

## Shobdon Parish Council Meeting June 2017

### Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.45pm in the village hall.

Attendance: Mr W Stokes, Mr S Macdonald, Mr R Bowen, Mrs A Walker, Mr P Sharp, Mrs A Boxhall, Parish Clerk Ms E Lewis,  
3 members of the public

**Public Time:** 3 local residents were present and questions were raised as to the possible impact of the recent general election on Parish finances and general costs within the Parish. Two residents were present to raise issues about item 7.1 (Planning application at Woodside) and raised objections to the application on the grounds that it was out of keeping with the area and represented a large increase on the footprint of the existing dwelling. Concern was also expressed that the access road/path on the plans which goes to the back of the plot, suggested the potential for a further application near the site of the derelict barn in the field behind.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Roger Phillips and PCSO Jo Ellis.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.** The minutes were **agreed** and signed.
3. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Anne Walker made a declaration of pecuniary interest in respect of item 7.1 and signed the book accordingly. It was resolved she could stay in the room during discussion of the item.
4. **Report by Ward Councillor Roger Phillips:** Roger Phillips had given his apologies for the meeting and his most recent report is in the newsletter. The Chair has emailed him raising the issues of lack of consultation by Herefordshire Council with the Parish Council over two new planning applications for chicken sheds on the borders of the Parish; both of these will potentially have an impact on traffic through the village. Roger will raise this with the planning department and the Clerk will also contact them. **(Action Clerk)**
5. **Report by West Mercia representative:** Jo Ellis has sent an email report confirming that there had been no crimes in Shobdon since her last report. Jo and Dave Boden will be on duty at the Food and Flying Festival on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
6. **Finance**
  - 6.1 **Financial statement:** The statement was **agreed**.
  - 6.2 **Cheques were signed as follows:** Aon Insurance £489.89, Orphans Press £377, Clerk (June wages) £379.99, Clerk (reimbursement for small lottery application fee) £40, Bingo expenses £48.76, Hi Trees Lengthsman £219, Hi Trees MUGA £762, Hi Trees Mowing £1536.
  - 6.3 **Finance Working Group meeting:** It was **agreed** that the Finance Working group would meet in advance of the next Parish Council meeting to discuss actual against estimated spending for 2016/17, status of Parish Council reserves and additional costs for playground refurbishment. The date will be confirmed by the Clerk. The Chair and Vice Chair must attend the meeting, but it will be open to all Parish Councillors. **(Action Clerk)**
7. **Planning:**
  - 7.1 **171603, Woodside, Shobdon, Proposed demolition of bungalow and building of 4 cottage dwellings:** A short visit to the site was held prior to the meeting. The Parish Council **agreed** that they wished to object to the application on the following grounds: the site is identified as green space within the UDP and Shobdon NDP and as such not suitable for this scale of development, the plans detail 4 dwellings which far exceed the existing footprint of the bungalow and are out of character with this historic part of the village; the land is not included as a site allocation in the Shobdon NDP and the Parish wishes to see this land retained as green space as it has been for at least 15 years; the visibility from the planned road access is extremely poor and joins the main road close to a narrow pinch point which is already a potential hazard; the plans provide

no connectivity to the main village settlement and would involve pedestrians crossing an extremely busy road near a narrow pavement that has been identified as a hazard in various iterations of parish plans; there are already problems with water run off at this part of the B4362, with gullies frequently blocking resulting in flooding of the Bateman Arms car park, the additional dwellings will only increase this problem.

- 7.2 171874 Springfield, change of use from domestic garage to secure building for storage of firearms:** The Parish Council **agreed** that they did not wish to comment on the application as they did not feel qualified to do so; given there is no change to the general structure and size of the building, but rather to its use, the advice from the Police will be essential.
- 8. Lengthsman Update:** The paper circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting was **noted**. In the current financial year, the council has budgeted for a total of £2239 spending on the lengthsman, with £339 of this being a grant from Herefordshire Council. The lengthsman provides a good service to the parish and the scheme enables the council to respond quickly to issues of parish maintenance.
- 9. Neighbourhood Development Plan:** The redrafted NDP, containing the revised housing site allocation and associated map, was **agreed**. The changes all reflect the discussions held by the Parish Council since the NDP was deemed not ready to progress to independent examination based on lack of deliverability of the housing target. The Clerk will now request that Herefordshire Council update the SEA and HRA, and once these are done the NDP can go into regulation 16 consultation again. **(Action Clerk)**
- 10. To receive updates and consider action on:**
- 10.1 Village Hall Committee and Airfield:** The pre-school has asked that the toilet be extended, and this is being taken forward with the school.
- 10.2 Playground working group:** Plans are progressing well for the food and flying festival, and the draft “buy a brick” leaflet was circulated at the meeting. The group want to work towards one build, rather than delivering the project in stages, and this was **agreed**. The Parish Council needs to consider the associated costs outside of the quote from Sovereign, such as renewing/installing fencing as require. The status of the current footpath from Bar Meadow, through the playground onto the road was discussed. It was confirmed that this is not a public right of way, and **agreed** that the Parish Council would investigate whether a path could be put between the Village car park and the access road behind Bar Meadow to replace this path, whilst ensuring ease of access for the Bar Meadow residents. **(Action Clerk)**
- 10.3 Casual Vacancy:** No resident submitted a call for an election, so the Parish Council can now co-opt a new councillor. The vacancy has been advertised on the council website, and a few names of people who might be interested were suggested. It was **agreed** that these people would be approached to see if they were interested in joining the Parish Council and the vacancy would also be placed on the village face book page.
- 10.4 Herefordshire Council Code of Conduct:** It was **agreed**, following the advice from HALC, not to adopt the new code at present.
- 11. Items for the next agenda –** the agenda will include any items needing agreement arising from the Finance Working Group discussions.
- 12. Date of next meetings**  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 7.45pm  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 7.45pm