

Shilton Parish Council Annual Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 28th April 2021

Followed by the Shilton Annual Parish Meeting

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Present Councillors: David Cuthbertson, Chairman, Andy Bray,
Jon Holloway, Harry Metcalfe, Sarah Royle

Draft Minutes

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr D C reported that he has revised and updated his list of clients within the Parish, details are available on request from the Clerk
3. **Approval of minutes** of previous annual meeting May 2019
The Minutes had been previously circulated to all and agreed as correct.
The Chairman Cllr D C duly signed them.
4. **Matters arising** not on this agenda: None
5. **Election of Chairman**
Cllr David Cuthbertson stood down and was re-elected. Cllr A B proposed, Cllr A P seconded.
6. **Parish Clerk vacancy**
Cllr D C reported that there had been three applicants for the position. It was agreed that Ms G P was the successful applicant. Cllr A B proposed, Cllr H M seconded.
7. **Finance report**
 - 7.1 **Settling of Accounts:**
McCrackens : £318.00
 - 7.2. **Annual Accounts 2020-2021**
The annual accounts had been previously circulated to all.
Cllr D C proposed that they be accepted as correct. Cllr J H seconded
 - 7.3. **Annual Governance Statement** was agreed by all.
Cllr S R proposed acceptance and Cllr J H seconded,
 - 7.4. **Agreement of the Current Asset Register**
Cllr D C agreed to look up the terms of the lease for the Old School. He explained that it was fully insured, the deeds being held by the Charity Commission – the SPC owns the land and building and it is let to the Village Hall Association
8. **Planning applications** current and new
Application from Mrs Y Lay for an extension to the house, SPC agreed that there were no objections to this and no comments.

Signed.....
Chairman

9. Environment – A proposal concerning environmental measures for Shilton

Cllr Andy Bray reported that SPC had agreed to include environmental issues on its agenda, in-line with the climate emergency declaration and policies adopted by other councils, including WODC.

Cllr A B recommended the formation of an advisory group or sub-committee, to be chaired by a member of SPC, that would raise and discuss ideas with stakeholders, relevant landowners, and parishioners.

Cllr A B said he would welcome involvement from both parishioners and councillors alike as members, and that the Chair to have the remit to work with other councils as necessary on environmental matters.

He suggested that in order to conserve the existing parish there were 4 relevant areas to consider:

9.1 Conservation of the existing Parish

- a) To reduce local flood risks by improving river banks, planting to reduce flooding and developing the area along the river banks into a nature reserve
- b) To consider and protect footpaths and bridle paths where there is scope for increasing our network

9.2 Reduction of the use of fossil fuel within the village to aid limiting global warming

- a) To consider the Old School's requirement for re-roofing and installation of renewable energy by installing insulation and solar PV to update the Hall.
- b) To distribute information on renewables, facilitating advice and providing links
- c) To consider a community PV project
- d) To consider the provision of bicycle racks
- e) To consider ethical (Green) investments for Public/Community Funds
- f) To replace current street lighting with low energy lights
- g) To consider joining up paths to Carterton to encourage walking

9.3 Encourage Biodiversity

- a) Planting woodland, hedgerows and wildflower areas
- b) Hedgehog re-introduction
- c) Provision of nesting boxes
- d) In-roof or gable nest boxes for swifts or bats in all re-roofing and/or extension projects

9.4 Reduce littering and increase recycling

- a) Support the Annual Litter Pick
- b) Provision and maintenance of bins throughout the village

There was agreement from the floor that this would be supported. Cllr D C proposed acceptance and Cllr H M seconded. It was agreed that Cllr A B would chair the meetings. Cllrs H M and J H showed their support and residents I L, V B, AP agreed to join the group.

10. Date of next meeting May 2022 (date to be confirmed)

The meeting was closed at 8.15 and was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting

Signed.....

David Cuthbertson, Chair

Shilton Annual Parish Meeting

Held by Zoom 28th April 2021

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Draft Minutes

Present Councillors:

Mr D Cuthbertson, Chairman, Mr A Bray, Mr J Holloway, Mr H Metcalfe, Mrs S Royle

1. Apologies : None

2. Chairman's Welcome

3. The Chairman Cllr D C welcomed all to the meeting and informed the floor that he had been re-elected as Chairman.

He reported that although last year had been challenging, SPC had:

- Kept the 2021-2022 Precept as low as possible at £6,600.
- Increased the number of waste and dog bins throughout the village.
- Successfully introduced new speed limits from the A361 through the village and are currently working on reduction of speed with new signs at Shilton Dip.
- With the help of OCC councillor Peter Handle, introduced two gates to reduce traffic speed further
- Advised that The Rose and Crown Pub had been approved by WODC as a village asset.

