

SHILTON PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

24th November 2015, The Old School, Shilton 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Councillors: Mrs K Robertson, Mrs Yvonne Lay, Mr John Edwards

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None
3. Meeting minutes of October were duly signed
4. **Co-option of candidates**

Two new councillors were appointed to replace Mr A Postan and Mr J Heyworth who both stood down at the October meeting.

Cllr Y Lay proposed Mrs Sarah Royle, seconded by Cllr J Edwards

Cllr J Edwards proposed David Cuthbertson, seconded by Cllr Y Lay

Cllr K Robertson stood down as acting Chairman, Cllr J Edwards proposed David Cuthbertson for the position of Chairman, seconded by Cllr Y Lay

A vote of thanks was given to Mr Alex Postan for his 14 year service and recognised Mr Justin Heyworth's contribution to the Council and his ongoing commitment in working on specific sub committees.

5. **Bank Mandate**

It was agreed by all Councillors to include all five Councillors on the Bank Mandate.

Cllr KR proposed, Cllr John Edwards seconded

It was agreed that Shilton Parish Council should implement On Line Banking.

Proposed by Cllr D C, seconded by Cllr John Edwards

6. **Public Consultation**

Cllr DC asked the meeting for their input and thoughts on how the 2016/17 budget should be utilised, recognising that OCC and WODC would make cutbacks

Questions from the floor:

6.1 General Maintenance

Concerning benches, who is responsible for maintaining them and their upkeep? There are four benches around the village that need to be treated and stained. It was agreed that a provision of £100 to cover this to be allocated.

6.2 Overhanging trees and branches are a continuous problem.

Despite frequent requests by Shilton Parish Council, there are residents whom have not trimmed back their overhanging branches/hedges. It was agreed that after a reasonable timeline, if a resident has not carried out the necessary work, then SPC will enforce and invoice the resident for any work that may be carried out to remove the obstruction.

6.3 Shilton Parish Bradwell Office

A question from the floor asked if the Shilton Parish Office was a necessity and if it was a drain on the parish budget?

The floor was reminded that the original purpose was to gather all Shilton Parish records under one roof and provide a work environment for the Clerk and Councillors to hold surgeries and meetings.

Cllr DC indicated he would propose how and when to close the office, and give formal notice Covenant Management.

Cllr KR commented that there was a three month break clause attached to the contract.

It was suggested, from the floor, that archive space is available at the Oxford Centre of History.

Cllr DC said he would investigate and report back the feasibility.

6.4 Chain of Office

It was asked where the Chain of Office now resided.

Cllr AP said it was returned to him by Cllr Linney on his resignation. It is presently mounted in a cabinet and insured. It was agreed that it should stay with Cllr AP for safekeeping until further notice.

6.5 Dog Waste Bins

It was agreed to consider, in the 2016 budget, the provision of up to three dog waste bins for Shilton village. In the meantime, anti-dog fouling signs would be stapled on posts around Shilton village. Noted that Mr Harry Metcalfe has requested a sign. Cllr Y Lay agreed to follow up.

6.6 Christmas Tree 2016/17

An allowance would not be made in 2016/17 for a village Christmas tree.

6.7 Drains

Previously WODC annually cleared drains of moss and leaves, given cuts proposed by WODC would this continue? Cllr DC to investigate.

6.8 Notice Board

The notice boards both at the Bus shelter and by the Pub garden are in a poor state of repair and need replacing. Could this be considered for 2016/2017?

7. Planning

7.1 93a Shilton Park has been accepted by WODC. SPC felt that it was not appropriate to fight. However, SPC would strongly object to the proposal of a further 85 houses to be built at Swinbrook Road. Noted Carterton Town has already objected.

Various concerns were highlighted:

- Flood Issues
- Affect the skyline and overbearing
- Light Pollution
- A failed buffer zone
- Inadequate road infrastructure
- Would lead to proposals to build more houses
- A need to maintain Shilton identity

It was agreed, should this proposal go ahead, then a CIL levy would be due to Shilton Parish residents.

Cllr AP indicated that there are funds in the Conservation Association to help fight such a proposal Cllr DC suggested the formation of a planning subcommittee.

Four people volunteered to be co-opted: Justin Heyworth, David Bridges, Jenny Coglin, and John Hebron all agreed to work with Cllrs Lay, Cuthbertson, Edwards and enlisted WODC councillor, Alex Postan, to help formulate a proper response, using planning terms, referencing appropriate planning laws to stop the development.

Cllr DC agreed to contact John Cleworth of the Conservation Association, to discuss possible funding if it required,

7.2 Shilton Down Solar Farm

Cllr D C advised the meeting that although Ecotricity had submitted new plans, there were only a few changes, primarily:

- The panels are to be moved further up the field thus reducing the number of panels
- An increase in the number of trees to be planted
- Noted no change of access

He advised that WODC has already submitted a rebuttal.

Cllr DC said SPC would not respond to Ecotricity until after the SPC meeting. He suggested emailing Mr H Metcalfe to propose that a firm benefit to the community should be made to the community should this go ahead.

The meeting closed at 8.40

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