

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Council meeting on Thursday 28th November 2024 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andy Bray, Andrew Pearson, Steve Harrison & Sarah Royle. Parish Clerk Julie Alden.

Members of the public: 17

The meeting began with an update from Harry Metcalfe on the situation with the bunds following the storm the previous weekend, and subsequent flood event.

The bunds were designed and built to deal with a once in 200 year event as was experienced in 2007. There are two bunds and the flow of water is controlled by railway sleepers at the outlet of each. Flooding of the village occurs when both bunds are full and water breaches the lower bund. The current plan is to hold as much water in the upper bund as possible before filling the lower bund. The recent flooding came about when the lower bund was full and breached.

Once the sleepers are in place and there is water in the bunds, it is impossible to move them to control the flow of water into the village. It may be that by allowing a better even flow of water from the lower bund by removing one of the sleepers, may be beneficial and Harry will implement this as soon as safe access is available.

A general discussion of the flooding issue followed. Cllr Andrew Pearson will lead an investigation into the various possible solutions to the flooding issues. He will start by making contact with WODC, The Environment Agency and Oxford County Council. The priority will be to seek ways of keeping water off the road.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence.

None.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 29th August 2024.

Minutes approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda.

None.

5. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None.

6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Reports as attached.

A discussion took place about the high volumes of traffic on the A40 and the effect of the new park and ride at Eynsham when it is opened.

Policy and Finance

7. Finance update – to review and approve finance update.

Approved. Grass cutting was the major expenditure.

8. Payments and receipts – to review and approve current payments and note receipts.

Planning

9. To comment on any planning applications received before the date of the meeting.

There is one application that just came in. The Backs wish to have a lower roof. There is no comment from the Parish Council.

10. Update on previous planning applications.

Pete Handley's proposal went to the committee and members of the parish council attended. This was granted outline planning permission despite objections, especially around affordable housing and what constitutes it.

There is no news on the Ashbed appeal – we are awaiting a decision.

11. Middle Norton proposal.

There was a meeting about this last week in Brize Norton. 350 houses are proposed on the land that is part of Kilkenney Farm. This is the first of several proposals to build in north Carterton. This is in the early stages of planning. Further developments are proposed near Crocodiles of the World by Christchurch College, who propose 700 houses and Savilles 350. The PC will object to all these proposals unless there are considerable changes to the supporting infrastructure are made. Other worrying developments such as the proposal for Carterton Football club are a concern.

Other matters

12. Maintenance of the pond and bridge.

Discussed. Ongoing

13. Highways.

Discussed. Cllrs AP and SH are now super users on OCC Fix my street and have been involved with OCC Highways on the state of our roads.

14. Opportunity for the public to speak – to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders, this will not exceed 15 minutes in total and 5 minutes per person

Sarah raised the issue of parking on the corner by Pump House. Cllr AP spoke to Chris at Highways about this – either a white line or a yellow line has been suggested as a deterrent. Cllr DC was quoted £3000 for a yellow line to be painted – we can do white though. Alex Postan asked if

someone can write to the quarry about the lorries needing backwashing. Cllr DC said he would contact them. James Dashwood noted that grass covering the road by the ford is cut up by traffic and suggested that ornamental rocks could be placed along the verge to discourage this, as other villages do. This will be considered further.

The meeting ended at 8.53.