

## **Shilton Parish Council**

**Minutes of Council meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm**

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

**Members of the public: 12**

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Rosie Pearson and County Councillor Nick Field-Johnson, both of whom sent reports.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed. It was noted that there are implications regarding the situation at Oxfordshire County Council as the Labour party are no longer supporting the Liberal Democrats and new cabinet members will be necessary. Cllr DC also noted that the Botley Rd works will be finished in October 2024, and not 2023.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the agenda

None.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

6. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors

As neither Councillor could attend, the reports are attached.

### **Policy and Finance**

7. Finance update – to review and approve finance update

As attached.

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

As attached.



## 9. The Council budget for 2023-24

There is a draft budget for 2023-2024, which will be confirmed at the next meeting.

### **Planning**

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

Part of the reason for this meeting being earlier than scheduled is that a proposal made by Peter Handley in 2019, which was held in abeyance, has now been resurrected. It has been substantially changed, and is now for 3 new houses on his existing property. A reply to the proposal is needed by 5<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr DC noted that there is currently a shortfall in the 5 year land supply for WODC.

If the District Council are unable to demonstrate a 5 year supply of building land then the NPPF takes precedent and this could open the way for developers to bypass the normal planning system.

We are advised by WODC that they are re-calculating the current supply and believe that this will demonstrate an adequate supply.

If this proves to be the case then this proposal and John Colson's application would have to comply with OS2 and H2 of the existing WODC Local Plan 2031.

Cllr DC recommends the same response to this application as that given to John Colson's – that this does not comply with the existing plan, so we will object.

Cllr AP reminded everyone could comment online the WODC Planning portal

11. Update on previous planning applications

John Colson's application will go to the Committee in December or January.

12. Housing needs survey

Cllr SH notes that there has been no progress on this. Cllr DC advised contacting Chris Hargreaves with regard to planning. Cllrs SH and DC went to a consultation with WODC at Carterton on the proposed new Local Plan for WODC.

### **Traffic**

13. 20 MPH scheme

This will be taking place after a consultation and revised plan with new limits. Cllr DC sent an email around with the consultation document and timetable. Anyone can comment, although there is no need to offer support for the scheme as it will be going ahead.

14. Speed Watch Group

Cllr SH reported that the group is ticking over but is short on people, so more volunteers would be appreciated.

15. Radar device

The brackets on the pole needs repair. Cllr SH suggested that we buy an additional radar device next year. Cllr DC thought the cost would be around £1500, Cllr SH estimated nearer £2000-2500. They could be put wherever meets their objective, for example, near the bus shelter. Cllr DC didn't think that we needed a new one. Cllr AB felt that too many signs lessen the effect.

16. Wildlife Park

Nothing to report.

### **Environment**

17. Flood defence



Cllr AP reported back on the Shill Brook catchment partnership which is a new group concerned with water volume and quality, and includes Shilton, Aston and Black Bourton. It is inspired by WASP to get more data capture ... There is a public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November at Bampton community hub, in the Lewington Room at 7-8.30pm concerned with flooding and flood management. Cllr DC said that Thames Water, WODC and the Environment Agency say they have no money to properly maintain the Shill below Packhorse Bridge. Cllr AB said that he and Cllr SH had met an engineer from Oxford CC to discuss a plan to stop the road flooding opposite the pond. Because of the location BT would need to be involved but it was agreed that OCC would seek funding for this over the next few months.

#### 18. Tree planting

Cllr AB applied to the Woodland Trust and received 420 trees, to be planted in November. The allotment field areas need replacing and road verges and other areas have been identified for planting. He will send around a date for volunteers to help plant, and to help plans for public sites where they can be planted.

#### 19. Old School refurbishment

The heating will be done in the next couple of weeks. Well done everyone!

#### **Other matters**

20. 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.

John Coghlan noted that various road signs, for example the 7.5 weight limit signs, and some maintenance is required. Cllr DC replied that there is a lack of money for this. Jayne Robinson asked about the CCTV survey that Cllr DC sent around. 37 people were in favour, despite some strange comments. The majority of people are happy to fund it. Cllr DC stated that it is meant to be a deterrent. It would be installed by the pond, with a notice advising the public that it was active. Joanna Colson asked about the policy around filming children playing in the pond, and GDPR. Cllr DC said that there are strict protocols to be followed on GDPR and the data is secure and there is a back up system. It will cost £2000 or more to do. Cllr SH said that it will pick up a lot of the vehicles coming in to the village via the pond. The possibility of decoy cameras being installed in other areas of the village was discussed.

The pond road closure survey was controversial – a majority were in favour but a lot were against it. Cllr AP suggested that closure should be according to temperature and depth. Cllr DC said that this would be difficult to maintain and react to quickly enough. Cllr DC said that there was a lot of support for closure and would approach Oxfordshire County Council to see if there was some sort of electronic system. Cllr DC noted that we do have barriers and sandbags which can be put out, but for which we do not have official permission. Kirsten asked to whom the road beyond the ford belonged? Cllr DC replied that all roads are the responsibility of the county council and we are not authorised to block the pond, but we can close the road in extreme circumstances.

#### 21. AOB

None. Date for the next meeting TBC.

