

Shobdon Parish Council Meeting January 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2017 in Shobdon Village Hall at 7.45pm.

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

Public Time: Some parishioners present wished to speak to items 7.1 & 11.2 on the agenda so these were brought forward to the start of the meeting. (Individual minutes record the discussion.) Another parishioner raised the status of the Parish Plan; it was confirmed that the priorities identified within this are still at the forefront of ongoing PC work such as the Playground working group and road safety. Where appropriate funds are being sought to support projects. Cllr. Phillips has now got a contact at the quarry, from whom funds may be applied, and he will forward this to the Clerk.

1. **Apologies** were received from Mr M Weaver. Accepted.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 13th December 2016 were approved and signed.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations were made.
4. **Report from ward Councillor Phillips:** The previously circulated report from Councillor Phillips was **noted**. None of the roads Cllr Phillips had asked to be included in the capital road resurfacing programme were on the final list. The county budget is under discussion and likely that there will be a 2% ring fenced rise to fund social care alongside a 1.9% general increase.
5. **Report from West Mercia Police:** The representative from West Mercia was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report. No crime has been reported since December 2016. There will be a PACT surgery on Saturday 11th February 9.30am – 10.30am.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 **Financial Statement to Date (pink sheet):** The financial statement was **agreed**: the current account has a balance of £20197.34 and the High Interest Account of £74168.88. It was noted that there are several unpresented cheques which the Clerk is going to check before completing a bank reconciliation.
 - 6.2 **Cheques:** It was **agreed** that cheques be signed for Orphans Press, HALC, Bucknell Nurseries, Hi Trees, Clerks Wages, Data Orchard and Clerks Office allowance as per the financial statement. There is a Parish Tree fund and it was **agreed** the Clerk would investigate whether the Bucknell Nurseries invoice could be reclaimed from this. **(Action Clerk)**
 - 6.3 **Bus shelter cleaning plan & budget:** The Clerk had obtained a quote to clean the bus shelter which would cost £40 to be done every 2 months. It was suggested that HiTrees might be able to do this job as part of the normal lengthsman work and **agreed** the Clerk would contact them. **(Action Clerk)**
 - 6.4 **Bench for MUGA area:** It was **agreed** that the Clerk would go ahead and order two of the recycled plastic benches at a cost of £968.40. It was also agreed the benches would be dedicated to Ann Kent-Phillips and the Clerk will investigate obtaining some suitable plaques once the benches are in situ. **(Action Clerk)**
7. **Planning.**
 - 7.1 **New Cottages 164000** – One of the applicants for planning permission presented the plans to build 10 houses on the land behind New Cottages. A parishioner was also present and raised objections to the application on the grounds of road safety.

The Parish Council discussed the application and agreed to object to the application on the following grounds. The Shobdon Neighbourhood Development Plan is on its submission consultation (Reg 16) which is due to conclude on 20th February. The plan identifies a settlement boundary and plots within this for possible future housing developments. The land behind New Cottages is outside of this defined settlement and not included in the sites identified. The land behind New Cottages was considered for inclusion during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and rejected for the following reasons (as stated in the NDP consultation statement): "Herefordshire SHLAA identified this site as having significant constraints. Notwithstanding this the development of this land would have a significant adverse effect upon the character of this end of the village. Development at its eastern end reflects the historic parkland estate village character which is strongly evident as you pass through this part of the settlement. Here it is predominantly frontage development along the village street with residential curtilages extending at a fairly consistent depth. At this point the English Heritage Registered Historic Park and Garden fronts the main road on the opposite side of the road an village street. Its setting would be adversely affected and development would therefore compromise policy. The required housing target has been met and exceeded through housing allocations elsewhere. Better alternative sites would have been sought if a deficit had been identified." The Council also had serious concerns about the impact on road safety that the proposed junction onto Ledicot Lane would have. Given this is a single track road, and the turning into the proposed development would be very close to the Ledicot lane junction with the B4362, the impact of traffic accessing the development (both during building and after completion) could easily force traffic turning onto Ledicot lane to queue on the B4362, with the potential to cause a serious accident.

- 7.2 5 Hanbury Green 164104** – It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application to convert a conservatory into an extension.
- 8. Neighbourhood Development Plan update and end of grant report:** The Plan is now on its submission consultation (regulation 16) which finishes on 20th February. The NDP grant from Groundwork had to be spent by 11th February 2017 and a total of £1770.28 has been spent from the £1952.00 grant. The end of grant report was **agreed**. Any additional support required from Bill Bloxsome can be paid for from the money set aside by the Parish Council to support the NDP process.
- 9. Lengthsman**
- 9.1 Draft lengthsman grant/finance report for 2016/17:** The draft report **was agreed**. The Clerk will liaise with Richard Bowen to agree outstanding tasks for the lengthsman to complete before the end of the financial year.
- 9.2 Draft annual maintenance plan for 2017/18:** The draft plan was **agreed**.
- 9.3 Lengthsman update:** The hedge past the war memorial to the cemetery needs to be laid and Cllr. Phillips will talk to the Corbetts about this.
- 10. Consultation, Information & Response**
- 10.1 Marches Freight Strategy:** It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response from the Parish Council and check this with the Chairman and Vice Chairman before submitting. **(Action Clerk)**
- 11. Updates**
- 11.1 Village Hall Committee and Airfield:** The village hall now has a new cleaner. Defibrillator training needs to be organised and the Clerk will organise this. **(Action Clerk)** The provision of a baby changing unit at the hall was mentioned in the Parish Plan and this will be investigated.

- 11.2 Playground working group:** Plans and quotes have been received from two organisations, Playforce and Sovereign, with quotes ranging from £25,000 to £50,000. The plans were looked at and noted that one of the key differences in costs related to the type of flooring included. The group plan to meet and discuss a target amount to be raised and next steps for fundraising and grant application. The Parish Council **agreed** they would provide finance towards the project, with the amount to be agreed at a future meeting.
- 11.3 Footpath Bridge:** The Clerk will contact the Quarry to investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant towards the project. **(Action Clerk)**
- 12. Items for the next agenda:** The date and format of the annual Parish meeting will be added to the agenda.
- 13. Date of next meetings:**
Monday 27th February 2017 (preceded by Neighbourhood Watch)
Monday 27th March 2017
Monday 24th April 2017