

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Council meeting on Thursday 29th May 2024 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andy Pearson & Steve Harrison. Parish Clerk Julie Alden.

Members of the public: 24

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence

There were apologies from Sarah Royle and Andy Bray, who may possibly attend the latter part of the meeting.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 28th March 2024.

Minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda

The issue of verge cutting was raised previously, and this is being followed up. There is a contract for eight cuts per year, but there is no fixed dates for each cut. Cllr DC would like to get this better organised when next year's tender is sent out. Other contractors will be considered for next year's contract.

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

None

6. Election of Chair for the year

Cllr David Cuthbertson's re-election was proposed by Cllr AP, and seconded by Cllr SH.

7. Councillor Vacancy

There is a councillor vacancy as Sarah Royle has stepped down after 10 years of sterling work on the parish council, and especially the Neighbourhood Watch. She will be missed very much. The parish council is in the process of meeting with all 4 of the people who have expressed interest.

8. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

See attached.

Questions were raised about the issue of verge cutting and visibility, which are dealt with under section 4. Following on from this, a question was raised about waste disposal and recycling. Cllr AP noted that the vehicles that come through Shilton put the glass and recycling in together. Rosie Pearson has been raising this with UBICO. It seems that they have to use a smaller vehicle in some villages which do not allow for the separation of glass from other recyclable items. Hopefully this can be rectified in the future.

Policy and Finance

9. Approval and completion of AGAR annual returns 2023-24

As attached. The council has again self-certified its compliance this year without the need for audit.

10. Finance update – to review and approve finance update.

As attached. Approved and signed.

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

As attached. Approved and signed.

Planning

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

There was an application received today for Ann Rawlings place, Westfield Lodge. There was a previous application for a bigger build and the demolition of the existing house. The current application is to retain the house and build a smaller additional house on the site. The council will object on the grounds that this represent a new build.

13. Update on previous planning applications.

Pete Handley's application is still under consideration. Cllr SH's application regarding his furnished holiday let has been withdrawn.

14. Housing needs survey

268 surveys were sent out and 68 came back-about 22% which seems to be the average response rate. 61% of those supported some affordable housing, 16% thought it might be good idea in certain circumstances. Cllr DC summarised by saying that there was a disappointing lack of support. Tom Barry asked what happens next? Cllr DC responded that the parish council would need to think about whether to pursue it further. Given the rejection of the proposal in the Neighbourhood Plan the only way housing could be provided would be through a Rural Exception Site developed with a Housing Association. This would not necessarily provide the Council with the control it required. Cllr DC suggested that it might be worth talking to other local parishes and get together to look at the affordable housing issue in the Benefice area.

15. Carterton Football Club

Cllr DC attended a meeting at Carterton Football Club along with three Carterton Town Councillors. The plans put forward were to build a new stadium, six football pitches and a car park. These would be built on land south of the existing ground alongside Price way and adjoining the B4020. This land is in Shilton Parish but the club had made no attempt to contact the Council about this idea. The presentation implied that WODC were in favour of, and supported the development. David Wilson homes have an option on the land. Some 4 years ago they had proposed building 150 houses on this site, but the proposal was rejected by WODC. The new proposal would allow DWH to build houses on the existing Club site. It has been made clear by Cllr Rosie Pearson that WODC were not supporting this proposal and neither were Carterton Town Council. The council does have some funds available to help fight this proposal if necessary.

16. Shilton Old School

Report is attached. Marilyn Cox has stood down as chairman from the Committee.

17. Shilton Welfare Trust

As attached. Not much is happening with the Trust. There is a possibility of closing the Trust down and perhaps merging it with the Old School Management Committee. This would mean a change to the OSMCs charitable purposes. The money from the Trust that has been spent in recent years has gone on education for local children. Alex Postan asked if it could be used to fight the Carterton FC development? Cllr DC replied that this would be difficult under the current charitable purposes. Tom Barry asked what the purpose was originally. Cllr DC answered that it was for the poor of Shilton. Alex Postan asked if the money could go where we decide? Cllr DC said no, according to Charity Commission guidance, it needs to go somewhere with a similar purpose. Lots of small parish councils are in this situation. Alex Postan suggested closing the Trust as it is not doing anything. Cllr DC remarked that it is not for the parish council to decide, as it is not our money. It is up to the Old School Committee and Shilton Welfare Trust to decide its future.

18. Shilton PCC

Accounts attached. It has been suggested that new bells should be installed in the church tower. The PCC agreed. The money is not coming from the PCC but is to be separately funded. The existing bells are listed so a new floor and new bells will be put in place. The tower is structurally sound. The church fabric and main fund accounts are both in good order.

Other matters

19. 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.

No comments.

Meeting closed at 8.36