

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at The Old School, Church Lane Shilton OX18 4AE at 19.30 hours.

Members of the public: 13

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence

None apologies were received.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 11th January 2024.

The minutes were approved.

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 presented her report, as attached. County Councillor Nick Field-Johnson was not in attendance.

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.

James Dashwood asked about WODC statistics for fines for fly tipping. Rosie Pearson noted that the officer responsible for this has been off sick but has returned. The issue of potholes was raised and Cllr AP noted that the response rate was 2 days and the repairs (although temporary looking) had been done. Rosie Pearson said that Nick Field Johnson had mentioned that new materials were being trialled for use in repairs. Cllr AB subscribes to an app which generates reports filed by individuals – the report rate is growing faster than the holes are being filled. Peter Lismer said that the workmanship was to blame, not the materials available. Alex Postan suggested that the problem was the statutory duty of the county council in providing social care was taking the majority of the funding available, and that the county council need to reflect the needs of the community and prioritise transport over social care.

Planning

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

There is only one application – the proposed erection of 5 houses near Carterton FC. The council agreed to oppose the application on the same grounds as the previous application.

10. Update on previous planning applications.

There is one outstanding – a decision has not been made on Pete Handley's application.

11. Housing needs survey

48 replies received as of tonight and a few more are to come, which makes about 50 out of 280 houses, so not a great response. A general discussion followed of the reasons for affordable homes. John Colson asked if the council would change its mind about objecting to his proposed development in Ladburn Lane if it included affordable housing. Cllr DC stated that the council would only consider changing its objection if the site became a rural exception site and not a private development.

Traffic

12. 20 MPH scheme

This is now in place. Some unnecessary signs have been taken down. Members of the public suggested that there were too many signs.

13. Closure of the ford – presentation of policy

Cllr AP delivered a background of the policy. This is an ongoing issue and was covered at the last meeting. The ford was closed in January due to low temperatures and the ford being high. There were dissenting voices mainly from those living on the other side of the ford, on the grounds of inconvenience. Following a closure in mid-January, there was more opposition and a long email exchange with those affected and it was decided that we needed a policy. This policy was based on the danger of ice forming from high levels of water being splashed onto the pavements, leading to injuries. Depth of the ford was not a primary consideration. Since then, a minibus has been stuck in the ford and there has been an increase in public concern, and the newer version now also considers the depth of the ford as well. In summary, the criteria are: the protection of people, vehicles, pedestrians and property.

Cllr AP presented a formal plan for the closure of the ford when necessary. The Council voted unanimously to accept the plan as policy.

14. Speed Watch Group

Thames Valley Police have given their authority for the group to monitor to 20mph now. Cllrs SH and SR were out there today near Ladburn Lane for the first session since the limit was imposed. The group also have approval to set up a new monitoring site opposite James Dashwood's house. It was noted that lots of people are exceeding it. As the radar needs 100m for a clear view, this is not possible to site it near the dip. Cllr SH suggested the need for a police van and camera, and Alex Postan suggested a camera on a pole. One member of the public noted similar arrangements at Lechlade near the Co-op where there is a brown box mounted above some signage.

15. Radar device

This has not been moved yet.

Environment

16. Flood defence

The council are still awaiting a proposal from OCC highways to improve drainage of the road adjacent to the pond. Cllr AB will report back.

17. Tree planting

James Dashwood said that there was massive potential for planting in the fields near his house. Tim (Edwards) is investigating re grants. Trees were planted along Alvescot Rd and near Cllr SH's house. Next autumn, more will be added to Alvescot Rd near John Colson's farm. Rosie Pearson noted that residents of Bradwell Village were interested in planting and would like to have some trees along an area called the gallops. They will liaise re the parish clerk. Alex Postan hoped that there would be an emphasis on flowering trees being planted. Glen Loxton asked about the footpath next to James Dashwood's property, which follows the old stone wall, and noted that maps of the footpath show a different area. James expressed a desire to plant more native trees along the footpath, although this would result in a smaller footpath. Alex Postan said that the tulip tree planted 15 years ago near the ford is now mature and beautiful. Cllr AB said that Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust advise leaving the area wild, with areas like the back of the pond left as habitat.

