

# Shotteswell Parish Council

Minutes of Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), J Burgess, V Ingram (Clerk), A Omer,

Apologies: Cllrs Pearson, B Dala Mura (SDC) C Williams (WCC)

Members of the Public: 6

Disclosure of interest: None

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

## **Matters Arising**

### **Highways and Trees**

Various defects reported to WCC and the council is still waiting for these to be completed, they include; the requirement of new poles on "give way" signs on the B4100, uncollected road signs and potholes in several lanes. Defects in Snuff Lane road surfacing had again been chased with WCC. It appears that more extensive road repairs may be necessary and this was thought to be causing the delay. Road surface deteriorating in Chapel Lane, outside of the Village Hall, this was also reported to WCC

Trees, some still outstanding to be cleared by Western Power. Following discussions with SDC re there being insufficient funds to send the flail machine through the village, an opportunity was taken to knock back the brambles and scrub, to give the village a tidy up. The tidy up included, Chapel, Bakehouse, Middle and Coronation Lanes, Back Hill and Mollington Road. The Contractor had full public liability to work within the highways. Many villagers had already commented favorably to the works undertaken. The Chairman volunteered to clear up any jagged bits left behind by the machine.

Cllr Omer believed that the scrub clearance in Coronation Lane would allow for an improved parking area in the winter.

The Clerk had spoken with SDC about the standard of grass cutting and the areas missed, this will be monitored next year for improvement.

The Parish Council managed to get the “SLOW” sign reintroduced on the Mollington Road entrance to the village, which will be beneficial in encouraging motorists’ awareness of entering the village.

Mollington Road, nothing further to report as bench not moved.

Damage to the BT line in Mollington Road was reported and the fault passed to BT, unusually this had been the second fault within a couple of weeks.

Fly tipping at the layby on the B4100 had been reported, the reg number of the vehicle has also been passed to the authorities. A quantity of clothing had been dumped on the Mollington Road gateway, from what appears to be charity bags. Cllr Faulkner will clear away the clothing.

A quantity of broken glass in Chapel Lane was reported and cleaned away by Cllr Ingram, before any damage could occur.

A further letter had been sent asking WCC to supply a breakdown of the costs for the proposed three new nameplates. It would appear that despite supplying figures from their own accredited supplier, which revealed a cost of less than £1,000 including installation, WCC are still adamant the scheme is estimated at £6,000 and wanted the Parish Council to pay half of these costs.

The Council had made further enquiries following Cllr Williams’ statements that an adopted Parish Plan was necessary before traffic calming could be considered and stated that Warmington had an adopted plan, giving this as the reason for their funding. It had since been confirmed that Warmington did not have an adopted parish plan. The Parish Council was having difficulty understanding why this was put forward as a reason. Cllr Williams stated at the previous meeting that Warmington had to pay half the cost of their traffic calming measures, (already installed), but this was not correct and the whole scheme had been covered by WCC. Cllr Williams had also stated that the further proposed works at Warmington were to be

match funding, citing this as a reason for Shotteswell having to pay, however, the cost of the scheme at Warmington is £18,000 but it appears that Warmington are not having to contribute. This will be raised at the next meeting.

### **Bus Shelter**

Nothing to report

### **Playing Field**

The Tree House has been repainted with the exception of the fascia board as the guttering need to be altered. Three coats of paint were applied to all other surfaces and the tree house is now weather tight.

Thanks were recorded to Gordon Ingram who spent three days decorating the tree house.

The bottom of the monkey bars requires painting but this was covered with earth, from molehills and needs to be cleared away first.

Weed killer, around posts was to be applied by Cllr Faulkner, in the following few days.

Fence posts not yet installed, but hopefully will be shortly, adjustment to entrance will be made at same time and the bird deterrents will also be replaced.

The Gate by Bus Shelter needs to be looked at as appeared to have dropped.

Skier, nothing further to report re repairs.

### **Dog fouling**

Still in evidence on footpaths.

**Finance** paid since last meeting

Poppy wreath £50

Election fee SDC £368.42

Proposed by Cllr Faulkner Seconded by Cllr Burgess

## **Village Hall**

Four members of the council attended the Annual VH meeting. It was proposed at this meeting that a Parish Council representative be appointed. The Chairman had contacted Cllr Pearson for his recommendation, prior to the meeting.

Nomination for rep Cllr Ingram was proposed by Cllr Faulkner and Seconded by Cllr Burgess.

## **Footpaths**

With the P3 group retiring the footpaths comes under the umbrella of the Parish Council. The council needed to know if any volunteers had come forward so that provision for this if necessary, could be made. Cllr Ingram asked that consideration be given to replacing the stiles on the circular walk by the M40 with kissing gates. This is the most accessible path for most people being mainly on the level and would help those less able to be able to continue taking some exercise. It was agreed that, this was a good idea and Cllr Faulkner would talk to the Landowner to see if such an approach would be possible. It was thought that kissing gates were in the region of £156 to £200, per gate. The Cost of kissing gates was to be researched before the next meeting.

## **Parish Plan**

Cllr Ingram met with the Chair of the PP and spent several hours agreeing to certain tweaks. It was understood that this had been submitted to SDC for consideration and will then be sent for comments by both authorities. A letter from WRCC had been received regarding Affordable Housing as a result of the submission.

Enforcement, nothing further to report

Following report was read by the Chairman:

Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting – sent on 6th October 2015

County Councillor's Report

1. Devolution – Greater Birmingham Authority. As I have alluded to previously WCC are involved in discussions about the make-up of local government based on the Government's devolution agenda. Warwickshire has 3 options. Firstly, to join in with a greater Birmingham Authority and

Coventry and Solihull; not a popular idea and possibly a last resort. Secondly, to form a separate authority with Coventry and possibly Solihull; this requires all districts to agree and Coventry want it. Thirdly, to create a joined up agreement with surrounding shire authorities i.e. Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Leicestershire. This would be a complex but workable solution, if all round agreement could be reached.

All things considered the County Council voted not to proceed with Option 1, the combining with Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull. The preferred option would be for a new initiative to combine with Coventry but as this seems unlikely the County are pursuing the option of combining with other shire counties which would mean that we can still maintain our independence and not be dependent upon Birmingham and other West Midland metropolitan authorities.

In the meantime, WCC is implementing further savings as a result of the reduction in government grant especially in housing related matters. As I have already intimated, this situation is being exacerbated by new legislation regarding the Care Act, integration with Health, deteriorating infrastructure, and ageing population and the effects of having to increase the minimum wage.

This matter has to be resolved by the end of February 2016. I will keep you informed of any initiatives that arise.