

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting November 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr R Bowen, Mrs A Walker, Mr C Jaques, Mr S Macdonald, Cllr Roger Phillips, PCSO Felix Rawlison (items 1-5) Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis.

6 members of the public were present – 1 joined after item 6.3. Matt Smith (Herefordshire Council) was present for items 1-4 and 7.

Public Time: The issue of speeding in the village was raised. The police have looked into whether they can do speed checks on the airfield road, but there is no safe location in the area to pull drivers over. The possibility of a community speed watch scheme on the agenda.

There is an overgrowing hedge opposite the shop which is starting to obscure the road and this will be looked into. There is also a branch hanging down across the footpath gate behind Old School house and this will be looked into.

There has been a cold caller visiting houses in the village selling goods from a duffel bag. This was reported to the police, who confirmed that this is nearly always part of a scam and any such callers should be reported to them via 101, or if anyone feels directly threatened by calling 999. "No cold callers/we don't buy on the doorstep" posters are available from the police and neighbourhood watch.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Adrienne Boxhall and Jon Miles.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 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.

Item 5 was taken next in the meeting, followed by item 7.1 and then item 8 but the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** The figures for the cost of work on the ducts for the upgrade to the pedestrian crossing and of completing the upgrade have been confirmed. Cllr Phillips had obtained the maps of the sewage connection at the building site behind New Cottages.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** Jewellery was stolen from an address in Moor Meadow on the 17th October, with the crime being so far undetected. On the 24th October, two men were going door to door offering gardening services; they carried out some work for someone who had declined their offer and then demanded money. The police advise never to buy goods or services on the door and always contact them on 101 to let them know of any door stop traders. A farm was broken into in November but nothing was taken. Quad bikes are being targeted for theft at the moment and owners were advised to be aware.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**. The current account has a balance of £44,598.06 and the High Interest account of £74,714.30.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** Cheques were signed as follows: Mortimer Cross Building Supplies (PROW) £433.01, Clerk mileage, website hosting fee and office allowance £138.97, Clerk November wages £592.43, HMRC (tax) £52.60 and Hi Trees (mowing and lengthsman) £1320.00

- 6.3 Budget and precept for 2019/20:** The budget for 2019/20 was **agreed** and Precept set at £23,000.
- 6.4 Updated reserves plan:** The updated reserves plan was **agreed** and noted that this includes the required £5448.44 to complete the upgrade of the pedestrian crossing on the B4362 during the 2019/20 financial year.
- 6.5 Quote for new noticeboard by playground:** The clerk had obtained three quotes for a small lockable noticeboard to go by the playground which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **agreed** to purchase the noticeboard from the noticeboard company at a cost of £418 plus VAT with £10 delivery cost).
- 6.6 Quote for new playground fencing:** Following discussion at the meeting in June, the Clerk had contacted Border fencing to ask them to requote for the work, but had received no response. Mark Evans had confirmed his quote of £2280 was still valid and the Parish Council **agreed** to accept this. It was **agreed** to ask Mark to proceed with the fencing of the environmental area and changing the gate at the entrance to the playground on the B4362 as soon as possible, as this work does not need to wait until the new footpath at the rear of the playground is installed.
- 7. Planning**
- 7.1 Update on any other planning issues:** Matt Smith from Herefordshire Council had come to the meeting to provide an update on the installation of the new broadband network by Gigaclear through the village. Following concerns over the potential digging up of the newly resurfaced road, Matt had asked Gigaclear to redesign the layout of the cable to minimise disruption to the new road and confirmed that in the few places where they need to lay cable across the road, they will aim to use a “mole” to go under the road. At the moment the work is planned for December/January but this will depend on the survey. The new cable will provide speeds of 1 gigabyte a minute upwards, and individual households will be able to sign up with Gigaclear to access the new service. Further wayleave and household letters will be issued once the survey is complete and plans completed.
- 8. Parish Christmas Tree:** A proposal had been made that the Parish Council erect a Christmas tree on Hanbury Green. The Clerk had checked that no planning permission was required and that this was covered by the Council’s insurance policy as long as the “Special Events & Activities Guidelines” were followed. The Methodist chapel have agreed that the Parish Council can use their electricity supply for any lights in return for a donation to cover costs. Corbett Farms have agreed to donate a tree. It was **agreed** to erect a tree, and to allow £250 for purchase of lights. The tree will be put up on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd December, with the switching on of the lights to take place soon after. A small group of volunteers will be co-ordinating donations of decorations for the tree.
- 9. Community Speedwatch scheme:** The Clerk outlined the details and requirements of community speed watch schemes, which involves trained volunteers in monitoring speed in the village. In order to move any scheme forward, a co-ordinator and team of at least 6 volunteers would be required and it was **agreed** to put a call for volunteers in the December newsletter and see if sufficient people come forward to enable a scheme to start.
- 10. Information, Consultation and Response**
- 10.1 Travellers Site Development Plan Document – additional sites consultation:** It was **agreed** the Parish Council had no comments to make on the additional sites.
- 11. Updates and action**
- 11.1 Playground:** The outcome of the Leader Fund bid is still being awaited, although it is hoped this will be known before Christmas. The café at Aymestrey holds a vintage tractor run between Christmas and New Year, and will be donating the funds raised to the playground fund.

- 11.2 Lengthsman and PROW:** The Armistice memorial walk and lunch on the 11th November was a huge success, with over 40 people involved, £80 was raised for the British Legion. The Footpath officer has now installed all the memorial walks plaques. The bridal path at the airfield needs better signposting and the footpath officer will liaise with the airfield to look at the best way to take this forward. The 6th new gate has now been installed as part of the 18/19 PROW programme and a note of thanks was recorded to Pearl Lake and Corbett Farms for their help with fitting footpath gates. The Bateman Arms is planning to hold a “Shobdon Stomp” fundraising walk on Friday 28th December starting at 11am at the pub. At the end of the walk, soup and a roll will be provided at the pub, with those involved being asked for a £5 donation; proceeds will go to the playground fund.
- 11.3 Footpath Bridge:** All the paperwork for the land transfers is now with the solicitors, which means that the legal agreements should be completed soon. The Clerk has received an indicative cost for a hardwood option of the bridge, which would be at least £10,000 at current prices.
- 11.4 Cycle Path:** The land between the MUGA and the Birches now needs the resurfacing of the end of the path completed before the fencing can be installed. The Chairman is in contact with a company who may undertake some of the work on a voluntary basis.
- 11.5 War Memorial:** The Chairman circulated some indicative plans for the site of the war memorial on Hanbury Green, and it was **agreed** to move forward with submitting the planning application for the site. The research group have been investigating additional names for the war memorial and so far have found some additional names of soldiers from the village who died during the First World War, but have not found any names of soldiers from any other conflicts. The Clerk has spoken to the War Memorial Trust, who suggested that the actual war memorial be kept for recording names of the fallen from the First World War, and that should any names of those who died during more recent conflicts emerge, these be recorded on separate plaques in the new memorial location.
- 11.6 NDP – to agree response to regulation 16 comments:** Bill Bloxsome had prepared a document of responses to the comments received during the regulation 16 consultation, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The responses were discussed and **agreed**.
- 12. Items for the next agenda:** No items were raised.
- 13. Date of next meeting:** Monday 17th December 2018
Monday 28th January 2019