

# Shotteswell Parish Council

Minutes of Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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:** 8

**Disclosure of interest:** None

Minutes of the previous meeting having been previously circulated were approved after amending Second to First Turn on the enforcement issue and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Pearson.

**Highways & Trees:** All highway defects had been reported. Outstanding repairs were to kerbing, repair to a hole in Middle Lane, (by the salt bin) and potholes in Chapel Lane. The B4100 junction on First Turn had been marked for repair.

Clearance of trees interfering with electricity wires had been completed.

The new passing bay had been completed and repairs to the other passing bay on the opposite side of the road had been made. Reflector posts to guide motorists during nighttime will be installed in due course. It was felt that the contractor had made a much better job.

Several incidences of fly tipping had been reported to SDC, which included asbestos and tyres dumped on the Mollington road and asbestos guttering at the layby on B4100. Tyres dumped in the verge over the county border would be reported to Mollington Parish Council for clearance.

A consultation to reduce the speed to 50mph on the B4100 between Gaydon and the country boundary had been received, but the Parish Council did not support this.

**Bus Shelter:** Nothing to report

**Playing Field:** Perimeter fencing: It was decided to ask the contractor currently working in the village to install the replacement fence posts. From a practical perspective this seemed to be the best option. Estimate £40/£50 had been received. Proposed by Cllr Pearson Seconded by Cllr Faulkner. A stock fence will also be installed in the adjacent field by the landowner to prevent livestock escaping into the playing field.

**Dog Fouling:** Appears to be still a problem in certain areas of the village, in particular around Church and Bury Court Lane and Second Turn.

**Finance :** Paid since last meeting

Hire of Hall	£50
Construction of Passing Bay	£2,790

Proposed by Cllr Faulkner Seconded by Cllr Burgess

Decision to remain in the scheme for the audit process. After discussions with and on the advice of WALC to local councils it was considered the best option to remain in the scheme. Proposed by Cllr Burgess and Seconded Cllr Pearson

**Footpaths:** The Clerk had met with the County Footpath Officer who was happy that the Parish Council had instigated the proposed improvements to the footpath by the M40 motorway. The

installation of three kissing gates rather than stiles would dramatically improve access. The owner of the field had stipulated wooden gates. The county would only provide one metal gate, which appears not to be in keeping with the rural area.

The Clerk had, at the request of a resident, visited one of the owners of the sewerage field to gauge if they were interested in replacing the worn stile with a kissing gate. The footpath running through the sewerage field is the arterial branch to the permissive path by the motorway. It was explained that there was no obligation but it would have been churlish not to extend the offer whilst other improvements were being undertaken. It was left that the landowner would consult with their partner and let the council know of their decision. It appeared that the owners did not wish to pursue the offer but as a result improvements will be made to the stile by putting several planks across the ditch to improve access, but without a handrail. This decision was taken on the advice of the footpath officer.

Insurance had been confirmed for the new footpath team whilst they are installing the kissing gates. It appeared however, that whilst insurance is covered for any works on the Public Rights Of Way (PROW) by the county, this does not cover any other works undertaken on permissive footpaths. It appeared that the outgoing team was not insured other than whilst working on the PROW and clearly this was something that needed to be resolved, in view of the number of permissive paths in the parish. The Parish Council is supportive of the footpath volunteers, and would be willing to offer cover to the footpath volunteers if approached. This needed to be discussed to see how this would work in practice, as there are stipulations that would have to be met to satisfy the insurance company.

**Enforcement:** Barns First Turn, buses appear to have gone, the Clerk will inform SDC.

**ICO Complaint:** The decision of the Information Commissioners Office regarding a complaint, made by a resident had been received confirming that the Parish Council had adopted the correct procedure and the complaint was dismissed.

**Queen's Birthday Celebrations:** A planning meeting had been held and "Save the Date" note circulated. It was decided to try and see if any contributions would be made towards the event and if this fell short then fundraising would take place. Dependent on the outcome of the fundraising a donation by the Parish Council would then be considered.

**Planning Applications:** Plans for the Old Coach House withdrawn. Permission to fell a conifer tree at Chatterpie Cottage approved.

**Parish Plan:** Amendments made to the plan had only been sent the day before the meeting, which had not allowed sufficient time for them to be fully considered.

The Clerk had made enquiries with SDC planning department as to whether a Village Design Statement was necessary. Given that Shotteswell is a Conservation Area it already enjoys protection and is governed by those rules, which stipulate certain design and features. It was therefore, on the advice of the planning officer deemed unnecessary.

The question of a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) was discussed at length. The survey would be for social housing only and is governed by the possibility of a landowner being philanthropic, by allowing any potential site to be sold at a cheaper rate to make this type of housing viable.

It was decided that the Parish Council did not wish to pursue an (HNS) at the current time. The decision was taken based on the response of the village following the first meeting held to discuss the idea of a Parish Plan. An undertaking by the Parish Plan Chairman had been made not to include any development in the questionnaire.

Proposed by Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Pearson that no (HNS) be undertaken.

The Parish Council had been asked if a Snow Clearance Rota could be arranged. It was confirmed by the insurers that this was not possible as there would not be any public liability cover for this activity.

A request was made to consider kerbing around the village and to create parking spaces at the junction to Coronation Lane and First Turn. It was felt that kerbing would be very expensive and did not necessarily prevent damage to the verges. It was felt unlikely that permission would be given to create a parking bay at a junction.

Parish Council meetings audience participation, whilst the meeting is in progress: This was considered and may be permitted in exceptional circumstances and by prior agreement. The Chairman holds the power to suspend the meeting and invite participation if required and has previously used this veto. There is already an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions at the end of the meeting.

It was considered that comments included in the Parish Plan relating to the Parish Council were inappropriate and as such these comments were to be removed.

**District Council Report:** Changes to Senior Management had been made at SDC. The Chief Executive had left and the role was now split between other officers including the Monitoring Officer. The Council tax element for the District Council had been increased giving a typical additional £5 increase on a Band D house.

**County Council Report:** WCC has to find an extra £12 million from reserves over the next 2 years, by using £5 million reserves, this year the budget will remain as planned, next year WCC will have to find the full £12 million. The majority of expenditure goes on providing Adult Social Care. The government has agreed to a special year on year levy of 2% on the Council Tax towards the cost of Adult Social Care

A Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub has been established the number of reported child abuse cases continues to increase. These have to be investigated immediately regardless of their credibility.

Warwickshire County Council is still opposed to join any form of Combined Authority with Birmingham and the West Midland Metropolitan Authorities.

County Council is re-evaluating a Unitary Authority for Warwickshire report due at the end of summer. A proposal for two Unitary Authorities has been made one for the north and one in the south. Some political parties do not support this proposal due to not reaching the minimum guidelines state of a population of 500,000.

**B4100 Speed Limit** – The County Highways are expanding their policy of introducing 50 mph speed limits on major roads. The proposal is for the B4100 from the County boundary to the 30mph limit at the entrance to Gaydon. As a result of objections, the introduction of the new speed limit has been delayed until the matter is debated by the County Council Cabinet early in May who will make a final decision.

The meeting was then closed.