4. Approval of minutes of 2019 Annual Parish meeting

These had been previously been circulated and agreed by all.

Cllr D C proposed acceptance and Cllr J H seconded.

5. WODC District Councillor's report

Cllr Alex Postan re-iterated that it had been a difficult year for all affected by the Pandemic.

- He confirmed that WODC had put measures in place to support as many groups of society affected by Covid.
- WODC had kept the Council tax increase to a minimum.
- He recognised that more needed to be done concerning flood prevention in the District and the relevant flood risks. He agreed that the RAF base could do more to support by clearing out the drains and grills near the Brize Norton airfield.
- Cllr A P said that a meeting was being proposed with Mr L King, WODC chief engineer, to discuss how the flood risks could be minimised.
- He commented that the plans for proposed rail link should have a careful watch as the RAF will support it.

Signed.....

Chairman

6. OCC Councillor’s report

- Councillor Nick Field - Johnson stated that of the OCC budget of £800million, over 60% was dedicated to Adult Care and that to provide for this, it had been necessary to raise council tax by 3%

- The HGV’s ban from Burford High Street has resulted in an 80% reduction of heavy goods vehicles through the town. Cameras have been installed and notices where possible issued.

- He reported a total of 215,886 hours that Thames Water has been reported for dumping untreated sewage from its various overflows .He was surprised that until recently Thames Water was claiming to do this only in exceptional circumstances to stop sewage flooding people's homes.
 NFJ said that Thames Water will continue to be criticised for its continual dumping of raw sewage into our rivers, when caused by groundwater infiltration, and not legally permitted. Thames Water has agreed to establish a time-lapse camera on the untreated outfall at the Burford sewage works and have installed new reed beds as a tertiary treatment measure for the treated effluent.
 Cllr NFJ commented that the Witney sewage fungus spills from 2019, 2020 and 2021 are also in the long queue of investigation. In the meantime, nothing changes and Thames Water continues to pollute and make a healthy profit.

7. Old School Management report

Cllr D C reported that the Old School has received £10k in Government grants and has declined the 2nd proposed grant.

Cllr DC reported that the building needs to be re-roofed and will require a £30k minimum budget. He said that consideration needs to be given for a new heating system and insulation. Cllr D C requested input from SPC and to take on Cllr A B expertise.

He also commented that due to the current pandemic situation Car boots sales, a major fund contributor, have not been scheduled.

8. Welfare Trust report

Accounts were presented. Cllr D C said funds are available to residents for education purposes.

9. Parochial Church Council Report

Cllr D C reported that the PCC’s income is down as there have been no services or collections. Therefore the PCC had spent less than usual. The Parish Share is £8k however this amount was generously donated the Parish Share which helped the finances. The Church building is in good condition considering its great age and has been well maintained over the years. The bell tower has only 2 functioning bells however it is frequently inspected and its timbers are regularly treated.

Signed.....
 Chairman

10. Flooding throughout the village

Cllr D C reported that he had met and walked around the village with Mr L K, WODC chief engineer, who made several observations:

- An overflow pipe required at the ford
- Down pipes from the houses close to the ford are discharging directly onto the road causing excess surface water that is unable to drain away because it cannot discharge effectively into the swollen ford.
- Properties in the area of the ford are at risk of flooding in adverse weather conditions and should consider installing waterproof flood doors
- Cllr DC reported that a trial was taking place in Castle Coombe on the use of intelligent water butts that might be of interest in the future.
- The existing bunds are working however a new spring has developed south of the bunds
- Cllr DC agreed to write once again, to the riparian owners reminding them of their responsibility to maintain their riverside banks.

11. Update on Traffic Signs at Shilton Dip

Cllr J H said this was on O.C.C.'s schedule and is still ongoing however a resolution is within sight.

12. The Village Bus Stop

Cllr D C advised the floor that the Bus Shelter was in need of repair and asked for suggestions.

15. Date of next meeting: Friday 30th July

Signed.....
Chairman