

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Council meeting on 25th August 2022 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andrew Bray, Andy Robertson & Donal Lowry, Parish Clerk Julie Alden.

Members of the public: 28

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Royle and County Councillor Nick Field-Johnson.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 19th May 2022

The minutes were approved.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Matters arising from that meeting not on the agenda

Pete Handley asked if the quarry issues would be covered under planning.

6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

No report was sent in from Nick Field-Johnson, but District Councillor Rosie Pearson was present to give a report.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050: This had collapsed, because the 5 different planning authorities within Oxfordshire could not agree on housing numbers.

WODC's Chief Exec, Giles Hughes, gave a briefing; money already committed for projects was not at risk.

RP reminded everyone that the meeting 'Shaping the future of West Oxfordshire' is on Monday 5th September at Carterton Community Centre. 2 members from each parish can attend. 2 parishes that were not on the list originally are now also attending. No District Councillors are attending – there is no room.

During the planning appeal in Burford, the inspector declared that West Oxfordshire does not have a 5-year housing land supply. Officers were still questioning this.

West Oxfordshire's District Council Cabinet will tour the area, including a visit to Carterton.

RP has been part of a group organising briefings for councillors and officers during September on issues around land use that affect climate & environment. These will cover Food & Farming; Woodlands & Nature recovery; and Renewable Energy.



RP is in contact with OCC about the revised Stagecoach timetable. RP also attended the quarry consultation yesterday. Cllr DC remarked that he hoped for a quick response. RP also attended a meeting, along with DC, at the Cotswold Wildlife Park.

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

Pete Handley remarked that this was a new format for speaking now. He said that the new radar device was not working well, and that it logs speeds from Alvescott Lane but not Hen N Chick Lane as it is only picking up the speeds of nearer cars. Cllr DC noted that for £2000 it was good value for money and doing well. Pete Handley suggested moving it further down Hen N Chick Lane. Cllr DC responded that it needed to be on a fixed pole, and that moving it when the ground was so dry and hard was not currently possible. Cllrs AB and AR had both tried. Pete Handley also had concerns about the quarry plans so close to the edge of Ackermann Street, and asked if there had been a request for an archaeological dig. Cllr DC advised him to look online and see what the proposals were. Mr Handley also noted that new people were now in charge of the District Council and asked if they were opposed to more housing in West Oxfordshire or the whole county.

Alex Postan noted that the roundabout by the ford is often blocked with builders vans and requested a small sign. Cllr DC responded that we would need to talk about this as a community as there are other parking issues that need addressing, for example the pub car park and signage. He suggested double yellow lines on the hill and the road. Glenn Loxton noted that the parking on the bend was awful. Alex Postan suggested signs to discourage people from parking there, especially as there have been a lot of people using the ford in hot weather. Cllr DC said that the sign was a good idea but there are already a lot of signs up for everything. Alex Postan also noted that there was a planning commitment made for the wheel washing of trucks from the quarry and this was not currently being done. Cllr DC will contact Smiths.

John Colson said that the pond was not being maintained and could it be tidied up? Cllr DC noted that contractors are coming in September and October to do this. There have been delays to this work due to wildlife surveys etc but it is being done this autumn. He also noted that it is difficult to do anything ourselves as we could be sued. Cllr DC noted that we have existing guidelines which we have to abide by. Alex Postan suggested a working party formed to do some of the clearing work after the contractors had been. Cllr DC advised that we need to be careful what we do, especially with regard to wildlife. Liz Lovell noted that people could clear their own banks. John Colson noted that by law, they have to be maintained. Paul Hedges asked if there were rules published anywhere or if they could be sent to all concerned. Cllr DC said that there was a booklet for riparian owners, published by the Environment Agency. Paul Hedges expressed a wish for a clear, simple bullet-pointed list. This will be considered. Cllr DC noted that the parish council is not allowed onto private land to maintain the river banks without the consent of the owners and this had been withheld by some. Cllr AB stated that the parish council is responsible for the pond and upstream, but that downstream from Packhorse bridge was the responsibility of the Environment Agency who had stated that they had no money available for maintenance of the river. A professional contractor has been engaged to do the work this autumn, on a large scale. Paul Hedges said that many people were willing to help and could do some maintenance tasks when the professional work had been completed. Cllr AB said that the Environment Group would assess what work needed to be done



after the professionals had finished. Glenn Loxton asked what maintaining it mean in actual terms? Liz Lovell said just keeping it as it is and not allowing excessive plant growth to block the flow of the stream. Water levels could be affected if banks are not maintained. Cllr DC reiterated that it was the responsibility of people with banks to maintain them themselves.

