**SHELLINGFORD PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of Parish Meeting on 20 November 2023 at The Community Hall**

1. *Welcome and Attendance*

Fiona Wright, Chair, welcomed ten residents to the meeting.

An Attendance Record was completed by those present. Apologies for absence had been received or were given on behalf of Jennie Chesterton, Phil Chesterton, Janine Elton, Sarah-Jane Hatcher, Julian Mellor, Barry Moody, Christopher Price, Janice Sharp, Jennifer Thompson and Mike Wright.

2. *Previous Meeting*

Minutes of the meeting on 25 September 2023 were reviewed and accepted, subject to one amendment. After replacing “…SDI…” with “…SID…” in line one of topic seven, the Chair signed these minutes.

3. *Matters Arising*

Sue and Pete Terry had provided Roy Samways, the Clerk, with a list of tasks that they had carried out on behalf of the village. The meeting decided that this should be reviewed in the summer before taking any replacement action.

4. *County Council Report*

Juliette Ash was not present. The Clerk read extracts from her November Report, which largely concerned County level topics. These included the recent change to a minority Liberal Democrat/Green group administration; a new cabinet and budget process; expansion of the climate change team; and retention of Oxford low traffic neighbourhoods.

5. *District Council Report*

Sue Caul was not present as she was on holiday.

6. *Planning Applications*

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

Listed building consent had been granted on 10 November for internal and external alterations at Holywell House, Fernham Road.

An application to improve access and replace the cladding on an existing agricultural barn at Home Farm, Church Street had been submitted on 10 October.

An application for a new building at Church Farm, Church Street in order to store farm machinery, feed and bedding for the dairy herd had very recently been submitted. It was noted that, as this is for an agricultural purpose, it would probably not require prior permission.

7. *Traffic Calming Subcommittee Report*

The Chair reported that the new 20 mph speed limit in Shellingford had become legally enforceable on 17 November. The Speedwatch team will now be able to record any violations of this limit.

The Chair had spoken to Mark Francis (Oxfordshire County Council) about the siting of the SID pole at the Fernham end of the village, but he had refused to become involved. Robert Sharp suggested using this pole between November and February.

8*. Financial Report*

The Treasurer had advised the Clerk that there had not been any movement in funds held since the last Parish Meeting. i.e. £6,550.

9*. Budget for the Parish*

The level of Precept for the coming financial year was debated with various amounts suggested between £750 and the current £1,500. A motion to reduce the Precept for the year to 31 March 2025 to £1,000 was approved with six votes in favour, three against and one abstention.

The extent of donations by the Parish Meeting was discussed. A motion to donate £150 to First Responders and £50 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance was proposed by Fiona Wright, seconded by Jane Samways and unanimously approved. It was noted that this decision could be reviewed at a future Parish Meeting, if considered necessary.

10. *Neighbourhood Plan Report*

The Neighbourhood Plan leaders had advised the Chair that a new grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council had recently been approved. A meeting with Bluestone Planning, our advisors, to proceed to the next stage had been arranged.

The meeting thanked Barry Moody and Mike Wright for their work.

11*. Welcome Pack for New Residents*

The Chair passed around a leaflet that she had prepared and issued to a couple of new arrivals. Suggestions were made to include a public footpath map; refuse collection details; church benefice website; and the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council contact details.

12*. Parochial Church Council Report*

Imogen Jonas had advised the Clerk that the plans for a servery and WC in St Faith’s church had been well received by the Vale of White Horse District Council officers in their Pre-planning Advice Report dated 11 October.

The Parochial Church Council had decided to progress a formal planning application for a temporary toilet and a new flat roof vestry. Imogen had also asked that any help with fundraising ideas would be very welcome.

In response, views were expressed that it would be better to spend money on the fabric of the church. The Clerk was asked to inform the Parochial Church Council of this view.

The Christmas Fayre on 25 November and the Carols by Candlelight service on 10 December were mentioned.

13*.*  *School Headteacher’s Report*

There was not a specific written report, although mention was made of the school pupils being asked to design a poster about vehicle speed limits.

*14. General*

It was noted that the life of the current defibrillator pads will end in March 2024. The Chair agreed to discuss this with Julian Pollard.

15*. Any Other Business*

Due to the poor attendance at this and the previous Parish Meeting, a motion to revert to two meetings a year was proposed by Susie Price, seconded by Jane Samways and unanimously approved.

16. *Date of Next Meeting*

Planned for Monday 20 May 2024 at 19.30 in the Community Hall.