

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting July 2018

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

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr R Bowen, Mr J Miles, Mrs A Walker, Mrs A Boxhall, Mr C Jaques, Mr S Macdonald, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis.

4 members of the public were present

Public Time: The leaflet from Fastershire was raised, particularly the reference to them needing to dig up the road to lay broadband cable given the road has only just been resurfaced. The Chair of the Parish council has been in communication with Herefordshire Council, who have confirmed they are hoping to use the pavement and verges to lay the cable but it may be necessary to dig up the road in some locations. The Parish Council have asked a representative from Herefordshire Council to come to a future meeting to discuss the issue.

The reinstatement of the pelican crossing was raised, and why the resurfacing work did not address the drainage issues on the crossing. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had flagged this issue with Balfour Beatty prior to the resurfacing work but the reinstated crossing still has water pooling at the sides. The Parish Council is waiting for confirmation of the final costs of installing the ducts for the potential upgrade to a signalised crossing, and is obtaining a quote for the full upgrade works.

A question was asked about where the planned cycle path will go from the Grove once the path through the field by the Grove has been opened. It was confirmed that until there was a safer crossing across the Milton road, the safe route through the village involves those coming through the Grove walking on the pavement to the B4362, crossing the road to Moor Meadow (where the dropped kerbs have been installed) and then using the pelican crossing to get to the shop/school.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Roger Phillips.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2018:** The minutes were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Chris Jaques made a disclosure of non-pecuniary interest in item 11.3 and signed the book accordingly. The Clerk made a disclosure of pecuniary interest in item 14 and it was **agreed** she would leave the room during discussion of this item. The clerk signed the book accordingly.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** No report received.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** No report had been received, but the police had been looking into speeding on the Milton Road after a request from the Neighbourhood Watch. They have confirmed that there are the requisite number of speed signs on the road (as per traffic regulations) and are looking into whether there are any safe paces from which to undertake speed enforcement on the road.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £44,595.07 and the High Interest account has a balance of £74,714.30.

- 6.2 Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows: Hi Trees (footpath work) £515.00, Village Hall £54.00, Sign It (MUGA signs) £96.00, HMRC (National insurance) £56.32, Clerk wages £525.37, Shobdon church mowing £500.00.
- 6.3 Bank reconciliation for October 2018:** The bank reconciliation was **noted** and signed by the Chair.
- 7. Planning**
- 7.1 Update on planning issues:** There had been no news as yet from Harpers on the queries raised at the last meeting. One of the residents close to the build behind New Cottages is having some problems contacting Harpers to resolve some issues, and it was suggested they liaise with the Parish Clerk to confirm they have the correct contact details.
- 8. General Power of Competence:** A paper on the General Power of Competence had been circulated prior to the meeting. After a short discussion, it was **agreed** that from 29th October 2018, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, Shobdon Parish Council adopt the General Power of Competence.
- 9. Parish Newsletter:** A paper on the parish newsletter had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **agreed** that the newsletter would move to a simple paper copy produced approximately five times per year. Deadlines for copy will be the end of the month prior to publication (i.e. end of November deadline for 7th December publication.) There will be no advertising in the newsletter and articles will be welcome from all members/groups within the parish. The newsletter will not be delivered to every household, but copies made available at the shop, pub, church and Pearl Lake and places on noticeboards. It was **agreed** that copies of the newsletter would be delivered to the elderly and infirm where requested.
- 10. Information, Consultation and Response**
- 10.1 Lyonshall NDP Regulation 14 consultation:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no comments to make on the draft plan.
- 11. Updates and action**
- Prior to discussion of the individual items, a general discussion on volunteering in the parish was held. Many of the projects the Parish Council is undertaking rely on volunteer support to keep the costs of the project down. It was agreed that more work to promote the different volunteering opportunities in the parish needs to be undertaken, and to show the many benefits this brings both to the volunteer and the community. It was suggested that a meeting be held with organisations such as the church, school, food and flying festival to discuss joint work to better communicate and promote people getting involved in the community and show the range of activities that need support.*
- 11.1 Playground:** The outcome of the Leader fund application is still being awaited. The aim is still to install the playground in the Easter holidays 2019. Once there is a decision on the Leader fund, or other funding is confirmed, the buy a brick scheme will be re-advertised with a closing date for buying bricks.
- 11.2 Lengthsman and PROW:** Two new footpath gates have been installed and a further two are planned. An anonymous donation of £900 towards work on the parish footpaths has been received for which the Parish Council are extremely grateful. It was **noted** that BBLP have installed a new waymarker on footpath SO18 in the Orchard.
- 11.3 Footpath Bridge:** The solicitors are still working on the legal agreements for the transfer of the land for the footbridge. Welsh Water have completed an initial trace of the rising main by the planned footbridge, and need to undertake further work for which there may be a charge to the Parish Council.
- 11.4 Cycle Path:** Two volunteer work mornings at the MUGA have cleared all the site, and the Parish Council thanked all those who had given up their time to do such a good job. The path from the MUGA to the Grove will be finished and then the fencing can be installed. The paperwork for purchase of the field behind the Grove is still being worked on by the solicitors.

- 11.5 Plans for Armistice Memorial Walk:** A short service will be held at the cross on Hanbury Green at 12 noon and the walks will start after this. It was agreed that there would be two walks – one short family friendly walk and one longer walk. A soup lunch will be held at the village hall afterwards, with donations to the British Legion. The event has been advertised through the village and on the village facebook page.
- 11.6 War Memorial:** The research group looking at additional names for the memorial has been established and will have its first meeting in the next couple of weeks. The Chairman had done an initial drawing for new location of the war memorial on Hanbury Green, and this will be circulated. Full plans will be draw up to be submitted for planning approval. An initial estimate for providing a new base stone for the war memorial at Hanbury Green had been obtained (at £1695), with the advice being that the original base stone is left in situ at Ledicot Lane and a plaque added noting the site of the original war memorial. Further quotes will be obtained for the Parish Council to consider.
- 11.7 NDP:** The regulation 16 consultation has ended and Herefordshire Council are aiming to have the decision issued on whether the plan is ready to proceed to examination by the start of November. They will then ask for the names of three potential examiners, from which the Parish council can select one to undertake the examination.
- 12. Items for the next agenda:** It was **agreed** to discuss the possibility of a Community Speedwatch scheme at the next meeting.
- 13. Date of next meeting:** Monday 12th November Finance Working Group
Monday 26th November Parish council Meeting
Monday 17th December 2018 Parish Council meeting

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following item. The Clerk also left the room during the discussion.

- 14. Clerks Contract:** The Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and is eligible for a pay scale increase. Advice from Herefordshire Association of Local Councils suggests that a qualified Clerk should be on pay scale 26 or 27, and it was **agreed** to put the Clerk's salary to scale point 26 (£7740.32 p/a for 12 hours per week) effective from the start of November.