

Shotteswell Parish Council

Minutes of Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were: Cllrs L Faulkner (Chair) M Pearson, J Burgess, Ingram (Clerk) Omer, SDC B Dalla Mura

Apologies: Cllr Williams WCC

Members of the Public: 9

Disclosure of interest: None

Condolences were expressed for the tragic loss of Liz Jackson, wife of our former District Councillor.

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

Cllr Omer felt it important for it to be noted that there was a unanimous vote to adopt the Parish Plan as it had been rather contentious.

Matters Arising

Highways and Trees

Various defects reported including uncollected signs and road surface conditions in Snuff and Chapel Lane. Signpost poles had been replaced on B4100, our thanks to the Highways Dept. Snuff Lane potholes should be done within next few weeks, road works sign collection x 9no had been completed. Various marker posts flagged for replacement, these will be done shortly.

It was noted that the Mollington Road, due to the installation of the passing bays, was much cleaner and vastly improved. However, three quotes had been sought to undertake the installation of a fourth passing bay, these were discussed under finance.

Trees: Western Power line clearance: Work to the tree at the Old Vicarage had been completed and the tree at Hillcrest raised again.

A letter had been received from a resident in Chapel Lane thanking the Parish Council for the recent works undertaken for hedge and verge clearance and requesting that the Parish Council will consider doing this annually.

Cllr Faulkner had tidied the jagged branches along Coronation lane and several people had stopped whilst he was working, remarking on the vast improvement. Some further trees are marked for clearance but we do not have a date and these would be considered low priority.

It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that a complaint had been sent to SDC enforcement regarding the hedge trimming on Coronation Lane, however the landscape officer had visited the site and was content that the works undertaken were fine, the complaint was therefore, unsupported.

Fly tipping two further instances had been reported, some boarding had been deposited at the layby on B4100, and this had been cleared on the 23rd December. Artificial Christmas Tree and box dumped in Mollington Lane, reported to Cherwell and had also been cleared away.

Replacement daffodil bulbs had been received and planted along Church Lane, our thanks to Gordon Ingram for planting these. This was at no cost to the council, some further bulbs in other locations would be planted later that week.

Bus Shelter nothing to report, the pull in is very messy and the Clerk had asked if the sweeper could come to clean the road, this was expected to be done in the next week or so.

Playing field nothing to report.

Dog fouling not as evident within the village but appears to be a problem on the footpaths and has been noticeable in Church lane.

Finance paid since last meeting:

Hedge and verge maintenance £ 151.20

Grass cutting £1,682

Paint for tree house £123.01

Proposed By Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Omer.

Cllr Ingram asked if the annual cut of roadside verges and vegetation could be added to the precept housekeeping. It was considered that this would probably not take so long in subsequent years. Cllr Omer felt people should be responsible for their own, but this was deemed as not practical due to residents not being permitted to work on the highway. It was proposed by Cllr Burgess and seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed to include this as an annual item.

Precept prediction for the year, breakdown read out in detail a discussion ensued as to whether to raise the precept by £500, but in view of the District, County and the Police all increasing their portion, it was felt that it would be appreciated if the Parish Council did not increase theirs. It was decided to maintain the precept at its current level for the fourth year running. This will be £5,500,

Grass cutting tender had been received, and the price was held the same as previous year.

Proposed by Cllr Pearson and Seconded by Cllr Faulkner motion carried.

Footpaths. Following a discussion on trying to make the footpaths more accessible for those less able to climb stiles, quotes had been sought for kissing gates to be installed on the Millennium Walk by the motorway. For three gates and delivery the cost would be £503, and installation would be £675. Cllr Faulkner had approached the landowner, who had agreed to the installation. The Parish Council was very grateful to the new Footpath team for agreeing to install the gates on their behalf, the council would supply the concrete. The Parish Council agreed in principle to purchasing the gates but would check to see if any funds were available from the WCC Countryside Team. If none are forthcoming will proceed with the project.

