**Shilton Parish Council**

**Minutes of Annual Council meeting on Thursday 27th March 2025 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm**

**Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andrew Pearson, Sarah Royle & Steve Harrison. Parish Clerk Julie Alden.**

**Members of the public: 11**

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Andrew Bray and District Councillor Rosie Pearson.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 30th January 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda

None.

5. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None.

6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Rosie Pearson’s report is attached, as is County Councillor Nick Field-Johnson’s.

Policy and Finance

7. Finance update – to review and approve finance update

As attached. Approved.

8. Payments and receipts – to review and approve current payments and note receipts.

As attached. Approved.

Planning

9. To comment on any planning applications received before the date of the meeting.

An application was received today for Sturt Farm to add another storey to the bungalow. The request is similar to one a few years ago. No comment from the Parish Council.

10. Update on previous planning applications.

The application regarding the Ashbed in Ladburn Lane went to appeal and was dismissed. The Bridge House application for solar panels was approved but only for panels on the spa roof.

Cllr DC attended a meeting of the Carterton Development Committee which comprises a group of town councillors and local parish representatives aiming to create an overall plan for how Carterton develops. Details of a proposal for develop Foxbury Garden Community with potential for up to 3,000 new homes were presented by Bloor Homes and Christchurch College. This is in addition to the 350 homes being proposed at Kilkenny Farm. A brochure outlining the proposal was circulated to the meeting. Although not in our Parish, both proposals would have an effect on traffic and on already overstretched local infrastructure. A general discussion of the expansion plans for the Carterton area ensued.

Other matters

11. Grass cutting contract.

Cllr SH has overseen a tender process and had received four quotes. All tenderers have been vetted and all provided details of public and employers liability insurance. The lowest tender was received from Matts Garden Services Limited. Cllr SH proposed that this tender be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr SR. The council voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

12. Flood defence and maintenance of the pond and bridge.

Cllr AP reported that the council had appointed Ridge & Partners to undertake an initial survey of the topography and water flow of the village at a cost of £2,500. It is hope that the initial report will be available for the next council meeting in May. It was reported that a representative from WODC had been to the village in response to Peter Lismer reporting the flooding in November.

13. Highways.

Hen N Chick Lane resurfacing was a month ago and Cllr SH reported that the work was of poor standard and they had managed to cover over some of the drains.

Cotswold Wildlife Park update – Cllr DC noted that all sorts of approaches had been tried, including meeting with Reggie Heyworth, and these initiatives have got nowhere. Louise Waterhouse from Bradwell Village residents has had been meeting with Rosie Pearson, and the new manager of the park. Cllr AP suggested drone footage which may give a new impetus and raise awareness. Cllr DC recommended contacting Charlie Mayhew and even organising a petition. Louise Waterhouse will talk to Darron Cox, one of the new directors of the Residents Company.

14. Opportunity for the public to speak – to provide members of the public/press with the

opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In

accordance with Standing Orders, this will not exceed 15 minutes in total and 5 minutes per

person

Louise Waterhouse who is on the Bradwell Village Committee asked if the noticeboard that is currently nailed to the village hall could be moved to a more prominent position. Cllrs SH and AP will have a look at it. JoAnn from Bradwell Village said that the meetings are very Shilton-focused. Cllr DC said that this is determined by who turns up, and that if residents would attend, the council would welcome returning to holding meeting in Bradwell Village.

John Holloway mentioned the drains issue and Thames Water and sewage smells in the village. Cllr DC said that if the tank is gravity fed and if isn’t chemically treated there is a problem. He will report the issue.

Cllr SH noted that the 20mph signs had now been straightened. He recommended the online reporting system Fix My Street on the OCC website

Peter Lisner raised the issue of using land at Pie Corner for allotments. It was generally felt that there was no real demand for allotments in the village.

Cllr DC also noted a further point about planning. The Westfield Lodge application has gone to appeal. The proposal is for a second home on the plot. We objected to the application and it was dismissed so there is now an appeal.

Meeting ended at 8.29.