Policy and Finance

8. Finance update – The current account stands at £6,731.97 and the Flood defence/Conservation fund stands at £21,084.28. The second payment of Precept will be received in September from WODC.

9. Payments and receipts – payments made since the date of the last meeting:

23/05/2022	Insurance	288.28	Annual renewal
23/04/2022	Chevron Services	2,335.20	Tree removal
06/06/2022	McCracken	394.80	Grass cutting
07/06/2022	Salary	180.00	
08/06/2022	Elancity	2700.00	Speed radar
30/06/2022	Ubico	38.17	Bins
01/07/2022	Salary	180.00	
03/07/2022	McCracken	394.80	Grass cutting
18/07/2022	HMRC	135.00	Employment tax
27/07/2022	Salary	180.00	
12/08/2022	McCracken	529.20	Grass cutting
12/08/2022	Ubico	38.17	Bins

The budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Planning

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

There are two items. Ashlar House will be knocking down the front conservatory, small side extension and changing the gutter. The house roof will come off, and a single storey extension will be built. They were going to render the whole building but now they are not – the front will be Cotswold stone and the back and sides rendered. The Whitehill quarry presentation was on Wednesday 24th August and there are plans and proposals available on their website. The land was earmarked for quarry use for years, as Steve McCracken knew when he began building his house.

Alex Postan noted that at a 2003 quarry meeting that there were conditions present on its extending the period of operation, and one of them was wheel washing vehicles. Cllr DC said that he was contacting them on this. They were offering to help with the Old School roof appeal. Cllr DC said that he was aiming to get vegetation cut back at the T junction. Glenn Loxton suggested a mirror might be useful. Cllr DC responded that he would ask. Alex Postan noted that Carterton is not extending towards Shilton as the effects of the quarry stops housing for at least 600 yards. The quarry is most welcome, protecting the community by keeping it green.

11. Update on previous planning applications

Shilbrook House planning permission is in but Cllr DC has not yet seen it.



Traffic

12. 20 MPH scheme

Our application is in the system – every other Oxfordshire parish has also applied. John Colson asked about the 40 mile per hour signs outside his house. Cllr DC said that it would be 20 throughout the village. John Coghlan said that 40 miles per hour limit at the dip is ridiculous and should be reduced to 30.

13. Speed Watch Group

Steve Harrison said that this had been set up and there are 6 people qualified and there has been one practice session. There are 5 sites approved by the police. The practice on Friday got 15% of people speeding – it was suggested that usually it is nearer 50% and that it is quiet as it is school holiday time. Cllr DC said that if anyone was interested in volunteering to see Steve. John Colson asked what powers the speed watch group have. Cllr DC said that he thought if people were caught on a regular basis that there would be a letter from the police, reminding them of the law. After 3 letters, there may be an investigation by the police. Brenda Blackwell asked how many accidents there had been in the village in the last 3 years. Cllr DC recalled only 1 accident, and only 1 car was involved in that. Brenda responded that too much money was being spent on signs instead of important things for Shilton. Cllr DC responded that the items discussed are raised by the people at this meeting. He also noted that village life is affected by speeding. Cllr AR noted that we shouldn't wait until someone is killed to take action.

14. Radar device

This was covered under point 7, but Andy Parslow said that this was a waste of time and a barrier would be a better option. Cllr DC noted that this could prove dangerous and that best we can do is signs. We have no power to address the speed at the dip. AP responded that the road is a rat run from Bradwell Village and that speed humps would be the best option. John Colson said that these would be dangerous, particularly for agricultural vehicles without suspension.

