

Shotteswell Parish Council

Minutes of Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2015 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), J Burgess, V Ingram (Clerk), A Omer, M Pearson. Cllr B Dala Mura (SDC) & C Williams (WCC)

Apologies: None

It was recorded that Cllr Pearson's apologies for the March meeting due to illness were received after the closure of the last meeting.

Members of the Public: 16

Disclosure of interest: Cllr Burgess re tree application at her home.

The Chairman recorded the Parish Council's appreciation of the service by the retiring Councillor, Mr Nell. The Chairman welcomed the newly elected member to the Parish Council, Cllr A Omer, and extended a welcome to the newly elected District Councillor, Cllr Bart Dala Mura.

Minutes of the previous meeting having been previously circulated were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Faulkner Seconded by Cllr Burgess.

Trees and Highways: The trees reported to Western Power will be dealt with shortly, but consideration for nesting birds will have to be observed. No date as yet for tree works along Coronation Lane but the same caveat will apply. Cllr Faulkner had cleared a tree, which, had fallen across the footpath. A branch had snapped off over the notice board on the lower road, this had been removed but did not cause any damage. Various defects have been reported including a hole in Middle Lane. Concern has been expressed over the bank opposite the Old Bakery and has been reported; it was agreed to ask STW to test the escaping water and to contact the owner of the property, to see if they have a metered water supply. The County Surveyor has only recently returned after a spell of illness so will be dealing with a backlog of jobs. The tree causing visual problems on Mollington Road (by the passing bays) has been removed and the verge tided by the bench. Although the verge had been reseeded it appears to have been run over again. It was decided that the best option was to move the bench further down the verge, approx. twenty yards. Cllr Faulkner will see if this would be possible without disturbing the base, Clerk will seek WCC approval. Concern has been expressed over the ditch dredging on the lower Mollington Road and the state of the verge. The contractor has been contacted and has begun to remove the debris and reduced the height of the verge. Although this has been an improvement there remains some debris, Cllr Faulkner offered to remove this. Various grips have been dug on the Mollington Road to improve drainage on both sides of the verge, some by the contractor and some by WCC. Thames Water had been asked to make good the verge by the sewerage field gate, which has now been done.

With the proposed resurfacing, which involved road closures, it appeared sensible to try and ensure that the traffic calming measures proposed by the Parish Council in terms of a band of different coloured tarmac be pursued. The council had been advised that

coloured tarmac is not the preferred option anymore, due to the cost of maintenance. The option for dragon's teeth road markings, new village nameplates and flower features at the gateways were to be pursued. Caroline Burrows from WCC had been contacted re viability of funding for this scheme, but disappointingly had not returned calls from Cllr Burgess. Cllr Burgess had telephoned again and was told that Mrs Burrows was moving jobs and had not got a definitive decision, but promised to get back to Cllr Burgess. Grass cutting of the verges appears to be very haphazard; this will be raised with SDC. A particular area of concern was the triangle of grass by the Coronation Tree, with very tall cow parsley causing visibility problems. It was agreed that owing to the potential danger the Parish Council would cut this back.

Fly tipping nothing to report

Bus Shelter: Water butt will be collected before next meeting. The inside of the shelter could do with painting and it appears that someone had defecated in the corner. The shelter will be monitored but it does only seem to be a problem during term time.

Dog fouling: There had been a marked improvement but is still an area of concern. Dog fouling signs still to go up on footpaths. The Parish Council offered to pay for signs to be erected around the permissive path, (by the Motorway) but a member of the footpath team had since told the Chairman that they had funds to do this. It was noted that the paper signs had already faded and are unreadable. The Parish Council contacted the Landowner of the permissive path and explained what was proposed in terms of notices and a reminder and was satisfied by this proposal. A section in the Chairman's report politely covered this topic, reminding everyone to keep to the line of the footpaths.

