

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7.30pm at the Old School Church Lane, Shilton.

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chairman), Cllrs Harrison Metcalfe, Sarah Royle & Andrew Bray, Parish Clerk Julie Alden

Absent: Cllr John Holloway.

Members of the Public: 23

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence

OCC Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson, John Holloway.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting held on 17th February 2022.

It was resolved to approve the minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

None were received

5. Matters arising from that meeting not on the agenda

None

6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.

Alex Postan gave an update on activity in the parish, noting that we are heading into election time. There was a report from the WODC flood officer and an investigation into alleviating flood risk. There are investigations into the work cost, origin of grants and whether this is possible and practical. The plans need the Parish Councils approval to proceed. Funding would not come from Government, but via private investment. Paul Hedges raised the issue of the stream into the ford. It was suggested that a pipe may be put in place above the flow to bypass the bridge. Diversion may also be possible via the farm, down Ladburn Lane and into the pond, going across the field and into the brook. Was this sensible? This was voted on, proposed by Cllr DC and seconded by Cllr HM. Costs and sources of funding will be investigated in a similar way to the bunds. Cllr HM asked about landowners contributions. Cllr DC said that this would need approval – the Environment Agency expect riparian owners to maintain the area.

7. Opportunity for the public to speak.

No issues arose.

8. Councillor vacancies.

There are two resignations from the Parish Council, John Holloway and Harrison Metcalfe. Cllr DC noted that the parish elections are in May and if there are more than three people interested in filling the vacancies, they will be filled via an election process. If anyone is interested, please see David.

9. Parish Clerk vacancy.

This has now been filled by Julie Alden. Cllr DC gave a brief introduction and noted that the start date is effective tomorrow, 1st April.

10. Finance update – to review and approve finance update. Attached.

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
23/02/2022	HMRC	PAYE	152.26
22/02/2022	OALC	Subscription	150.00
28/02/2022	Ubico	Waste	38.17
08/03/2022	Hubber	Maintenance	240.00
10/03/2022	Fox	De-fibrilator	53.10
14/03/2022	Hartwell	War memorial	59.04
21/03/2022	Peter Edwards	Wild flowers	296.00
23/03/2022	Harwell	War memorial	609.48
31/03/2022	Fox	De-fibrilator	59.94

12. Year-end accounts. Attached.

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

No live planning applications were received. Mr Dashwood's plan has been submitted and the consensus is that this is an improvement, with the trees needing removal gone and more being planted, and the front wall being left as it is with the inclusion of a hedge behind it. Paul Hedges raised two issues – the boundary seems to be extended with no mention of this in the planning permission. The second issue is concern over the pool. There seems to be free standing pools and this would have implications for drainage and conservation issues. Alex Postan noted that the conservation status protects against unwelcome encroachment and this should be maintained. The field behind the Rose and Crown was also mentioned in reference to encroachment as garden extremities are creeping northward. Cllr AB asked if Mr Dashwood was cutting back all of the trees? Paul Hedges said that only 2 were being removed, and that this is to help the rest grow.

15. New solar park proposal.

Cllr DC said that there was no issue with this as it doesn't affect us, hidden as it is behind the quarry. One member of the public said that it was more relevant to Shilton park people.

16. Neighbourhood watch report.

Cllr DC reported that there had been an attempted burglary at Rood Cottage. Cllr SR said that she hadn't been informed about it. Cllr DC advised reporting such incidents to both the police and the neighbourhood watch.

17. Environment report.

Cllr AB reported that 10-25 trees had been planted over 2 days in a what was also a very social atmosphere (with burgers and bacon butties!) There will be more planting in the autumn by the

brook and fields. He also said that help was available for landowners wishing to have more trees planted. Cllr HM then said that under the countryside stewardship grant conditions, he is unable to plant anything until 2025 – if he does, he will need to repay the grant back. Arable planting is allowed, but grass cannot be replaced. Harry would like to plant hedges on the footpath and far end of the farm. Cllr AB suggested that the stretch of road from Alvescot Rd to the junction need trees replenishing and planting at intervals. This would need approval before any planning can happen. Paul Hedges and Alex Postan noted that hedges will need maintenance, citing the hedges on the left of the dip and elsewhere. Cllr DC said that there would be more on maintenance later in the meeting. Cllr AB informed us that in early July the Shilton Environment Group would be holding a talk on swifts. Veronica Bray said that there would be a swift expert from Cherwell District Council coming to a talk following a walk around the village.

