**SHELLINGFORD PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of Parish Meeting on 1 November 2021 at The Community Hall**

1. *Welcome and Attendance*

Fiona Wright introduced herself as the new Chair and welcomed twenty three residents to the meeting. An Attendance Record was completed by those present and it was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Jennie Chesterton, Christopher Price, Susie Price, Alastair Sharp, Janice Sharp, Jane Stevens and Jennifer Thompson.

2. *Previous Meetings*

Minutes of the meeting on 24 May 2021 were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record without amendment. The Chair signed these minutes.

3. *Matters Arising*

None arose that were not already covered on the agenda.

4. *County Council Report*

The Clerk explained that our new county councillor, Juliette Ash, had not responded to any of the four emails that he had sent to her requesting assistance on speed camera signs and inviting her to both the current and previous Parish Meetings. Councillor Nathan Boyd had checked that the emails had been received and offered to assist in eliciting a response.

After a discussion, the Clerk was asked to send a formal letter of complaint, by recorded delivery, to Juliette Ash concerning this non response.

5. *District Council Report*

Councillor Nathan Boyd had been planning to attend but illness today had forced him to send his apologies for absence.

6. *Planning Applications*

The Clerk reported on applications and decisions since the last Parish Meeting.

A Permission in Principle application for the construction of up to four dwellings at Home Farm at the end of Church Street had been refused by VOWH District Planning on 24 June.

An application to construct a new car storage and garage at Edon Manor, Stanford Road had been approved on 2 August, subject to a substantial Community Infrastructure Levy.

An extension and alteration to an existing barn at Wickwood Farm, Stanford Road had been approved on 13 October.

An application for three advertising signs by Busy Bees Nursery, Church Street had just been submitted.

*7. Neighbourhood Plan Report*

Mike Wright submitted an oral report.

A Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting on 18 October had received presentations from Ben Duffy (VOWH Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer) and Sharon Brentnall (Bluestone Planning Consultants). This had helped establish the next steps which include the need to gather evidence on five specific Visions and Objectives; namely, Character Appraisal & Design Code, Local Green Space & Views, Footpaths & Rights of Way, Biodiversity and Dark Skies.

Grants of a maximum of £18,000 may be available to finance this work. Sharon Brentnall had said that the cost should not be anywhere near this figure for a parish the size of Shellingford. However, grants would not cover the initial cost of application.

Therefore, Mike Wright proposed and Phil Chesterton seconded a motion that £150 funding be provided by the Parish Meeting for this grant application to be completed by Bluestone Planning Consultants. This motion was approved by twenty one votes in favour to none against with two abstentions.

Questions were raised about the minutes of the Steering Group and Forum meetings to which Mike Wright responded.

*8. Financial Report*

The Treasurer reported that the current funds held were £7,398.

*9. Precept for 2022/2023 and 10. Parish Expenditure*

The Chair took these two agenda topics together.

The precept has been level at £1,500 per annum since the year to 31 March 2016. The Chair wishes to review this in the light of responses to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire earlier in 2021.The main items raised were speeding, improvement of footpaths & pavements and preservation of village character.

In order to decide how the available funds could be spent, she proposed the preparation of a financial plan.

Several parishioners felt that the first priority should be the defibrillator that had been requested at previous Parish Meetings. After discussion about the number and location of defibrillators, a proposal was made to approve up to £2,500 on the installation of two, if possible, but one, if not, defibrillators. This motion which was proposed by Sue Terry and seconded by Janine Rowe was approved unanimously.

The Chair, Clerk and Treasurer will prepare a financial budget for the coming year for review at the next Parish Meeting. This will set out short, medium and long term aims. Barry Moody suggested that it be flexible and include a contingency for unexpected expenditure.

Meanwhile, the Chair suggested that the Precept for the year to 31 March 2023 should remain at the previous year’s amount of £1,500. Fiona O’Regan proposed and Mike Wright seconded such a motion which was approved by twenty one votes in favour and two against.

*11.* *Speed Watch Report*

The Clerk read out the written report from Christopher Price who had been unable to attend. He had completed one speed watch session in October, but had not yet confirmed that the camera used in Stanford in the Vale is appropriate for Shellingford.

Concerns about speeding in the village were expressed and as the previous Parish Meeting had approved expenditure of up to £200, it was proposed that this amount should be increased. Janine Elton proposed and Janine Rowe seconded a motion to spend up to £1,000 on a new speed camera. This motion was approved by twenty two votes in favour to none against with one abstention.

*12. Community Hall Report*

Sue Terry stated that whilst some bookings have started it is very quiet.

A discussion was held about the use of the Community Hall and in particular the involvement of the school. Paul Brown suggested that the constitution and original concept of the Community Hall should be re-examined. The Chair agreed to raise these points at the next Community Hall committee meeting at the end of November and report back to the next Parish Meeting.

*13. Quarry Local Liaison Group Report*

The Clerk reported that there had not been a meeting since 26 April but the next one is planned for 18 November. Mike Wright and the Clerk had been given a site visit of the quarry on 5 August and a satisfactory Dust Monitoring report had been issued in October.

*14. Parochial Church Council Report*

Sue Terry reported that Imogen Jonas had started the procedure to apply for Diocesan funding of a Feasibility Study for the installation of water facilities in St Faith’s church.

A Service of Remembrance will be held on 14 November and the Carols by Candlelight service is to be on 12 December. The Christmas Fayre is planned for 4 December.

*15.* *School Headteacher’s Report*

Judith Terrell’s written report was reviewed.

*16. Footpaths and Pavements Report*

A discussion was held about the problem of parking on pavements in Fernham Road and outside the school in Church Street.

*17. Communications with Parishioners*

The Chair proposed that communication by email would be quicker and more efficient. It would be possible to provide regular updates on parish matters. She suggested that a letter be delivered to all households asking if the occupants were willing to provide an email address for this purpose. GDPR regulations would be complied with. As there were no objections, the Chair and Clerk will organise a suitable letter.

*18. Any Other Business*

The Clerk drew attention to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations especially those from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June next year.

The Clerk also highlighted new Civil Parking Enforcement operations that started across the county on 1 November.

Barry Moody reminded the meeting that the topic of annual charity donations is normally considered at this time. A motion to donate £150 to First Responders, £50 to Wantage Independent Advice Centre and £50 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance, proposed by Barry Moody and seconded by Janine Elton was approved by twenty two votes in favour to none against with one abstention.

*19. Date of Next Meeting*

Planned for Monday 16 May 2022 at 19.30 in the Community Hall.