Playing Field: Matting not yet installed, but would be laid now that the weather has improved. Tree house, a date to look at the tree house with a view to painting was arranged for Friday 29th May at 7.30pm. An emergency repair had to be undertaken to the boarding that was coming away underneath the tree house. This was considered to be dangerous, the boarding was removed and checked for damage and repaired. Wicksteed had undertaken a site visit re exercise skier report not yet received. One fence post on the perimeter was reported as loose, it was agreed that this was to be repaired and the others checked. Cllr Faulkner & Cllr Pearson to check fencing and repair where necessary. The gate by the bus shelter is difficult to open and needs lifting. It was raised about the possibility of a handrail on the path leading to the bus shelter from the playing field. The Parish Council had suggested this in the past and steps, but was prevented from moving forward with this due to the compliance of the disability access. However, we could foresee no objections to a handrail to slow the decent. It was agreed to follow this up with the footpath team. The RoSPA inspection had been booked. It was reported that there was a dip in the ground outside the entrance to the field by the Village Hall, it was agreed to fill this and lay rubber matting to prevent this occurring again. It was agreed that Mr Corbett's bench needed cleaning and the vegetation cleared, contractor to be asked to strim around the bench. The contractor has been advised of the fete date to ensure grass is cut in readiness for the event.

Finance: The Annual Return had been completed and the Internal Auditor has completed her section of the return; there are no areas of concern. The accounts were discussed and all payments contained within were read in addition to copies being

circulated. The notice of audit had been posted. The accounts having been previously circulated and governance statement were approved proposed by Cllr Burgess and seconded by Cllr Faulkner agreed by all.

The insurance premium has been reviewed and all is in order the premium is £1,051 the coming year.

Paid since last meeting £374 for printing costs, this incorporates three reports by the Chairman and the Wind Farm correspondence. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Burgess agreed by all.

Wind Turbine: No date as yet has been notified for the wind farm site visit. Cllr Burgess & Cllr Ingram had requested to accompany the Inspector and the Planning Inspectorate has agreed to this. It was explained that the wind farm poster would remain until after the Inspector has visited the parish and then be removed, this had been previously mentioned in the Chairman's autumn report.

Parish Plan: Nothing to report, as there had not been any meeting since the open meeting in April.

Defibrillator: We are pleased to report that the Defibrillator at Mollington has been purchased and Mollington have thanked the Parish Council for their advice, which enabled their project to go forward.

New Road: The Parish Council had been alerted to a proposal to foam clad certain properties in New Road, this proposal was of considerable concern to the residents. The Parish Council contacted Orbit Housing Association and was able to dissuade them from undertaking this work. The Parish Council contacted Ratley, Radway, Farnborough and Warmington whose properties were also earmarked for this treatment and SDC and as a result these were removed from the programme.

District Council Report: Presented by Mr S Jackson, on behalf of The District Council's budget had been reduced by 1.2 million, but SDC were committed to maintaining front line services and were working in collaboration with neighbouring councils to cut costs.

Council tax had been frozen for the fourth year running.

District Council elections had returned the Conservatives with an overall majority. SDC continues to help fund CAB.

Core Strategy had received some set backs and the interim report had stated there was more work to be done, the good news was that this had not been thrown out entirely, and was very much work in progress. The Inspector had indicated that some 11,300 homes were required, which was higher than expected. There appears to be a shortage of affordable homes in the district.

The Parish Council was thanked for all the work they do on behalf of the community. Cllr Dala Mura then introduced himself after thanking Simon for his work over the years and also thanking all those that voted for him. Cllr Dala Mura explained his connections with the area, which led him to stand for election.

A discussion over potential traveller sites was discussed and advised to be on the alert for small pockets of land, which may hold this potential.

Cllr Williams gave his report, which included that more budget cuts were on the way. Some cost sharing had been achieved with sharing services with neighbouring authorities.

Caring for the elderly and "Looked after Children" was thought to be the major expenditure.

The county was mindful of the need to recognize and look after the welfare of careers, and was now providing 24/7 care for dementia sufferers in their homes.

Warwickshire police had amalgamated with Mercia Police.

Fire & Rescue were now based at Aston Martin's site at Gaydon providing seven-day cover with a four-man crew, which unions have agreed is more efficient.

Devolution was being considered after the election and Greater Manchester was already looking after health. Unitary authorities were once again being discussed and it appeared that Eric Pickles was not in favour of these, but Eric Pickles is no longer the Minister responsible for that department.

The provisional date for next meeting Tuesday 14th July 2014
Meeting Closed.

DRAFT