



Shotteswell Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Shotteswell.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), J Burgess, V Ingram (Clerk), A Omer, M Pearson,

Apologies: J Feilding (SDC) C Williams (WCC)

Members of the Public: 6

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:

Highways & Trees. WCC had been made aware of the potholes and that the carriage way was breaking up on the B4100 by the Falcon & the Farm shop. Large potholes in Bury Court lane flagged for repair and also potholes by the Village Hall. Trees: The hedge trimming had taken place and had been effective in giving a nice tidy up to the village. The tree at the entrance to the playing field had been notified to WCC on the 8th January as a serious concern for safety. This was followed up early last week with a phone call to remind them of the concerns nothing had been sent to acknowledge what remedial action would be taken. Subsequently a huge bough had fallen from the tree in question and smashed the bench, WCC have been notified and we will need to claim for a replacement bench. The tree alongside is also a concern and has been notified to WCC.

Playing field. The rocking horse lose platform needs repairing. The tree house door needed repairing and the guttering needed to be fixed. Cllr Pearson will action. The Zip wire required the cable replacing and will cost approx £ 699 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Burgess and Seconded by Cllr Omer that the works be undertaken. A few people are still taking dogs into the field and allowing them to roam freely, which needs to be discouraged. The possibility of getting the thatched shades refurbished on the benches or replaced needed to be investigated. Cllr Burgess offered to wash the tree house and Cllr Faulkner will spray weed killer around the stilts of the treehouse.

Dog fouling, still an issue in places around the village often as a result of loose dogs. Fly tipping none since last meeting. Cllr Faulkner reported that he had, had some rubbish tipped in his field gateways, but he would clear this himself.

Finance: Paid since last meeting:

Proposed by: Cllr Faulkner Seconded by Cllr Pearson

ROSPA £117.60	Poppy £50
Grass £1,808	Hedge Cutting £228

The precept budget was discussed in depth and it was decided that our reserves would not be sufficient after our undertakings had been honoured. It was agreed that the precept would be raised by £1,000 with the proviso that this could be decreased next year. Proposed by Cllr Burgess & Seconded by Cllr Omer.

The tree in the churchyard was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Pearson & Seconded by Cllr Burgess that £500 be allocated.

Village Hall had met last week and had resolved to invest in new heating system which would be more environmentally friendly and economical to run. The Village Hall meetings would now be open to the public to attend. The Village Hall now had a licence and would be running an Easter raffle and the fete would also benefit from it. There were two planned events a Quiz and a Race night in aid of the hall.

Horton General. The JR launched by the councils and the campaign group was rejected. The Campaign group are investigating leave to appeal. The IRP has been submitted for consideration and the result of this is expected by the 9th February.

Footpaths: The Chair asked for a letter to be sent regarding the kissing gates to the footpath team expressing concerns as to how long they had been waiting to be installed. It appeared that the group were to meet and discuss this shortly but were still waiting for WCC. The gap created in the hedge queried at the last meeting had been established as more than adequate to install the gate. A potential re routing of the footpath has been proposed by WCC across Laurel Farm this would see the route diverted through New Road. the Parish council has been asked to respond. It was decided that the views of New Road would be canvassed. The owners of Laurel Farm had requested that it be recorded that they had not instigated this and were happy as they were at present. The footpath group had sent to say that they had requested the wire obstructing the stile on SM163 be removed. It was felt this was a matter between the owners and WCC.

Parish Plan: A further revision had been submitted and it was agreed that Cllr Ingram and the Parish Plan representative would meet and make the final tweaks. The plan could then be submitted. There had not been any responses to the housing needs letter at this point.

District Council Report

Superfast Broadband, continues to be problematic elsewhere
SDC to call them back again to answer unanswered question raised.
Oxfordshire CCG

Sadly, we lost the Judicial Review that the 3 District Councils' had taken out against the OCCG. The full judgement is on the website.

The Committee is meeting the Warwickshire CCG and the Ambulance service on the 24 January 2018.

Voluntary Action Stratford on Avon District (VASA)

The VASA reported on their help they can give members of the District. They have volunteer's drivers who can take people to most destination within the district. If it is hospital the driver will wait up to 2 hours. They can also arrange social meeting for people within the District.

Council Tax

The District share of Council Tax will increase by 1%. The County Council & the Police share is yet to be finalised.

County Council Report

The final Local Government settlement came out two days before the Christmas break. The amount that Warwickshire will receive is only just in line with the predicted (planned) settlement but no allowance was made for additional pressures which are coming to light as well as the higher than expected staff pay increase. There is an option of an additional 1% on the Council tax – over and above the 1.99% already allowed. If this is taken it will be swallowed up with increased Adult and Children's safeguarding costs.

The Budget is due to be set on 6th February

The County Highways have again been able to keep 46% of the main roads Grit bins have been well used and Highways are ensuring that they are refilled as requested. We would all like to see more minor roads gritted and especially the footways but unfortunately this is neither feasible nor affordable. In the "bad old days" householders used to clear the length of path outside their property. This does not seem to happen so much nowadays!

2018 will again be dominated by financial savings as more and more pressures are placed on local Government without the resources to go with them. Overall council tax will increase with extra Police precept and District precept added to the WCC precept.

Coventry City of Culture (desig), will be putting out the begging bowl and I think devolution may well raise its head again. However, I am confident that Shotteswell will continue to be well run in a year that will see a Royal Wedding and commemorations of the end of WW1 in November to name but a few events to look forward to.

The Parish Council will take part in the WW1 Celebrations with the lighting of the beacon at 7pm and the ringing of the church bells at 7.05pm. Cllr Ingram had contacted the church about the bells. It was suggested some activity could be arranged in the hall on the evening to mark the commemoration.

Next meeting arranged provisionally for 10th April.

The Meeting was then closed.