

Shilton Parish Council

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

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

Members of the public: 19

Agenda

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.

3. Jack Graham – WODC Envirocrimes Officer – fly tipping.

Jack Graham is responsible for monitoring and dealing with fly tipping, littering, and abandonment of vehicles. Fly tipping is an issue across the district and the county. Rural spots tend to be most targeted as they are seen as good spots. Jack is the only dedicated officer for fly tipping at WODC, and it can be a challenge to find balance across the district. The Rural Crime Taskforce and Safer Streets initiative with Oxfordshire County Council provided funding for cameras and an operation was currently being carried out using cameras on Hen N Chick Lane. A general discussion ensued on the problems of fly-tipping and littering. Residents were warned against using unlicensed waste disposal businesses.

4. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 30th May 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda.

None.

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

None.

7. Councillor Vacancy

There had been a vacancy for the role of Parish Councillor, following Sarah Royle's resignation, and the recruitment process had started. Sarah has since changed her mind and is happy to stay on. As the Neighbourhood Watch officer and chair of the Old School

Committee, this complements the Parish Council work. Sarah has been co-opted back and the relevant forms are now being filled out, although they are not yet completed.

8. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Nicholas Field-Johnson was not in attendance. Rosie Pearson's report is attached.

The issue of traffic and the Cotswold Wildlife Park is ongoing. A meeting of residents of Bradwell Village and representatives of The Wildlife Park are scheduled for November. The possibility of getting drone footage of the park access on busy periods was discussed and was general thought to be helpful.

Policy and Finance

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

As attached. Approved.

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

As attached. Approved.

Planning

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

There are two new applications. Westbourne, the junction at Alvescot Rd, which is Pete Handley's. This is an amended version of a 2019 application, amended after the local housing survey questionnaire and results. This application will go to the WODC Planning committee in October.

The second application is for solar panel installation at Bridge House and associated buildings. There are plans to put 46 on the roof of the spa and 120 in the field behind, with accompanying documents of plans. Cllr DC noted the visual effect on the village could change, and we would need to balance supporting green energy and protecting the conservation area. The general feeling seems to be support for roof panels but not those proposed in the field. The Parish Council will discuss this further.

12. Update on previous planning applications.

None.

13. Carterton Football Club proposal.

Nothing further has been heard on this. Rosie Pearson asked about this but a decision doesn't seem imminent. There is support in some quarters and not others. Carterton Town Council is divided and there is an internal squabble. She will keep an eye on it.

14. Maintenance of the pond and bridge.

The fabric of the banks and retaining walls to the pond are deteriorating, including to the footbridge stonework. OCC has agreed to organise and fund minimal works to the footbridge only, but even this is in doubt due to their likely inability to fund it. Thus, it may be that Shilton PC has to organise and pay for the works. Mark Chainey has provided a rough idea of costs, and while the PC does not have sufficient funding to cover it this year, it is possible that it can be a specific project for the PC to fundraise for in future.

15. CCTV.

Clr DC hasn't yet done anything about this issue. He asked if the feeling is that we should still have at least one, maybe two fixed ones? The general feeling was yes, so he is going to pursue this.

16. Overgrown areas.

Garden foliage is growing over into roads. It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep the foliage under control. The Parish Council will spend money if we need to but only if it gets to be a serious hazard.

17. 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.

The issue was raised about cars parked at the bottom of the hill, on the corner. This was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the council would approach OCC about introducing yellow lines. The issue of speeding down Hen N Chick was discussed. The council have a meeting arranged with OCC Highways to discuss road and traffic issues in the parish and improving communications with the authority.

Meeting closed at 8.45.