18. Litter

James Dashwood noted that once a year litter picking is not enough and wondered if there was anyone in the village who would do litter picking, perhaps one day a week, as in Freeland, where someone is employed to do this. James indicated that he would be willing to pay half of the fee. Alex Postan

suggested that the Rose and Crown might be willing to sponsor this – James said he was happy to talk to Matt. Rosie Pearson noted that in Brize Norton, there is a community effort to pick litter on the last Sunday of every month. Cllr DC said that there are organised mornings for this at which parish council members are active, as well as people individually gathering it up as well. He will put a notice in the parish newsletter.

19. Grass cutting

Cllr DC noted that there is a contract with McCrackens for 8 cuts a year. A conflict was identified between No Mow May and the June open gardens event. It was suggested that grass is cut in late May, and then again before the open gardens event. Cllr AB noted that there are areas of wildlife outside Old School and the council intended to create a new area next to the pond once OCC have sorted out the drainage in that area.

Other matters

20. CCTV

There has been no action of this yet. There is money in the budget for it and according to the Police and Crime Commissioner's report, there is £400, 000 available for a CCTV scheme, which Cllr DC will look to apply for. Alex Postan asked about signs – Cllr DC replied that signs are needed for evidence to be taken into account, even on private property. Lynne Bourton asked who would monitor it? There are GDPR implications for this, as it is a complex area. Cllr DC said that much of what is planned is a deterrent. Perhaps one camera at the pond and 2 dummy cameras elsewhere.

21. Community Emergency Plan

The general feeling was that that we don't need one.

22. 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.

Cllr AB said that the stolen chains from the war memorial ad now been replaced, and noted that a piece of wood had been stolen from the wall. John Colson asked if this encouraged kids to climb on it? Cllr AB noted that the hooks had been wrenched. Paul Hedges asked if it had all been taken – it appeared that possibly someone was disturbed or took what they wanted. Members of the public noted that bales of hay had been set alight by the airfield, and that dog poo had been dumped at Scrubbs Lane.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

- 1) Local plan. There will be another phase of consultation this summer. There have been a lot of “ideas & proposals” submitted to WODC. It is really worth looking through them. Parish & town councils will be consulted about ideas in their areas. Since WODC made quite a thing about welcoming ideas that were not just about building development, it is disappointing that the majority of the proposals are precisely that. But it is worth looking through the “Other general suggestions”, where there are some more creative ideas.

Here is the consultation summary:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/cufdp555/consultation-summary-report-feb-2024.pdf>

The ideas, sites and opportunities are listed on pp61-76

The “other general suggestions” are listed on pp77-80

- 2) Judicial review re Salt Cross Garden Village.
This is the largest development (2,200 homes) in the current Local Plan. If built, it could take a lot of pressure off other areas. WODC's plan for the site includes extremely high energy, building and connectivity standards, for a development that is genuinely net zero. The potential developer had objected, and these high standards had been ruled unlawful by planning inspectors. A judicial review brought by a third party has now found that the planning inspectors had incorrectly applied national planning policy. **This could have far-reaching consequences for the ability of planning authorities to apply higher standards than those in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**
- 3) (Feb) Govt announcement:
PLANNING RULES FOR SHORT-TERM LETS • New planning ‘use class’ to be created for short-term lets that are not used as a sole or main home • Existing dedicated short-term lets will automatically be reclassified into the new use class and will not require a planning application • Planning permission will be needed for future short-term lets • Homeowners can continue to let out their own main or sole home for up to 90 nights a year • Mandatory national register to be introduced
- 4) Sewage and rivers: I expect you have all seen the news this week that there has been, a 105% rise in raw sewage discharges into England's rivers over the past 12 months. Thames Water was responsible for the biggest increase in the number of discharges, with its overflows dumping on 16,990 occasions, a 112% increase on 2022.
The task force that has been meeting with TW regularly, including reps from WODC and WASP, has made some progress, and in fact TW is one of only 2 water companies that reports discharges on a real time basis.
(<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health/storm-discharge-data>). But there are limits to progress. TW has already pushed back on the dates of promised upgrading of Witney and other sewage works, because of lack of funds. There are many calls for renationalization, but how, given the enormous debts of the company and the massive backlog of infrastructure investment? One suggestion is that TW should be put into administration and it is then up to the administrator to work out. There are also suggestions that it should be broken up into smaller parts.

