

SHILTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

25th March 2015

The Old School Village Hall, Shilton at 7.30pm

Minutes

Councillors Present: Mr M Linney- Chairman, Mr J Heyworth, Mrs K Robertson,
Mr A Postan, Mr Neil Owen O.C.C.

There were 15 members of the public present

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

- **Apologies.** None
- **Declaration of Interests**
Cllr Mrs Robertson declared that she had used a Dog Groomer's services in Shilton
- **The Clerk's report**
 - 3.1 **Website and Communication** by Email – Shilton residents have been sent an email with details of how to use the website and that this will be the main method of communication
 - 3.2 **Traffic Noise Levels** at the Dip - Cllr ML has emailed Oxford Highways, concerning increased noise levels and as yet had not had a reply from them
 - 3.3 **Footpaths and Bridleways** - Formation of subgroup to represent interests Footpaths and Bridleways
Cllr JH said nothing set up as yet - ongoing
- **Approval of Minutes:** 18th February, Shilton Parish Council meeting these were duly agreed and signed.
- **Chairman's report (attached)** to include specific projects including:
 - 5.1 Councillor vacancy - Cllr M L advised that Cllr B Adams has stepped down after 14 years of service. Thanks were given to him for his contribution to Shilton Parish Council
 - 5.2 Miss Bateman's Field – Cllr J H reported no progress had happened to date
 - 5.3 Bradwell Office – awaiting agreement and signing off of Lease which should be signed off imminently and occupation will be before the end of April
 - 5.4 Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan – Discussions have taken place with Astrid Harvey, Strategic Planning Officer on how to formulate an appropriate local Plan that would include proper assessment of the Shilbrook Survey. Cllr AP and Cllr M L attended WODC meeting whereby the Draft Local Plan was accepted and after due diligence will go to Consultation. It was the view of Cllr M L and Cllr AP that the Shilton Plan should dovetail and include opinions on conservation, minerals extraction, travellers, tourism and commercial areas
- **Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire reports**
 - a) County Councillor, Mr Neil Owen, reported that in order to make savings, OCC had tried to remove the position of Chief Executive. He commented that the procedure was not carried out properly and that the Head of Council, Mr Hillspeth apologised. This action was to be debated by the full Council.
 - b) The minerals Plan is now passed and out to Consultation and will take effect from end of the year. This should offer protection from overzealous developers
 - c) Broadband should reach 40,000 new homes and businesses by the end of March and to 64,000 more properties before the end of the year
 - d) Budget – OCC decided on an 1.99% increase in the Community charge
 - e) Although £3.3m had been allocated to OCC to improve cycling infrastructure in other areas the general state of highways throughout the county were a cause of concern
 - f) Cllr J H expressed concern over Mineral Policy and was concerned that protection should be provided for local residents to ensure tonnage levels are rigorously adhered to if granted and a consultation with local people was essential before any agreements take place.
 - g) Cllr M L thanked Mr Neil Owen for his ongoing support and for procuring an OCC grant towards village signs maintenance - now received

Signed.....

Mr M Linney, Chairman

District Councillor (Mr Alex Postan)

Cllr AP responded that although 200,000 tons a year was allocated only 60,000 tons a year was produced. WODC was the 2nd lowest Shire in Great Britain and had wiped out debt. They had also increased services, cut tax and implemented cut backs and now had £1m in reserves. WODC aimed at 100% Broadband within 5 years

The Ecotricity Solar Farm development application has been rejected

Public Consultation

- Q.** Has a date been agreed for the village to view the Bunds?

A. These are on private land and need to have permission granted

- Q.** What is phase 2 of the flood defence plan?

A. The original plan was to put a pipe through Pack Horse Bridge which would come out at the forge. This was rejected. The current proposal is to turn Miss Bateman’s field back into a flood plain and that the initial quote for work matches the same remaining defence fund

- Q.** Is there a plan for a spur to be built off the Link road, past the football field , towards Burford or is this a rumour?

A. Mr N Owen offered to make enquiries

- Q.** Is making a slip road going west to Cheltenham part of the WODC plan?

A. This would cost WODC £4m and they already had £1.6m towards it.

- Q.** Will the decision against the Solar Farm go to appeal and will notification be given?

A. Cllr ML said lessons had been learned regarding the appeals procedure and SPC would advise residents should an appeal be registered

- Q.** Is there a time limit for an appeal?

A. 6 months to register an appeal and only new objections submitted. There is a three week period for this and we cannot be present at the hearing.

- Q.** Can the Ecotricity Solar Farm fields be turned back to its original state?

A. The meeting decided to form a subgroup and formulate new objections should an appeal be forthcoming. Cllr JH agreed along with Mr M Tait, John Colson, Ronnie Scard and David Cuthbertson Regarding the Stonelands development the Highways department will supervise the restoration of landscaping and planting of verges. Photographs were taken of the road prior to the work commencing.

- Q.** There is an increase in Dog excrement in Shilton and would it be prudent to supply waste bins for this at two sites in the village.

A. Cllr AP agreed to look at costs and implications.

Business Items

- 8.1 Financial report
Bank stands at £14,479.89.
This includes a cheque recently presented for £1000 from OCC and a balance of £9,400.51 for flood defence work, leaving a working balance of £5070.38. There are payments to be made out and is estimated that at the end of March we will have a balance of approximately £3k in the account before the Precept payment in April
- 8.2 Applications for grants - none

Local services and amenities –none to report

Signed.....
Mr M Linney, Chairman

- **New Planning applications within the Parish**

- 10.1 Vine Cottage have applied for an extension on the back of the property SPC Councillors to circulate the application and comment
- 10.2 Sturt Farm – proposed 11 houses. Concerns shown over water supply, traffic and in an area of outstanding beauty. SPC to submit recommendations

- **Organisations and services operating within the Parish**

- 11.1 Conservation Association No update
- 11.2 Welfare Trust
- 12.3 Old School Committee- Garden's Open Day 7th June

- **Neighbourhood developments, other Parishes and Local plan- as above**

- **Members meeting summation and items for the next meeting agenda - none**

- **Amended date for May AGM and Parish Council meeting now :**

Wednesday May 13th 6pm and 7.30pm for the AGM

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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Signed.....

Mr M Linney, Chairman