15. Wildlife Park

Cllr DC reported on a meeting with Reggie Heyworth, who had offered to attend the meeting. Reggie has looked at the traffic issues and has tried many new things. The best option is intelligent traffic lights on the 4 junctions. Oxfordshire County Council would have to pay for this and are unwilling. Reggie Heyworth has been making efforts to get cars through more quickly. Cllr AB said that at 11.30am the road was gridlocked halfway back to Burford and traffic lights wouldn't help a situation with backlogs on single carriageways. When Bradwell Village was planned, a proposal to extend the access lane was proposed to the council by the Wildlife Park but was rejected. Cllr AR said that there could well be an accident from the traffic going there. It was suggested that etickets will speed things up. Pete Handley said that he had 2 meetings arranged with Reggie Heyworth about this issue years ago and Reggie Heyworth had never turned up. Cllr DC said that he had met Reggie Heyworth with representation from the District and County Council. Pete Handley then alleged that the meetings were informal and too pally, and that Reggie Heyworth has no problem organising his cheese and wine parties for like-minded Conservatives cronies. Cllr DC, Glenn Loxton, Rosie Pearson all objected to these comments and allegations. John Coghlan suggested the park use the tradesmans entrance, or open up a field to park and then have visitors walk in. Rosie Pearson noted that Bradwell Village is in OCC ward, and the Cotwold Wildlife Park in the other. There is also a problem with people being diverted through Shilton by their satnav. Cllr DC suggested that traffic



lights would be best for a long term solution, although they are not in the parish council remit. Cllr AB said that a sign on the A40 for Stonelands directing people to the Cotswold Wildlife Park might help alleviate some traffic as there are not many signs, although John Colson thought satnav was easier for people to follow. Cllr DC will investigate.

16. Road closure B4477 Alvescot Road 8-24 September

The road will be closed and the District county Council has agreed to signage saying that there is no access via Shilton. This is due to drainage surveys being performed. Cllr DC noted that he had sent out a notice about the road closure.

17. Bridge street parking

This was dealt with in point 7.

Environment

18. Flood defence

Lawrence King, Glenn Loxton and Cllrs DC and AR are meeting next week. There are 2 proposals to deal with flooding. One is to have an overflow pipe under the road to the other side of the packhorse bridge to increase the flow of water through the bridge. The other is to direct water from Church Lane through the Back's field to the Shill, bypassing the pond. It was noted that there is a pumping problem. Thames Water say that the pumps are adequate. Alex Postan noted that the flow to Packhorse bridge is minimum flow. Cllr DC says that RAF Brize Norton are monitoring the security fencing and will keep an eye on this. Paul Hedges complained of a smell of sewage near the pond. He suggests that the problem is the caravan park increasing the volume of sewage going through the village to the pumping station. Chemicals need putting into the pump at Bradwell Village, as the smell occurs when the mixture gets low. Cllr DC noted that all he can do is keep contacting Thames Water and asking them to do their job. There doesn't appear to be a long term solution at the moment.

19. Old School re-roofing.

There was a meeting between the Environment Group and the Old School management committee regarding the roof and floor. The building is unsuitable for various clean forms of heating, but a system using an oil boiler that can later be replaced by a Hydrogen boiler was being looked at. The reroofing will happen in 3 weeks, and the floor will be done near the end of the year.

20. Bins.

There have been problems at the pond with the bins overflowing. The District Council have agreed to move the bins at the pond to a less visible location. They are not charging at the moment. John Coghlan said that when the bins are full, he has been phoning so that they are emptied. Cllr DC said that he hopes that the system improves long term. There is nothing much to be done about the situation with people flocking to the pond 'Shilton On Sea'. A sign was suggested, but Cllr DC said that a sign was up and has already been taken. Marilyn Cox said that the bin is in the way of an iconic scene of the village, and asked if it could be moved for aesthetic reasons. Alex Postan suggested charging people to use it. Rosie Pearson suggested selling postcards of the pond scene. Brenda Blackwell mentioned that there is a problem with people leaving bags of dog poo on Scrubbs Lane. Cllr DC will look into getting bins put up there. Bradwell Village had applied for some more but

there was no requirement for them found. Cllr DC will speak to the lady afterwards about proposed bin locations.

Other matters

21. AOB

None.

22. Date of next meeting 24th November 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. [unclear]', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.