5) WODC has adopted three Action Plans:

a) Food Action Plan, as a result of a working group set up by Good Food Oxfordshire. It has a lot of actions in it, but one I would highlight is that WODC undertakes to: Map all potential growing spaces, including available allotment spaces, and unused space which could be utilised for growing. Engage town and parish councils in this through Neighbourhood Plans and Local Design Statements.

Further reading:

<https://meetings.westoxon.gov.uk/documents/s10089/West%20Oxfordshire%20Food%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Good%20Food%20Oxfordshire%20FINAL.pdf>

b) Carbon Action Plan:

<https://meetings.westoxon.gov.uk/documents/g2266/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Mar-2024%2014.00%20Executive.pdf?T=10p222>

6) Nature Recovery Plan, including 2 new officers

Also 3 days left to fill in survey on OCC Nature Recovery Strategy

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/lhrs-phase1>

Service performance report Oct-Dec 2023:

<https://meetings.westoxon.gov.uk/documents/g2266/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Mar-2024%2014.00%20Executive.pdf?T=10p89>

p89

Some highlights: above performance:

Missed bins per 100,000: 98.7 against a target of 100

Below performance: affordable homes delivered: 126 against a target of 138

Long term empty properties – huge problem, going in the wrong direction. Over 700. Comparing ourselves to two neighbouring councils – Forest of Dean is below us, and Cotswolds is worse than us, but both are also going in the wrong direction. This will be a focus of some investigative work in the coming months.

There was a marginal rise in the number of fly tips collected compared to the previous quarter.

The enforcement action percentage has slightly declined at Cotswold and Forest but has increased at West since the last quarter.

In Q3, the Executive accepted an amendment for enhanced powers for Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), allowing for an increase in the upper limits for various FPNs, including:

- The maximum fine for fly-tipping, increasing from £400 to £1,000.
- The maximum fine for litter or graffiti, increasing from £150 to £500.
- The maximum fine for those breaching their household waste duty of care, increasing from £400 to £600.

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Your accounts

Last login: 28 March 24 (8.33 AM)

Make a quick transfer

Henry Bonas Limited Shilton Parish Council

Shilton Welfare Trust

Shilton Parochial Church Council

Flood fund

Available funds:
£18,204.28

30-64-14,
13672460

[View a mini statement](#)

[Set up standing order](#)

[View a mini statement](#)

[Set up standing order](#)

Club, Charity And Trust Account

Available funds:
£8,910.72

30-91-43,
00078610

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[Set up standing order](#)

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Transaction date	Transaction Sort Code	Account No	Transaction description	Debit amount	Credit amount	Balance
27/03/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 ANDREW BRAY EXPENSES	155		8910.72
18/03/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 ANDREW BRAY EXPENSES	191.87		9065.72
28/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 Julie Alden SHILTON PC	180		9257.59
26/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 OALC S00238/2024/1	168		9437.59
22/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 Rupert Goodey Plants Ltd Shilton PC	372.85		9605.59
08/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 ElanCity Ltd SAJ-UK/2023/01321	75.67		9978.44
07/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 Community First Oxfordshire Shilton PC	55		10054.11
02/02/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 Peter Edwards Shilton PC	330		10109.11
31/01/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 Julie Alden SHILTON PC	180		10439.11
19/01/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 HMRC - ACCOUNTS OFFICE CUMBERNAULD 120PI	135		10619.11
15/01/2024	FPO	30-91-43	78610 ANDREW BRAY EXPENSES	208.56		10754.11