The council was disappointed there was no extra money for social care in the budget but has secured a Better Care funding package. Discussion of the budget for 2018/19 is ongoing. Herefordshire Council have been asked by the new university to be its accountable body and they will review the proposal. Cllr Phillips has received confirmation that there is £14,326 remaining in the s106 funds for Shobdon and will liaise with the Clerk to confirm how the Parish Council can access these funds.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** There were no crimes to report. There will be a PACT surgery on 23rd December, 9.30-10.30am outside the village shop. PC Boden had recently attended a meeting concerning a trial of using Facebook to support neighbourhood watch work, as this provides a fast method of communicating information amongst residents. Volunteers are being sought to manage the face book page on behalf of West Mercia police and names need to be agreed by the 12th December.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £33,119.87 and the High Interest account £74,374.93.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows: Clerk (office allowance and stationery) £127.80, Grant Thornton (audit) £120.00, Clerk wages £535.88, PCC cemetery upkeep £150.00.
 - 6.3 **Budget and precept for 2018/19:** The budget for 2018/19 was **agreed** and Precept set at £20,739.33.
 - 6.4 **Donation to Heartstart:** It was **agreed** to donate £50 to Herefordshire Heartstart following the first aid course they organised in October.
 - 6.5 **Contribution for cemetery upkeep:** It was **agreed** to increase the Parish Council contribution to the PCC for cemetery upkeep to £500 per annum from 2018/19 onwards.
 - 6.6 **Methodist Contribution to mowing:** It was **agreed** not to seek a contribution from the Methodist church for mowing for the current financial year and future years.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **172046 – Land East of Shobdon Poultry Farm – additional plans:** It was **agreed** that the issues arising from this revised application and item 7.2 were the same, and as minuted in discussions of application 172046 at the July 2017 meeting (minute 7.2). Therefore the Parish Council response to both applications remained as noted in that minute: “These applications are on the parish boundaries and in both cases the Parish Council agreed that it is extremely concerned about the inevitable increase in traffic through the village that will result from both applications, particularly HGVs. The B4362 through Shobdon is recognised as the busiest B road in Herefordshire and is already in a parlous state. Both the Parish Council and ward member have requested repeatedly that this road is resurfaced, and believe that, should these applications

be given planning permission, the resurfacing of the road be given priority by Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council also believe that both applications should be conditional on the applicants making s106 contributions to traffic calming measures in the parishes affected by the increase in traffic. Transport issues are highlighted as concerns in the Shobdon NDP and Parish Plan. The bridge on the B4362 by the Bateman Arms is already extremely dangerous for pedestrians and additional HGVs coming through the village will only increase this danger. The Parish Council is investigating building a pedestrian bridge at the site to ensure pedestrian safety, and believe that these planning applications must make a contribution to schemes such as these, to alleviate the effects of the increase in traffic that they will bring, as a condition of approval."

- 7.2 173956 – Hangar Poultry Farm – alterations to existing poultry site:** See minute 7.1.
- 7.3 174222 – Woodhouse Farm – proposed roofs over existing sheep & manure storage handling areas:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported the application.
- 7.4 Update on any other planning issues:** There were no updates to report.
- 8. Purchase of strip of land by MUGA – solicitors costs:** Following agreement at the October meeting to purchase the strip of land between the MUGA and the Birches, the Clerk had requested an indication of solicitors costs from the vendor. Lloyd Cooper will be acting for both the Parish Council and the vendor, and had indicated that their fees would be £600 (including VAT) for each of the parties. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council was happy to proceed on this basis.
- 9. Public Rights of Way Scheme (PROW):** It was agreed that the Parish Council would enter the PROW scheme for 2018/19. The Parish has 20.5km of eligible footpaths meaning a total budget of £1332.50 of which Herefordshire Council will contribute £1025.00 and the Parish Council £307.50. The Clerk had received a list of prices for footpath furniture from BBLP but it was confirmed that the Parish Council is free to source these items elsewhere.
- 10. Information, Consultation and Response**
 - 10.1 Herefordshire Council Travellers Site Development Plan:** The consultation on the plan was **noted**.
 - 11. Updates and Action**
 - 11.1 Village Hall Committee and Airfield:** There were no matters to report from the village hall. The bridleway at the airfield was raised, as it was reported that airfield staff had stopped someone walking on the bridleway and indicated they needed accompanying on the bridleway where it crossed the airfield, which is incorrect. It was agreed that the airfield would be contacted to confirm the route of the bridleway and that walkers have a right of way across this without needing to be accompanied.
 - 11.2 Playground working group:** A Christmas quiz has been printed and is being sold in the village. A bingo evening to raise funds is being held on Saturday 16th December in the village hall. The expression of interest form to the European Leader fund has been submitted and confirmation of whether the application has made it through to the next stage should be received within 30 days. Confirmation of the release of the donation from the Julia Morris Trust by the Charities Aid Foundation is still being sought.
 - 11.3 NDP:** The examination has commenced but as yet no questions have been received from the examiner.
 - 11.4 Lengthsman:** The lengthsman has been asked to clear the moss from the footpaths on Moor Meadow following an issue raised by a parishioner. The lengthsman has indicated they would be able to empty the four village litter bins not on the council route, and are looking at providing a quote for this work.

- 11.5 Footpath Bridge:** The structural engineer has been contacted about providing a revised plan for the bridge, given the landbank has changed on one side. He has indicated he will not be able to come out to site until early 2018 and the Clerk has been in contact with him to book a site visit. Once the revised plan is received, work can commence on the legal requirements for the lease of the land and quotes obtained for building and installing the bridge.
- 11.6 Cycle Path:** Stonewater Housing Association are looking at possibilities for the field by the Grove, and how the Parish Council may get access to/across this for the path. Stonewater are also planning an internal meeting to look at ways in which to consult with residents of Bar Meadow concerning the path going behind the bungalows and into the village car park.
- 12. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 13. Date of next meetings**
Monday 11th December, 7.45pm (Extraordinary meeting – urgent business only)
Monday 29th January 2018, 7.45pm