**SHELLINGFORD PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 24 May 2021 at The Community Hall**

1. *Welcome and Attendance*

Barry Moody, Chairman, welcomed twenty five residents to the meeting. An Attendance Record was not completed due to the Covid-19 social distancing guidelines in place. Apologies for absence had been received from Terry Smith and Jennifer Thompson.

2. *Previous Meetings*

Minutes of the meeting on 14 December 2020 were reviewed. A motion to amend point six therein and to make an addition concerning the Chairman’s comments at the end of the minutes was proposed by Alastair Sharp and seconded by Robert Sharp. This motion was defeated by twenty two votes to two with one abstention. The minutes were then accepted and the Chairman signed these minutes.

3. *Matters Arising*

It was noted that Faringdon Food Bank is now administered by Churches Together in Faringdon.

4. *Nominations and Elections of Officers*

Barry Moody had decided to retire as Chairman. The Clerk expressed his and the village’s grateful thanks for all that Barry had done to assist the parish over many years.

Fiona Wright was nominated by Jane Samways and seconded by Janine Elton for the position of Chairman.

Roy Samways was nominated by Sue Terry and seconded by Christopher Price for the position of Clerk.

Sue Terry was nominated by Janine Elton and seconded by Louise Mollo for the position of Treasurer.

There were no other nominations and the meeting approved the election of the officers with one resident voting against the appointment of all three officers.

5. *County Council Report*

Councillor Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor had not stood for re-election at the May county council election. The meeting thanked her, in her absence, for her past services.

The new county councillor, Juliette Ash, had been invited to attend this meeting but had not responded.

6. *District Council Report*

Councillor Nathan Boyd submitted an oral report.

A full district council meeting held in March had commenced the process of preparing a new Local Plan 2041. It is planned that this will be a combined Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Plan. The first step will be a call for sites. Nathan stressed that responses to individual planning applications need to be submitted very quickly.

Nathan also explained that Biffa are having difficulties in recruiting HGV drivers. Household waste should still be left in the normal manner and it will be collected.

The Climate Emergency Committee will meet in June.

Police are increasing rural patrols but it is recognised that speeding, especially in villages, is a problem.

7. *Planning Applications*

The Clerk reported on applications since the last Parish Meeting.

An application to construct a new detached studio/workshop outbuilding and convert an existing garage to a hobby room at Gatehouse, Fernham Road had been approved in January by the Vale of White Horse authorities.

Permission to extract minerals from land to the west of the existing Hatford Quarry had been granted by Oxfordshire County Council in February.

A Permission in Principle application for the construction of up to four dwellings at Home Farm at the end of Church Street had been made in April. Thirty four comments had been entered on the council website and the application is under consideration.

An application to construct a new car storage and garage at Ebdon Manor, Stanford Drive had just been submitted.

*8. Neighbourhood Plan Report*

The Chairman and Mike Wright submitted oral reports.

A questionnaire entitled “What is important for the village future” had been issued with responses requested by 15 January. A very good level of reply had enabled a Housing Needs Survey to follow this in February. The evidence from the replies had formed the basis for a Housing Needs Assessment prepared by an external consultant, Chameleon Consultancy. As the Assessment had just been received, the planned Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting for 25 May had been postponed in order to fully consider the Assessment.

Membership of the Steering Group was discussed.

The Chairman explained that whilst a grant, in respect of the consultancy fees, had been applied for, Covid-19 and VOWH delays had meant that Mike Wright had personally paid for the first instalment of the fees.

A motion to reimburse Mike Wright for the first instalment of £1,329 was proposed by Jane Samways and seconded by Janine Elton. This motion was approved by twenty two votes to none with three abstentions.

A motion to pay the second instalment of £1,329 was proposed by Julian Mellor and seconded by Louise Mollo. This motion was approved by twenty two votes to none with three abstentions.

*9. Financial Report*

Sue Terry, Treasurer, submitted a Summary Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2021. Both these and the Accounting Statements for 2020/21 were signed by the Chairman.

*10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return*

The Annual Internal Audit Report dated 14 May was noted.

The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements were approved by the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.

The Certificate of Exemption was approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

The period for exercise of public rights was set to commence on 3 June and end on 14 July.

All of the above documents, plus a copy of the Summary Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2021 and contact details for any questions concerning them, will be displayed on the village noticeboard during the period for exercise of public rights.

*11. Quarry Local Liaison Group Report*

Meetings chaired by Councillor Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor had been held on 14 December 2020 and 26 April 2021. The Clerk reported that the meetings were both useful in monitoring any complaints and in maintaining good relations with the operator, who had been very cooperative.

*12.* *School Headteacher’s Report*

Judith Terrell had submitted a written report which was issued to the meeting. This was reviewed.

*13. Community Hall Report*

Sue Terry stated that there was nothing to report.

*14. Parochial Church Council Report*

Sue Terry explained that St Faith’s church was now holding two services a month. These were inside with social distancing rules but singing was not allowed.

The Gantlett family had provided a wooden gate for one end of the Mann Trust land. Thanks were expressed to them for the supply and to Adam Blackwell and Pete Mattingley for the erection of the gate. A quote for the second gate is being sought.

*15. Parish Footpath Wardens Report*

Fiona O’Regan reported that a “Lost Paths” map was available to view on the wall. Five had been identified with the help of the Ramblers Association. Phil Chesterton had checked and agreed them. Walks have been surveyed and put forward for recognition by Fiona.

Thanks were expressed to Robert Sharp for maintaining the paths on his land.

*16. Any Other Business*

Christopher Price discussed speeding on the village roads. Speed Watch checks had only been restarted within the last couple of weeks because the equipment had to be repaired. Oxfordshire County Council are considering whether a 20 mph limit should be applied in all Oxfordshire villages. Stanford had purchased a camera to assist their Speed Watch.

A motion to spend up to £200 on a new camera, if it was considered worthwhile, was proposed by Julian Mellor, seconded by Janine Rowe and approved unanimously.

The Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Juliette Ash about acquiring speed camera signs for both ends of the village.

The rescue of two crab apple trees in Fernham Road had been completed by Louise Mollo and Janine Elton in January.

*17. Date of Next Meeting*

Planned for Monday 1 November 2021 at 19.30 in the Community Hall.

The meeting closed with a further vote of thanks to Barry Moody for his service to the Parish Meeting.