18. Old School refurbishment.

The roofing quote is almost done – waiting for revisions. There are two advanced quotes for the heating system. Companies are busy with solar and heat pump queries.

19/20. Flood prevention update/Thames Water

Cllr DC gave an update to the pumping station situation. The lack of chemicals is believed to be the reason for the sewage smells, which are linked to the sewage from Bradwell Village. Thames Water think that the system is sufficient and that the problem is related to the lack of chemicals. Cllr DC said that this letter and response is not good enough. Paul Hedges stated that this has been going on for 12 years – Health and Safety and the Environment Agency have looked at the system and then automated it. They still need to ensure chemicals are put in. This will be followed up.

21. War memorial.

The posts have now been erected.

22. Trees.

Cllrs AB and DC gave an update on planting. As it is now spring, it is too late to do any more but planting will resume in the autumn. The big tree near the pond will come down soon, and will be cut to fall into the pond. It will be replaced with other trees – probably next autumn. It was noted that the dog waste bin has been removed. WODC are replacing the bins with new designs which will take both general litter and dog waste. Cllr DC raised this with Alex Postan and the bin has been replaced. Alex Postan noted that the dual purpose bin would ensure that bags are not left tied to/under trees. Paul Hedges asked about replacing the trees in September/autumn. Alex Postan asked about the contractor removing the tree and Cllr DC suggested that he may take it away with him.

23. Memorial bench application.

Susan Gillett, a resident of Carterton, would like a memorial bench for her husband by the pond. Although not local, he was in the RAF and spent many happy times in Shilton by the pond. Cllr DC asked what people would feel about a bench by the pond. Veronica Barry mentioned that the possibility of benches further up the hill. Cllr DC raised the possibility that some people may not think non-residents should be able to do this. There was a general agreement in the meeting that the plan was good idea. Harry Metcalfe asked if we would be able to see the proposals for the design and have approval. Paul Hedges agreed that this would be a good idea.

24. Application for funding Citizens Advice.

Citizens Advice are funded by donation and have approached the parish council for a donation, stating that they have been providing assistance to 64 clients in Shilton with 303 issues and 605 activities. Cllr DC pointed out that this seemed an unlikely figure, given the size of the parish. Someone pointed out that they could well be including Shilton Park in their figures. Cllr DC agreed, and proposed a donation of £50. This was seconded.

25. AOB

Speed limits. The Oxfordshire county council reduced the speed limit from 30 to 20 through the dip and the village. There have been delays around this as the construction of Shilton Park has caused impeded progress. Cllr DC reported on the formation of speed watch, Steve Harrison has attended training and now has a speed gun. He said that around 8 or 9 people have registered interest in being trained as well. It is now a registered group. Cllr DC said that he applied for speed limit reductions following an email from Oxfordshire County Council. The application was on 26th February 2021, so quite a while ago! This will not affect the dip. Dc also added that he would prefer a 1 way system through the village. A member of the public noted that there was a problem with new types of car being virtually silent. Cllr AB noted that the 30 limit is not enforced. Cllr DC noted that there is not provision for a one way system with the OCC at the moment and that this would need referring to the residents. Paul Hedges asked about the ford. Cllr DC replied that the ford and dip would still be accessible for one way. Alex Postan noted that Addenbrookes has installed controlled bollards to manage traffic, which may be an option. Cllr DC noted that considered years ago but there was concern about access for pub patrons and visitor to the village. Cllr AB suggested the speed limit and possibly gates by the dip to control traffic from the hill. Cllr DC suggested a radar speed check transponder for routes along to Hen N Chick Lane and Alvescott. Paul Hedges remarked that this might entail raising land. Cllr DC responded that swing gates (proposed by a member of the public) would be too expensive.

The meeting closed at 20.45. The date of the next meeting is 19th May 2022