**SHELLINGFORD PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of Parish Meeting on 14 December 2020 (held online using Zoom due to Covid-19 Regulations not allowing a physical meeting)**

1. *Welcome and Attendance*

Barry Moody, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and asked for forbearance in the operation of the digital technology. He thanked Janine Elton for making this possible and for guiding the process. There appeared to be twenty four residents at the meeting although they could obviously not sign an Attendance Record. Apologies for absence had been received from Susan Price and Jennifer Thompson.

2. *Previous Meeting*

Minutes of the meeting on 24 August 2020 were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record without amendment. The Chairman signed these minutes.

3. *Matters Arising*

Jennie Chesterton drew attention to Faringdon Food Bank now being administered by Faringdon Town Council. Councillor Nathan Boyd agreed to check this (minute number 6 of 24 August 2020).

4. *County Council Report*

Councillor Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor submitted an oral report. The county council meeting to review and set a new budget for the coming year will be held next month.

Anda explained that she had chaired a digital meeting of the Local Liaison Group for the quarry earlier in the day.

Christopher Price asked what progress had been made about speeding vehicles, especially after the recently announced plans by the County Council. Anda agreed to enquire further about this. Local speed watch groups are not currently allowed to report offenders to the police. Anda suggested that contact be made with Matthew Barber, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. *District Council Report*

Councillor Nathan Boyd had not been able to attend the meeting.

6. *Planning Applications*

The Clerk reported that there had been only one application since the last Parish Meeting. This was a Permission in Principle application for the construction of up to nine dwellings at Home Farm at the end of Church Street. The application had been withdrawn by the applicant prior to determination.

7. *Quarry Report*

The Clerk explained that permission had been granted by Oxfordshire County Council on 19 October for the commencement of operations at the western extension of the Shellingford Quarry. Extraction of materials had not started yet due to the operator fulfilling various conditions of the permission. One of these was the creation of a Local Liaison Group which has met several times and is providing a channel for parishioners concerns to be raised with the operator.

In view of these developments, the Quarry Subcommittee of the Parish Meeting was no longer required. A motion to disband this Subcommittee was proposed by Christopher Price, seconded by Fiona O’Regan and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held about the state of the roads around the quarry, especially the Hatford road. The Clerk and Mike Wright agreed to raise these concerns at the next Local Liaison Group meeting.

8. *Neighbourhood Plan Report*

Mike Wright and the Chairman reported that three sets of documentation (terms of reference, constitution and geographic area covered) had been prepared and submitted to the Vale of White Horse (“VOWH”) officers. The formal constitution of the Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group had been issued for public consultation (ended 27 November). It is expected that the VOWH will approve proceeding to the next stage shortly.

A Village Questionnaire will be issued to all parishioners once it has been cleared by VOWH. Mike Wright encouraged everyone to participate because community involvement is key and this was an opportunity to shape the future of Shellingford.

9. *Financial Report*

Sue Terry, Treasurer, reported that there was a balance of £9,295 in the Parish bank account and that there had been no expenditure so far this year.

Christopher Price suggested that there should be a list of possible expenditure. The acquisition of a defibrillator was discussed. Fiona Wright offered to investigate aspects such as training and siting.

10. *Precept for 2021/2022*

The Chairman suggested that the Precept for the year to 31 March 2022 should remain at the previous year’s amount of £1,500. Christopher Price proposed and Paul Hatcher seconded a motion to approve this, which the meeting did unanimously.

11. *Annual Charity Donations*

Amounts of £150 to First Responders, £50 to Wantage Independent Advice Centre and £50 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance were approved after votes proposed by Christopher Price and seconded by Paul Hatcher.

A donation to Faringdon Food Bank before Christmas was suggested. A motion to donate £250 was proposed by Fiona O’Regan, seconded by Jennie Chesterton and approved.

12. *Community Hall Report*

Sue Terry commented that there was very little to report as the Covid-19 regulations had meant there were very few bookings.

13. *Parochial Church Council Report*

Sue Terry reported that services were now being held in St Faith’s but with limited numbers and due observation of Covid-19 guidelines.

The Mann Trust were considering the erection of two gates at the church end and bridge end of the woodland. Discussion was held about the type of gates and their suitability for the prevention of farm animals escaping. The Chairman offered to review this with Jonathan Gantlett, Adam Blackwell and Peter Mattingley. A proposal by Alastair Sharp seconded by Jane Samways to consider spending up to £650 on these gates was approved.

14. *Any Other Business*

The Clerk reported that the A417 will be closed for patching repair works from 15 to 17 February 2021. The diversion will be via Tubney, A338, Grove and Stanford.

A group called 20’s Plenty for Oxfordshire had been established to campaign for mandatory 20 mph village speed limits. Oxfordshire County Council had set up a Speeding Task Force aiming to reduce speeding on all roads.

Fiona O’Regan reported that the village footpaths were generally in reasonable condition. A project to record Phil Chesterton’s memories and knowledge of village history is to be considered.

Janine Elton and Louise Mollo had successfully cleared the two crab apple trees off the Fernham Road.

Mike Wright and Janine Rowe reported, as school governors, that the school was well organised to cope with the Covid-19 epidemic. There are currently ninety six pupils and the school is nearly always oversubscribed. The head teacher was currently finding it difficult to replace retiring staff.

15. *Date of Next Meeting*

Planned for Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 19.30 in the Community Hall.