

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Shotteswell.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), J Burgess, V Ingram (Clerk), A Omer, C Williams (WCC)

Apologies: Cllr Pearson

Members of the Public: 7

Declaration of Interest: None

Minutes of the previous meeting having been previously circulated were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Omer.

Matters Arising

Trees & Highways: The road repair flagged for attention in Chapel Lane, (outside of the Old Vicarage) had been completed. The kerb stones displaced by the Coronation Tree had been reported and had been marked up for repair on the day of the meeting. The piles of loose grit had still not been cleared. The Parish Council had received a complaint regarding the mud on the roads in the village. The County Highways had been contacted and relevant warning signs erected. It was felt that it was very difficult in a farming community to keep roads clean at all times but that the council had a degree of sympathy, to these ends the Clerk was to discuss this matter with the farmers in the village to see what could be done to improve things.

Owing to a safety concern a broken bough had required urgent attention, this action was agreed by all councillors to make safe for the community.

Hedge/verge maintenance had been undertaken as agreed and it was felt that this had improved the appearance of the village.

Some of the gullies were blocked, the Clerk explained that she normally kept these clear but had not been able to recently, but will attend to soon.

Fly tipping: Several incidents reported on Mollington Lane and at the B4100 layby, the special signs had not yet erected.

Bus shelter: Nothing to report, but the base of the water drum still requires to be painted, this would be done when the weather improved.

Playing field Bird deterrents not yet replaced as field too wet. The Playground inspection book needs to be passed on to ensure everyone gets a turn. Door on tree house needs attention.

Footpaths: Kissing gates not yet installed, the footpath teams were still waiting for assistance from the footpath officer. The permissive footpath by the motorway had been slightly widened. Ditch by the sewerage field bridge being currently repaired. Complaints received from dog owners that the stile at Laurel Farm is too high for them to lift dogs over.

Finance: The precept was discussed and it was decided to maintain the amount required at £5,500. Proposed by Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Faulkner unanimously agreed.

Payments made since last meeting

Kissing Gates £603.60	Fencing £50	
Insurance £1,109.66	Loo £120	
Rent £350	WALC £95	
Plants £132.76	Compost £12	
Entertainer £20	V Hall £230	Poppy wreath £50
ROSPA £117.60	Tree works £ 200	Hedges £199.80

Proposed by Cllr Burgess, Seconded by Cllr Faulkner

Village Hall: At the last meeting a request had been made to see if the Parish Council would help with the purchase of a new fridge, due to a faulty seal on the current fridge and that ideally a replacement should have a freezer compartment. It was agreed that a maximum of £300 be allocated for this purpose. Clerk would discuss with the Chair of the Village Hall Committee on model etc. Proposed by Cllr Omer and Seconded by Cllr Faulkner.

Hospital Consultation on the proposal to downgrade certain services had begun. The first Consultation Meeting was to be held at the Town Hall on Thursday 26th January. The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group would be consulting on the Oxfordshire Transformation Plan which proposes permanent loss of the Horton's consultant-led maternity unit, Special Care Baby Unit, emergency gynecology plus changes to stroke and downgrading critical care in Banbury. It included 'changes to the way beds are used' and incorporates the loss of 36 acute medical and ten trauma beds closed at the Horton last October.

Parish Plan: No further meetings had been held. The discussion as to whether or not to undertake a housing survey was debated. Cllrs had met with a representative from WRCC and had discussed the potential of a Housing Survey Need and whether to undertake one or not. There were two parts to the questionnaire and the council could if it wished send out only part two. Only build for identified need and if it were to be all private housing WRCC would not take this further, had to be between 4-6 properties required before considered feasible. It was also reliant on a landowner allowing any land to be made available at a cheaper than market rate price, to be built upon. It was felt that no decision could be made until such times as all Councillors were present and would be brought to next meeting.

Kiosk. The Clerk had noticed that the red telephone kiosk was under threat of removal. The Clerk had investigated getting the telephone kiosk listed, this had been quite a lot of work but had proved successful. The listing information was relayed to SDC, who in turn had supported the retention of the kiosk at their cabinet meeting on the 6th January.

District Report: Bart Dalla Mura had resigned. The District Council has agreed to support either the removal or retention of the phone box when requested by a Parish Council.

The District Council, unlike the County Council, is not subject to the same financial pressures. Unlike last year where the District Council was given dispensation to raise the Council Tax by more than 2% due to their low tax base, this year this dispensation has not been given, it is anticipated that the Council Tax will be kept to under 2%. There are no plans to cut any existing services although there will be savings by efficiencies over the next year.

County Report: The Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council, retires on 5th February 2017. No replacement until after the May 2017 elections, whichever party has the majority will select the new Chief Executive.

Budget proposals: (i) 40 additional Children's Social Workers plus additional support capacity to reduce case loads and provide greater support for vulnerable children. (ii) Invest in the education system for vulnerable learners (iii) Protect the elderly by investing in extra care housing and raising the levy for Adult Social Care to fund additional demand. (iv) Generate additional capital to invest in the infrastructure of Warwickshire County. (v) There are no proposals for reducing the number of Fire Stations or personnel who work in the Fire Service. (vi) Council Tax will be increased by under 2% but there might be an additional 2% levy for Adult Social Care similar to that carried out last year. (vii) Continue with the £2 million a year allocation for Members to use on local highway priorities.

Health Issues - At a meeting of the Cabinet in January the proposal by NHS Warwickshire to introduce certain restructuring agendas was rejected principally because the NHS had not consulted Warwickshire before introducing their proposals which included closing the George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton as well as other significant cost saving measures that would have a significant impact upon all residents of Warwickshire.

Next meeting provisionally set for 4th April 2017
Meeting Closed at 8.27pm

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