

# SHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Shilton Parish Council Meeting Shilton Village Hall, March 22nd, 2017 at 7.30pm

### Draft Minutes

#### Present:

#### Councillors:

Mr David Cuthbertson - Chairman, Mr John Edwards, Mrs Yvonne Lay,  
Mrs Sarah Royle, Mr Chris Parker  
Mr Neil Owen, Oxfordshire County Council Councillor  
Mr Alex Postan, West Oxfordshire District Councillor

1. Apologies : None
2. Declarations of Interests: Cllr CP uses Cllr YL Dog Grooming Business
3. Approval of minutes of January SPC meeting were agreed and duly signed
4. Matters arising and not on this agenda: None
5. **5.1 O.C.C Report – Cllr Neil Owen reported on the following:**
  - He has spoken with Mr C Rawlings and passed the proposed bus shelter onto Highways
  - Extending speed limits – he has spoken with Gary Wilcox and there does not seem to be a problem with this but will need chasing.
  - Poor Drainage – there was a site visit with Mr Gary Wilcox and suggested that contact be made again to ensure that the proposed clearance is undertaken.
  - Traffic restriction proposal was once again discussed and he reported that it is possible, working with Highways, to impose a closure at the ford during winter months. Dispensation would be required and to speak with Mr David Tole WODC and Antony Kirkwood at OCC.

Cllr Owen reported that a decision had been made at O.C.C, to take back under their control an in-house system of carers. – members of OCC of all parties agreed this unanimously, a rare event.

Cllr Owen informed the floor that he was to stand down from O.C.C at the end of this term and will concentrate on his District role as Councillor for Chadlington and Churchill.

Thanks were given to Neil for his great efforts and support of Shilton Parish during his term in office.

#### **5.2 WODC Report – Councillor Alex Postan**

Cllr A. P recognised that O.C.C was promoting a one unitary council in order to make significant savings. He disagreed with this proposal as W.O.D.C already had established a proven track record of shared cost reductions by working together with other local councils to facilitate financial advantages. He stated that W.O.D.C. has kept the 2017/2018 rates as low as possible and delivered the second lowest council tax in the UK. WODC is committed to look at on-going savings for its residents and to maintain free parking in Witney.

Signed.....

David Cuthbertson, Chairman

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**6. Planning applications existing and new including:**

**6.1 Stone Processing Works**

This was discussed and there were concerns from the floor:

- Noise would become an issue with heavy traffic vehicles and at the bend could be a potential hazard
- The time frame that work would take to complete
- Should not to become a retail outlet
- Not to open on Sundays nor Bank Holidays

Cllr D.C. said SPC has no objection to this providing it is not to become a retail outlet and serves existing customers only and that a routing order is maintained.

**6.2 David Wilson Homes**

A new application has been made to build 115 houses on the site at Swinbrook Park, following rejection of a similar proposal last year.

The Parish Council had already agreed that it would not support this development and it will not be included in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Concerns from the floor concerning this development included:

- The area could become a flood risk area
- Lighting issues
- Landscape value
- Increased traffic onto already congested local roads and A40

Cllr Peter Hanley advised that the original application decision had been delegated to officials but that this application would inevitably go to committee. WODC have to be very careful about rejecting such applications, particularly in the absence of a Local Plan. In recent months they have lost five out of seven appeals on planning at a cost of some £700k. It would therefore be advisable to consider what benefits could be obtained by the village through section 106 if the application is successful.

A suggestion from the floor was that SPC should seek advice of a specialist planning consultant. It was suggested that the Conservation Trust may be able to help to fund this. Cllr DC to put this forward to the C.T

**7. Neighbourhood Plan update**

Cllr D.C. reported that surveys have now been distributed throughout the Parish and that the feedback was currently being collated. Reports are in the process of being produced by the Steering group. These should be available in the forthcoming week. SPC is waiting for the Feasibility study to be completed. Cllr D. C said that the Neighbourhood Plan was running approximately one month behind schedule and that he anticipated it would be completed by November /December 2017.

He stated that any unspent grants for the project, at the end of 2016/17 financial year, would have to be returned and reapplied for in the new 2017/2018 financial year.

**8. Village Maintenance**

**8.1 Verges**

Complaints had been made concerning the over strimming of verges by SPC Contractors and that strimming was carried out too close to trees and causing a problem. The Cllr SJ reported that the Deborah Price memorial tree had been damaged by strimming and that the shrubs were destroyed at Liz Lovell's property and the metal protectors were thrown over the fence. Cllr SR to speak with the Contractor

Signed.....

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## 8.2 Bunds and the Shill

Cllr DC informed the floor that contact had been made with Lawrence King WODC chief engineer concerning the bunds and desilting of the Shill. He recommended that OCC should clear the drain under the road at Pack Horse Bridge. He also recommended that any work at the Bunds or desilting should be delayed until September. Mrs Ronnie Scard asked to be included in any working party suggested.

## 9. Highways & Byways including Traffic problems

Cllr CP informed the floor that during the recent storm, a tree came down on the A361 at Bradwell Village which resulted in an accident. The police were notified at 3pm that the road was impassable. Two further calls were made with no response. At approximately 6 p.m., a car ploughed into the tree and although no one was injured the question was asked why the police did not respond?

It was suggested that the Police should be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

The possibility of making the through road in Shilton one-way was again discussed and the majority of residents were in favour of undertaking a further study. It was suggested that an exemption could be made for those residents who needed two-way access to run their businesses. Cllr DC will raise this with OCC highways.

Cllr Chris Parker raised again with Cllr N.O. the subject of a white line footpath, to create a safe walking zone for residents with the added benefit of slowing traffic through the village. Cllr NO said he had passed this request to Highways and should follow it through with them.

## 10 Financial Report

Cllr DC informed the floor that there was £26k in the bank , although a large proportion of this was including the grant money for the Feasibility study which would have to be returned if not spent by the end of the financial year.

He also recognised that although the Precept had risen by 185% on the previous year, the precept had returned to previous levels and explained the reasons for the reduction of Precept during 2016/2017 and that this was a one off action to return money to the community,

## 11. Broadband Bus Route 64

Carterton Mayoress, Mrs Lynn Little, has been campaigning to re-instate the 64 bus route and has submitted a petition of over 300 signatures to our Local MP, R Court. Although the service does not run through Shilton village itself, it passes Bradwell Village. Mr Court is currently investigating to see if funds can be provided through a government scheme.

## 12. Broadband update

WODC is preparing to take on the lead role of delivering superfast broadband to the remaining 10 per cent of properties within our district, ensuring access for those in the most rural areas and the ones regarded as not being commercially viable.

By taking on the procurement process WODC demonstrates it is absolutely committed to securing superfast broadband access for everyone in the district as soon as possible.

Whilst the broadband project procurement and delivery phase is taking place, those individuals and businesses with little or no connectivity (under 2Mbps) can apply for a subsidised basic service through the Government's Better Broadband Scheme for full details go to: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/news/jan/broadband-announcement](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/news/jan/broadband-announcement)

10 Any other business: None

11 Date of next meeting: May 24<sup>th</sup> at Shilton Old School. 6.00pm for the Shilton Parish Council Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

Light refreshments will be available. The Public is invited to attend

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The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....

David Cuthbertson, Chairman