

Shilton Parish Council Meeting

7.30 pm Wednesday 17th March 2021

Draft Minutes

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Present Councillors: David Cuthbertson - Chairman, John Holloway, Harry Metcalfe

1. **Apologies :** Cllr Sarah Royle
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None
3. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting,** November 2020, had been previously circulated and agreed by all. Cllr D C proposed acceptance as correct, Cllr J H seconded.
4. **Matters arising** from this meeting not on the agenda: None

5. **Reports from WODC Councillor and OCC County Councillor**

5.1 OCC Councillor Nick Field Johnson

Cllr NFJ reported that OCC's annual budget was approved and two key features included new investments and provisions for high levels of protection for frontline services.

There was an agreed increase in its budget of 1.99% with an additional 1% to be spent on adult social care in this financial year giving a total rise of 2.99%.

A further 2% is to be levied, in 2022/23 financial year, for adult social care.

OCC is investing £1.4 billion into infrastructure across the county, to help with the proposed expansion of houses- especially affordable homes.

Breakdown of OCC budget:

1. £260m schools
2. £617m major infrastructure projects
3. £338m in Highway improvements £70m in property improvements
4. £400,000 for highway maintenance to be focused on vegetation and drainage clearance

Cllr D C asked Cllr NFJ whether OCC Highways could help with the problem of flooding that occurred in December in Shilton, which was not helped by blocked drains through the village. Could he laise with OCC for the drains to be cleared and jetted?

5.2 WODC Councillor Alex Postan

Cllr A P agreed that it was important that WODC maintain frontline services.

Cllr A P commented on the two new village gates at the Westend of the village. The clerk reported these had been placed as a result of help by OCC Councillor Pete Handley, whom she had approached to see what could be done to reduce the problem of speeding through the village. OCC

Cllr P Handley had assisted in obtaining grants towards the reduced speed signs from A361 Cotswold Wildlife Park, through to Hen n Chick Lane and included the gates in the project.

The clerk noted SPC's thanks.

Signed.....

Chairman

Cllr A P reported that flooding was once again problematic and showed concern over the state of the rivers Windrush and Shill.

He commented that the Brize Norton pipework also contributed to the problem along with inadequate raw sewerage provision and excess surface groundwater.

His suggestion for a way forward was to look at the whole watercourse and form a working party between Shilton, Black Bourton, Clanfield and Bampton PC's with involvement of O.C.C, WODC and the Environment agency.

This discussion was continued in item .11.2 Flood Control

6 Co-option of Councillor

Cllr D C reported that the Council Vacancy had been advertised following set protocols.

As less than 10 electors came forward, WODC ruled that Shilton could co-opt a Councillor.

Mr A Bray signed his declaration of acceptance.

Cllr D C proposed that Mr Andy Bray be co-opted to SPC, Cllr J H seconded.

It was resolved that Mr Andy Bray was now a member of Shilton Parish Council.

7 Planning applications (new and updates):

There were no new or outstanding planning applications

8 Finance Report including account balances & payments to be agreed.

Business Account: £12,596

Flood Defence Fund: £20,682.00

The increase in the Flood Defence fund was a result of an amount of £11,336 that had been transferred by the Conservation Trust and was to be treated as a sheltered account.

SPC had submitted its Precept request to WODC. Careful management of cash flow had resulted in a reduction of 18% on the previous year.

9 Update from Neighbourhood Watch

Parishioners were advised to be vigilant with their dogs' safety.

Dog thefts from home and in parks etc. were on the increase in the area.

10 Traffic signage update in the Parish.

Update concerning speed limits at the Dip

Cllr j H reported that the delay was due to legal queries with landowners however this was now in process and had been advised by Highways that the work was on their schedule.

11 Village update and maintenance

11.1 Discussion concerning the Environment

Cllr Andy Bray led the discussion and said he is interested in helping the village to reduce its carbon foot print. He is involved with ground source pumps and reported that there are government grants available. He agreed to gather ideas.

He suggested that Solar panels could also be installed on the Village Hall and was prepared to help the Village Hall with its plans to reroof it.

Cllr H M advised that when gathering quotes to be cognisant that a bigger reserve would provide a more efficient system.

J Heyworth offered his expertise and help in the project.

Signed.....

Chairman

11 Flood prevention within the Parish

11.2 Discussion concerning flooding in the village at Christmas.

Concerns were raised by several parishioners whose properties flooded on more than one occasion in the last few years.

Cllr D C reported that he had a meeting with Mr Laurence King, Chief Engineer for both WODC and CDC concerning the bunds and the pond. They agreed that a feasibility study would be required to chart the flow of water.

Cllr H M reported that there had been a change in the flow of water to and through his farm. There appeared not to be a change in the flow from Burford nor in the bunds however, the flow of water in the middle of the farm had dried up and that the flow disappears underground after the Bunds.

Cllr A B reported that during a heat source installation at his home, contractors drilling noticed that the water flow kept disappearing.

Another resident reported that, in his opinion, the flood came off the road and not from the brook resulting in the excessive surface water that had nowhere to go as the drains were full and had not been cleared.

Concerns were shown by another resident who commented that in over 13 years her property had not flooded yet had it experienced three floods in less than five weeks.

Cllr A P commented because the RAF had not monitored the grill under Brize Norton Airbase, the grill is blocked subsequently raising the water levels and compounding the problem.

Cllr Andy Bray noted that he had taken rainfall measurements in connection with a water data project and that records showed nothing out of the ordinary until 23/24 December when the heavy rain appeared to be localised.

Several suggestions were put forward:

1. Cllr A P suggested:
 - a) An initiative to set up inviting local Parish Councils concerned, up and down stream of the water flows, and to facilitate this as quickly as possible.
 - b) The group to work with WODC, OCC and the Environment agency with their findings.
 - c) Cllr D C confirmed he would be happy for a Parish Council representative to attend.
2. J Heyworth volunteered to help the project. He has previous knowledge of the 2007 floods in the village. He suggested that re-instating the original flood working party would be a way forward.

Signed.....
Chairman

11.3 Noise Pollution

Cllr DC reported that there had been a noise issue concerning motorbikes at Manor Field. A solicitor's letter had been sent to the owner of Manor Fields, requesting cease and desist. Cllr D C said that the house had now been sold so problem could go away.

11.4 Witney Oxford Transport

It had been brought to the Council's attention that a proposed railway line was proposed to run via Oxford, Witney and Carterton. The proposed route would run to the rear of Shilton, Manor Fields with a suggested station at Alvescott.

Cllr DC reported that although this had not yet gone through consultation, he was concerned that the subject would not go away and that SPC should keep a careful watch on any progress.

11.5 Proposed flexible verge markers at Stonelands

It was agreed by all that this was not a SPC matter; it is a Highways issue and should be referred to Oxfordshire County Council Highways Division.

11.6 Revised Affordable Housing SPD - 6 Week Consultation

No progress had been made.

12 Council Vacancy

Cllr D C informed the floor that the clerk is in the process of relocating to Somerset. SPC welcomed applications from the parish. A job specification is available from the Clerk. The position will be also advertised on SPC's website www.shiltonparishoxon.co.uk and also on the OALC website.

13 Date of next meeting: OALC has advised that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held as late as possible in May. Date of the Annual Parish Council meeting to be agreed ASAP and held remotely before May 5th.

14 There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20.39 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

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