

## Minutes of the PC meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August

1. Apologies - Julie Alden (clerk), Rosie Pearson (District Councillor) Nick Field-Johnson (County Councillor)
2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.
3. A local Thames Valley PCSO attended the meeting to talk about the recent outbreak of break-ins and other matters.  
She reiterated that any crime or suspicious behavior must be reported to the police if they are to be recorded on the crime statistics for Shilton. If they aren't reported then as far as the police are concerned nothing is happening here and there is no need to increase patrols through the village etc.  
Several people pointed out that it can take a very long time to report anything on 101 or online, and the PCSO acknowledged this problem. When reports are received they are triaged by the police and allocated either to the police or to the Neighbourhood team.  
It can take 7 days for the report to arrive with the appropriate person or team. A similar break to the recent break in at stables occurred 3 months ago. Both seem to be professional jobs. Liz Fenner described recently seeing a white van parked outside her house at 03.53, driving away and coming back in what she thought a suspicious manner. She asked if that sort of thing was worth reporting. The answer was yes. Any such reports of a vehicle behaving oddly, if reported, could be on a report and possibly linked with other sightings and perhaps a crime. A number plate would be even more useful. It was suggested that CCTV could be installed around the pond. PC to investigate.
4. Adoption of new councilors Andrew Pearson and Stephen Harrison were proposed by DC and seconded by SR and the necessary documentation completed.
5. No declarations of interest made.
6. Reports from District and County councilors were presented to the meeting with copies available. These will be published on the website with the minutes.
7. Finance –Current account £8,922.78, Flood fund £18,204.28.

## Payments since last meeting

Ubico	Bins	£837.00
Clerk	Salary	£180.00
Insurance	Annual	£330.97
Clerk	Salary	£180.00
McCracken	Grass	£638.23
McCracken	Grass	£422.23
HMRC	Tax	£135.00
Clerk	Salary	£180.00
McCracken	Grass	£422.23

### 8. Planning –

The appeal from Jon Holloway concerning the redirection of Hill Barn drive was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would support the appeal. A suitable expression of support would be filed with WODC planning.

### 9. Local and Neighbourhood plans-

With WODC preparing a revised Local Plan, now would be an opportune time to consider re-visiting our Neighbourhood Plan and in particular the possibility of providing some affordable housing. The first step would be to undertake a Housing Needs Survey. The aim would be to see if indeed there is a need amongst local residents for some smaller scale development of family and single person homes.

Councillor Harrison will lead this.

### 10. Traffic-

The proposed 20mph limit through the village has been approved by the County Council and is due for implementation in the autumn although no firm date yet set.

Steve Harrison suggested a volunteer party to cut back shrubbery to clear speed signs.

The Speed Watch Group remains active and reported that levels of speeding remain high.

Ivy at the dip needs to be removed at entrance to Shilton from Carterton. OCC have been contacted to arrange for the closure of the junction for an hour or two to enable contractors to tackle the job safely.

Wildlife Park – No immediate progress.

### 11. Environment-

Community EV charging points – The PC have responded to an invitation to file an expression of interest in receiving funding for an EV charging point at the Old School.

Flood Defence – There has been no interest from any organization for funding of the proposed survey. It was suggested by Cllr AB that this be removed from future agendas.

Cllr SH suggested a work party to clear saplings from stream. Cllr AB suggested this might be combined with another day of clearing the Old School bank.

Cllr DC reported that he was attempting to arrange a meeting with Environment Agency to walk the stretch of the Shill from here to Carterton. EA have said they aren't going to maintain it and are happy for us to do so.

Tree planting – start made by OCC along the Alvescot Road. Cllr AB has put in a bid to extend it to the entrance to the Colson's farm and other side of the road. Scheme will continue over the years. Also Cllr AB has submitting a bid to Woodland Trust for more saplings for the Allotment field. Other ideas for tree planting welcome. Sign up to Rosie's initiative for tree planting.

School refurbishment – all done except for the new boiler which is waiting on some parts but installation imminent.

#### 12.AOB

Medicalert/TVP – Chairman explained this new initiative for those suffering from dementia.

John Coghlan suggested doing a jazz concert. He would like to use the Old School, but it's not big enough. The church was suggested as an alternative venue.

#### 13.Date of next meeting – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

The meeting closed at 8.37pm