

**SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.15pm**  
**Shustoke Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor B Chandler (Chair), Councillors G Daw, R Gough, L Pugh and S Taylor + Clerk to the Council, D Jeans.

**Also present:-** Borough and Parish Councillors and members of the public. (10 in total.)

**1. Village Hall Evacuation Procedures**

1.1 The Chair outlined the evacuation procedures.

**2. Apologies**

2.1 Apologies had been received from Councillor R Pugh.

**3. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> May 2018)**

3.1 The minutes of the previous annual parish meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

**4. Chair's Annual Report**

4.1 The Clerk reported that 2018/19 has been a busy year for Shustoke Parish Council. All Councillors had been working hard to ensure Shustoke residents were kept well informed about what is going on locally and in the wider community. SPC representatives attended the Police Community Forums in Coleshill and Atherstone. Two Councillors attended a Rural Flood meeting in Fillongley this year to learn about preventative strategies being used in Warwickshire. The Council had a representative on Hazelwood Surgery's Patient Participation Group and George Eliot CCG. A Councillor would also attend a meeting in April at Coleshill Fire Station to contribute to the discussion about the locations of Fire Stations in the North Warwickshire. Mr David Jeans, our Clerk, regularly updated our website and notice boards to continue with our mission to keep Shustoke residents better informed.

**4.2 Shustoke Village Hall**

4.2.1 Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall took over the running of the hall in October when SVHCLtd ceased trading. Councillors Rebecca Pugh, Gaynor Daw and Lynn Pugh had successfully promoted the community space and now had a monthly

‘meet and eat’ and weekly toddlers’ group. The Trustees were determined to keep the hall as a vital space for Shustoke community.

#### 4.3 Green Spaces

4.3.1 Fairways won the contract to maintain the green spaces in the village 2019/20. The councillors would all work together to ensure they delivered the best service for the village. A survey was circulated earlier this year to find out exactly what residents wanted in the recreation ground. The Council would use results to put together an action plan for the area. A previous grant application to Sport England was unsuccessful, and the Council planned to widen its search for some additional funding to meet the needs of Shustoke residents.

#### 4.4 Other Business

4.4.1 SPC continued to support Connecting Four. The Council hoped to put together some events to fundraise for the village hall and work on a local community project in the village. It was also exploring the possibility of purchasing the telephone box. Councillor Daw was keen to put together a Shustoke Neighbour Watch group. If residents were interested in getting involved, they should contact David Jeans - [Clerk@Shustoke-ParishCouncil.Org.UK](mailto:Clerk@Shustoke-ParishCouncil.Org.UK)

4.4.2 The Chair thanked her fellow councillors for all their hard work and support this year. They planned to progress the improvement of the play area/green spaces this year and continue to better inform Shustoke residents.

### 5 **Village Hall Report**

5.4.1 Councillor L Pugh provided a summary of the activities in relation to the Hall since the Parish Council took over responsibility in October 2018. A number of enhancements had been made or were planned, and bookings were increasing.

5.5 In response to a query from the floor, Councillor Pugh explained that an alcohol licence was not necessary if users of the hall brought their own to events, but the experience elsewhere was that an alcohol licence could bring substantial income to the Hall.

5.3 Following a further query, the Chair and Councillor Pugh explained that the provision of children’s tables and chairs would need to be a matter for hirers but the Council was always keen to discuss requirements with any potential hirer.

### 6. **Allotments Committee Report**

6.1 Barry Coton reported that the allotment holders continued to be very active and had won the ‘Best Kept Allotment’ award in each of the last four years. Only 1.5 plots + a raised bed were currently unallocated.

### 7. **Reports from other Shustoke Organisations**

7.1 North Warwickshire Borough Councillor David Wright offered Borough support for the Parish Council and its residents. He was aware of traffic issues adjacent to the Griffin Licensed House, and advised that the largest hauliers required their drivers to follow

particular routes and to avoid inappropriate shortcuts. However, many heavy lorry drivers blindly followed SatNav instructions causing problems for others.

- 7.2 NWBC Councillor Les Smith commended the Council on its village hall and also advised the Allotments Committee that financial assistance might be available to the organisation.
- 7.3 Councillor Smith queried whether Shustoke residents felt that excess speed was an issue for the Village? The Chair advised that the increased volume of traffic helped to manage speeding but that the frequent changes of speed limit was confusing for drivers. She queried the logic of the eastbound speed limit increasing to 50mph yards from the dangerous left-hand band near the Griffin Licensed House. Mrs Bev Wollaston, Clerk of Nether Whitacre Parish Council provided a brief summary of its community speed watch scheme, which included both radar checks and a police officer ‘cut out’. The police continued to operate their own enforcement on occasions. No post-activity had been made available, but there was clear evidence that many drivers slowed down when approaching the speedwatch signs.

## **8. Contributions from Members of the Public**

- 8.1 Mrs Bev Wollaston, Clerk of Nether Whitacre Parish Council, advised that work by the Whitacre Flood Group was to take place on the border of Shustoke and Nether Whitacre parishes. To assist with grant funding, the formal support of Shustoke Parish Council was sought. It was agreed that the respective Clerks would liaise and a suitable letter provided by Shustoke Parish Council.

Action - Clerk

**The meeting closed at 8.05pm**

***I certify that these minutes, comprising three pages, represent a true record of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.***

\_\_\_\_\_ *Chair* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*