

Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st June at 7pm at the Village Hall, Shotteswell. (Draft)

Present were: Cllr Mills, Cllr Kettle, Cllr Feilding, Cllr Faulkner.

Members of the public: 51

Cllr Faulkner, Chairman of the Parish Council took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

A resident made a presentation outlining the parish plan and what it had set out to achieve, then went on to briefly touch on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) first consultation which had been published. Every household had received notification via the post inviting them to comment and were strongly encouraged to do so by Cllr Kettle (portfolio holder) who was in attendance and is covering this topic. Concern was expressed that this might bring unwanted development into the village and a resident used Oxhill as an example as to how despite earmarking sites not to be developed that this still had happened. The plan covers more than just development so needs to be considered in the round. The consensus was that a group consisting of two members of the parish council and three members of the public get together formulating a response to the SWLP, this group of volunteers would then report back their findings; the necessary volunteers came forward to form the group. This however, did not preclude each individual responding independently.

A resident explained that in 2029 production of petrol vehicles would cease as the government were trying to progress more environmentally friendly modes of transport. Although this was sometime off and technology has a habit of changing fast some consideration needed to be given to this topic. Following prior discussions with the residents wife a letter had already been sent to the MP outlining the concerns about electrical supplies etc to the village. The Clerk reported that a number of properties may experience difficulties using entirely all electric cars due to off street parking issues. However, hybrid cars were an option in the short term whilst other options were explored. Currently only a trickle feed system would be possible for most domestic users in the village which was fine for short journeys but presented problems for longer distances. Hydrogen vehicles, trains and buses were being used in the north of the country and it may be a case in the future that a mix of electric and hydrogen vehicles would become the norm. It was acknowledged that the Chairman had included this aspect in his annual report but the resident asked if the parish council would continue to monitor the situation and keep it on the agenda. It was emphasised that any electrical charging point needed to be fitted by a qualified engineer and approval needed to be sought from the electricity company before any installation. Currently the supply into the village would not be sufficient for rapid charge points.

A resident requested that the council improve its communication channels to avoid potential misunderstandings. It was explained that until Covid this had not been an issue and was largely due to the unprecedented impact of the last year. However, the council had dealt with anything that cropped up and was always there for residents to approach with any issues. A resident asked about the upload of policies onto the web following a FOI request, the Clerk explained that the ICO had suggested this rather than printing off large volumes of paper. Another resident requested another web site. And a further resident asked how he could find the Parish Council on the web, it was relayed that if you entered into the google search

engine, Shotteswell Parish Council that the requisite page would come up. The Clerk reported that the web site was fully compliant and had lots of interesting information about the parish itself in addition to the Parish Council information.

A resident raised an issue about the playing field and asked if the Tree House could be locked each evening, to avoid items of litter being left behind. Regrettably this had been tried before and as a consequence the door had been forced and damaged. Monitoring of the situation was currently under review and since the stickers warning of CCTV it appeared to have improved.

A resident asked what the position was in terms of mowing at New Road. The Clerk explained that around eighteen months ago a former resident of New Road arrived at the Clerk's door in quite a state with some paperwork informing her of the intention to charge a maintenance fee, to include litter picking and cutting the grass at New Road. The amount was significant and given that the charge would only appear to be made on Orbit tenants it seemed somewhat unfair when everyone was getting the benefit of the land, so the council sought to try and help.

After spending a lot of time talking to Orbit and putting forward the suggestion that maybe the council could take over the land to avoid such high charges and to safeguard the area it was finally agreed to try and accomplish this.

Shotteswell is therefore a "test case". This was not something that Orbit had initiated; it was an idea that was conceived to try and help and was then supported by the full Parish Council.

Obviously, anything legal takes a long time, firstly searches had to be made with the County Council to see what area they had adopted and then approval to dispose of the land had to be made by Orbit itself. Disposal of the land is quite complex and has to be signed off by a multitude of people before this can happen.

In June 2020 the charges were meant to have stopped, unfortunately, no one had let the council know that this had not happened. The Clerk had been in touch with Orbit and anyone paying the Ground Maintenance Charge will be refunded back until June last year. It was slightly different for anyone purchasing their property but this will fall away once the Parish Council has acquired the land.

Similarly, the mowing by the contractors should have stopped but Orbit believes this is because it was already a contract commitment and that is why they may have still been coming.

We have been led to believe that a rota system of cutting will take place by residents, for which the council are grateful. Monitoring for this season will be undertaken to see how well it is working. The grass needed to be mulched if possible but if collected the arisings need to be disposed of correctly.

There being no further questions the meeting was closed with the Chairman thanking everyone for coming along.