Passing Bay on the Mollington Road it was proposed to proceed with the installation of a further bay. Although the council would like to undertake this work the highways will only permit accredited contractors. The various merits of the scheme were debated and it was decided that the contractor was to be asked to install the bay and to make good

the taper on the other bay which are currently being overrun. Proposed by Cllr Burgess and Seconded by Cllr Pearson.

Village Hall: Not yet met.

Enforcement: Against Corner Cottage now resolved as the tenant has vacated the property.

Barns on the Second Turn further letter received giving details of movements this had been forwarded to enforcement team.

Complaint to ICO not yet determined.

Queens Birthday Celebrations June 2016, consideration of a party and a beacon to be lit on 21st April, were discussed. Cllr Pearson to arrange a portable loo. The owner of Laurel farm had offered the use of their barn as a venue and the Parish Council accepted with pleasure. Some contribution from the Parish Council will be made but amount not yet determined, to report back at next meeting. The Clerk will put out a letter to residents inviting them to a meeting to discuss the event. It was agreed that a beacon should be lit in the playing field, the possibility of some event surrounding to be discussed further.

Request to promote bowls club at Gaydon had been received.

Planning Applications considered since last meeting reviewed. Tree applications for The Barn, Chatterpie Cottage, Coronation Lane and extensions for The Old Coach House and Rose Cottage.

Provisional dates for meetings: 22nd March, 10th May, 12th July, 13th Sept, 15th Nov, 24th Jan 2017

Parish Plan: Cllr Burgess asked leave of the Chairman for a response to be made from the Parish Plan Chairman on this topic. The Clerk had contacted Stratford District Council (SDC) to enquire about procedure once the Parish Council had adopted the plan. There had not been a meeting of the group but correspondence had been received from SDC following the submission of the plan in November for a review, SDC had sent suggestions and alterations to be considered. Cllr Burgess pointed out that once the Parish Council adopted the plan then it became the Parish Councils and that she believed as such that consultation with the Parish Council should be made before any response was made. Cllr Burgess then asked if these questions had been responded to, and it appeared that they had without consultation.

Cllrs felt very strongly that the adverse comments should be removed and this was agreed as they were unfounded and did not reflect well on the community. Cllr Burgess stated that all that had already been completed also needed to be removed as these were historical and not aspirations of the community.

As a result of the feedback from SDC it was raised as to whether or not a housing survey (HSN) was required. Cllr Dalla Mura explained about the housing survey and it was discussed at length the concern being that even with a Parish Plan the village can still be ignored. Oxbury was used as an example having only a couple of months previously after having their plan adopted. Oxbury received an application for thirty houses. These were on the specific site identified in their plan where they wanted the land protected and wanted a staggered building period over the life-time of the plan, to allow better integration in to the community. Despite the plan, planning permission was granted for 30 houses on the site, this had also happened in Wellesbourne.

The Chairman of the Parish Plan stated that it wouldn't affect adoption by the cabinet if a HSN was not undertaken, but Cllr Dalla Mura seemed to hold a different view. It was decided that more information should be sought in view of the concerns of the majority of residents and it was felt that the HSN questionnaire was very invasive and would put most people off completing. Cllr Faulkner stated that he had said at the outset this was all that SDC were interested in development. The Chairman of the Parish Plan group suggested undertaking a design statement, the Clerk would report back at next meeting on both of these aspects.

County Council Budget 2016-17 – The County Council is currently formulating its budget proposals for next year. Central government has advised that there will be significant reductions in the settlement allowed which helps run the authority in addition to the money raised by the Council Tax etc. In the normal course of events authorities such as the County Council are restricted in the amount they are allowed to increase the Council Tax. This figure is normally 2% unless they hold a referendum. This year the Chancellor has announced that local authorities will be allowed to increase their annual precept by 2% to cover the cost of Adult Social Care in addition to any other increase charged by authorities. Therefore, I expect, in simple terms, that the new precept increase will be in the region of 3.95%, thereby not breaching government guidelines.

The County Council is in the middle of a four year plan to reduce costs by some £92 million. None of the front line services such as Public Health, Education or Adult Social Care will be subjected to the savings regime. There will be no significant capital projects announced in the budget and the plan is to reduce the current level of borrowing to be reduced to less than £20million.

The meeting was then closed.