

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting July 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st July 2017 at 7.45pm in the village hall

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr R Bowen, Mr P Sharp, Mrs A Boxhall, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis, Councillor Roger Phillips

Public Time: A resident raised the issue of vehicle pollution from the B4362 and whether particulates were a potential health issue in Shobdon. It was noted that a survey on this was completed a few years ago and no issues were raised in Shobdon.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Anne Walker. **Accepted.**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held 26th June 2017:** The minutes were **agreed** and signed.
3. **Declaration of interest and written requests for dispensation:** No declarations were made.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** Roger is in the process of arranging a meeting between Parish Chairmans to discuss airfield issues. The request for the B4362 to be resurfaced has been put to Herefordshire Council again.
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** No representative from the police was present.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial statement to date:** The statement was agreed.
 - 6.2 **Cheques were signed as follows:** SLCC CiLCA registration £250, Clerks wages £379.99.
 - 6.3 **Audit Update and future accounts:** It was noted that, as discussed at the Finance working group a mistake had been made in the audit return which related to confusion over the difference between the formal income versus expenditure accounts compiled and the receipts and payments cashbook on which the monthly financial statement are based. (This did not affect the end of year net balances reported and published.) It was **agreed** that in future end of year accounts would be compiled on a simple receipts and payments basis.
 - 6.4 **Parish Council reserves plan:** The Parish Chairman introduced the reserves plan which had been discussed at the finance working party and circulated prior to the meeting. This shows a plan of allocating and building reserves and expenditure over ten years against four headings: general reserves, SID replacement, election costs and future capital projects. The plan also includes a forecast for the £64,455.00 the Parish Council was allocated for maintenance and development of the MUGA for 10 years. The plan shows about £5,000 coming into the overall reserves each year which would be included in the annual precept calculation. The Parish Plan has been reviewed and the areas under future capital projects includes plans for all the key areas identified in the plan. The reserves plan was **agreed**.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **172297: Arrowvale Works – proposed new industrial storage building:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council had no objection to the plan.
 - 7.2 **171936: Land Forming Milton Farm – proposed erection of three additional poultry buildings, eight feed bins and associated development:** It was **agreed** that the issues arising from this application and item 7.3 were the same and so the two applications were discussed together and it was **agreed** that the Clerk would make one response to both items. 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 affects of the increase in traffic that they will bring, as a condition of approval.

- 7.3 172046: Land East of Shobdon Poultry Farms – erection of knowledge transfer and training centre two poultry units, six feed bins and associated development:** See minute 7.2.
- 7.4 172765: Ty Derwen, Shobdon, fell one sycamore:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported the application.
- 7.5 162764: Hillhampton Farm - To discuss traffic control measures:** The Clerk had been contacted by the applicant seeking help in clarifying what traffic calming measures should be put in place to meet the planning condition placed upon the site. At the site meeting with Andrew Hardiman (Herefordshire Council Traffic Officer) the key issue raised was the dropped kerbs (uncontrolled pedestrian crossings) which are dealt with by condition 6 on the planning approval. The Parish Council understood from that meeting and Andrews's advice that no other traffic calming, such as a pedestrian crossing, could be introduced on the road in the vicinity of the site entrance due to issues with visibility. In terms of condition 7, Herefordshire Council have made no formal approach to the Parish Council about other potential traffic calming issues related to the application, or what the scope of these might be and it was understood that the potential for such measures near the site was extremely limited. The Parish Council **agreed** that at present they could offer no further clarity as to what Herefordshire Council would deem acceptable to meet this condition.
- 8. To receive updates and consider action on:**
 - 8.1 Village Hall Committee and Airfield:** It was noted that the Clerk is still waiting to hear about a possible date for defibrillator training.
 - 8.2 Playground working group: update and allocation of PC funds to overall project:** The final figure raised at the food and flying festival has not yet been confirmed. The buy a brick scheme has been launched and will be promoted across the village more extensively in September. The overall costs of the project were discussed. Alongside the £25,000 for equipment, funds needed to be included for work to the fencing and changes to the fencing between Bar Meadow and the village car park to put in a new path. An overall project cost of £40,000 was suggested as a likely maximum for all these costs, and **agreed** that the Parish Council would commit £10,000 from reserves to the project.
 - 8.3 Cycle Path: to agree plan for cycle path plan and allocation of funds to support:** The plan for a cycle path linking the Grove to the centre of the village was discussed. This project was identified as a priority in the Parish Plan. There are three areas where work needs to be undertaken: purchasing the strip of land between the Birches and the MUGA, obtaining access from Stonewater Housing for the path to go across the land behind the Grove and making changes to the fence between Moor Meadow and the car park to allow for the path to follow this route. It was **agreed** that an additional £10,000 within the reserves plan would be allocated to support the project, on top of the £5,000 included in the playground allocation for the path behind Moor Meadow. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would start

work on negotiations with Stonewater Housing Association and the owner of the land by the Birches over access to the relevant parcels of land.

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- 8.4 Casual Vacancy – to discuss and agree possible co-options:** Jon Miles expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and introduced himself to the Parish Council. He then left the room and after a brief discussion it was **agreed** to co-opt him to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.
- 8.5 NDP – update:** The NDP has now entered its second regulation 16 consultation which runs from 28 July to 15th September.
- 8.6 Eardisland Memorial Walks – to discuss and agree response:** The Parish Clerk had circulated a paper from Hugh Vernon concerning the Eardisland Memorial Walks Project, which is funded by the national lottery. The project is developing 13 walks beginning and ending at the war memorial, with a guide for each walk and waymarking of routes. The plans include using paths and rights of way in Shobdon and waymarks will be put up on some of these routes. It was **agreed** the Parish Council was happy to support the project. The footpath officers contact details will be passed to Hugh Vernon and the project information put on the Parish Council website. It was also **noted** that funding to keep footpaths open is included in rural payments to farmers.
- 8.7 Dropped Kerb Project review:** The installation of the dropped kerbs and issues with this was discussed; the Parish Council has been asked to confirm whether they are satisfied with the work done. The initial installation of the kerbs had been of a very poor standard, but after a site meeting between the Chair, Clerk and Balfour Beatty (BBLP) it became clear that many of the problems arose from poor design and the unwillingness of BBLP to amend plans based on advice of the ground crew. Numerous issues have been raised with BBLP which are now being pursued at more senior levels in BBLP. Roger Phillips is also following up on these issues, as well as the cost of the project, within Herefordshire Council. It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk would email to indicate the work has been done the best standard that can be expected given the issues with the design and ask for confirmation of the amount remaining in the s106 funds.
- 9. Items for the next agenda:** It was suggested that possible commemorations for the anniversary of the end of World War 1 in 2018 should be discussed at a future meeting. It was also agreed that it would be useful for the Parish Council to receive an update on progress against the Parish Plan priorities at least twice a year.
- 10. Date of next meeting**
Monday 25th September 7.45pm
Monday 30th October 7.45pm