

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting

7.15pm Monday 11th November 2019
at
Shustoke Village Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:- Councillor B Chandler (Chair)
Councillors G Daw, L Pugh, R Pugh,
Clerk – D Jeans
No members of the public were present.

1. Village Hall Evacuation Procedures

1.1 The Chair ensured those present were aware of the evacuation procedures.

2. Apologies and Approval of Absences

2.1 The Council approved the absence of Councillors Gough and Taylor.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (9th September 2019)

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. Councillor Chandler proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Councillor Daw, and agreed by Councillors present.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Hall Electricity Tariff (7.2)

5.1.1 The Clerk reported he had set up a direct debit payment with EON which should provide a saving of 7%.

5.2 Telephone Kiosk (11.1)

5.2.1 The Clerk advised that he had registered a request for the Council to adopt the kiosk. Subject to confirmation from the Parish Council, a 90 day consultation exercise with North Warwickshire Council on the removal of the telephone service itself to allow

adoption would need to take place. The Clerk had been advised that the kiosk had listed building status and was therefore not under threat of removal. The Parish Council would be responsible for the future upkeep of a listed building and might need consent from the planning/conservation team at the Council for any alterations.

5.2.2 The Council resolved to progress the adoption and the Clerk was asked to confirm with BT.

5.3 Parking Issues – Village Green (10.9)

5.3.1 Councillors L and R Pugh declared an interest in this matter.

5.3.2 No further quote had been received. Councillors discussed the existing quotes and agreed that as an interim measure, large boulders would be placed in strategic positions to prevent parking on the grass. These could be removed should a more permanent solution be agreed in the future. Councillor R Pugh agreed to procure the boulders.

6. **Contributions from the Public (Maximum 30 minutes)**

6.1 No members of the public were present.

7. **Financial Report**

7.1 The Clerk presented the financial report to 4th November. He had previously circulated details and copies of transactions and bank statements. Councillors Chandler and R Pugh examined and signed schedules of payments for both the Council account and the hall account. The Clerk report that as previously agreed, an interim internal audit would take place on 4th December in conjunction with Corley, Fillongley and Nether Whitacre Parish Councils.

7.2 The Clerk provided an outturn report based on 7 months of the current financial year, and reported upon the variances in individual budget heads.

7.3 During discussion, Councillors resolved to procure a quarterly cleaning service based on a detailed specification, and Councillor R Pugh highlighted the need for a significant repair of the flat roof section once the weather improved.

7.4 The Clerk advised that Councillors would need to decide upon the level of the 2020/2021 precept at the January 2020 meeting.

8. **Planning Matters**

8.1 Planning Application - Blyth Hall

8.1.1 The Clerk had circulated details of two applications in respect of Blyth Hall.

8.1.2 Councillors discussed the access and egress from the site on to a de-restricted road, but resolved not to submit any objection to the application.

8.2 Speed Limit - Station Road

- 8.2.1 Councillor Gough had submitted a request for the Council to consider the speed limit in Station Road near to the water treatment works. Residents had asked the Council to assist with negotiations with WCC to reduce the speed limit to 30mph to facilitate separate, private driveways being installed.
- 8.2.2 Following discussion, Councillors resolved not to make proactive application to the Highways Authority, but should a planning application be submitted, the Council would reconsider the situation.

8.3 Blyth Mill Road-Side Advertisements

- 8.3.1 Over Whitacre Parish Council had written to the Council seeking commencement of enforcement action in respect of the roadside advertisements in Coleshill Road outside Blyth Mill.
- 8.3.2 The Clerk advised that the Head of Development Control had indicated at a recent NWBC/NWAC meeting that enforcement activity of roadside advertisements was of a low priority, unless there were additional factors involved, such as the advertisements being displayed in a conservation area, or there being a road safety issue.
- 8.3.3 Councillor Daw agreed that the advertisements were distracting, particularly to non-local road users. Following discussion, Councillors felt that although somewhat unsightly, the advertisements should not be subject to enforcement action, but that the Clerk should write to Blyth Mill to request the boards be tidied up. The Clerk was also asked to update Over Whitacre Parish Council.

9. Recreation Ground Enhancements

- 9.1 Councillor Gough had submitted a written update indicating remedial work to the play equipment would be undertaken week commencing 11th November.
- 9.2 Councillor R Pugh highlighted the excellence of Coleshill's play equipment. Councillor L Pugh had seen equipment elsewhere marked with its various sponsors, and suggested that this might be an option in Shustoke.
- 9.3 Councillor Chandler proposed that there should be a full discussion at the next meeting with a working group set up to produce fully costed proposals. This was agreed by Councillors present.

10. Horticultural Services

10.1 2019 Activity

- 10.1.1 The Clerk had been in contact with Fairways to ensure the outstanding 2019 work was completed. The Clerk was asked to ensure Fairways completed work on the Village Pound and on the borders.

10.2 2020 Contract

10.2.1 The Clerk had circulated a draft specification for 2020.

10.2.2 Councillors contributed various amendments and resolved that the specification be circulated to a wide range of contractors.

11. **Road Safety Issues**

11.1 White Lines – Church Road

11.1.1 Following a resolution from the previous meeting, the Clerk reported he had contacted Warwickshire County Council but had been advised that Church Road did not meet the necessary criteria for double white lines.

11.1.2 Following discussion, Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Councillor Colin Hayfield to seek his assistance.

12. **Update on Meeting of North Warwickshire Area Committee of Town and Parish Councils with North Warwickshire Borough Council.**

12.1 The Chair advised that the meeting had been a success with a very good representation of councils from across North Warwickshire.

12.2 NWBC Development Control Head, Jeff Brown had spoken, but there had been some dissatisfaction with his responses to questions.

12.3 The Chair mentioned the unauthorised collection of white goods and the advice offered. An item had been added to the Council's Connecting Four copy.

13. **Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

13.1 No County or Borough Councillors were present.

14. **Reports from Parish Councillors**

14.1 Patient Participation Group - Coleshill

14.1.1 The Chair updated Councillors in respect of bowel cancer screening, the new telephone system, and an out of hours service at Bedworth.

14.2 Hall

14.2.1 Councillor R Pugh reported that additional catering equipment had been purchased – funded by the Meat and Eat events. The drains had been cleared and no further problem experienced. The flat roof would need a permanent repair when weather permitted. A price for a concrete base at the rear of the hall was being obtained to support a storage container. A Christmas Charity quiz was to be held.

14.3 Footpath Fencing Adjacent to Railway Line

14.3.1 Councillor L Pugh raised the state of the railway line fencing adjacent to the footpath known as the 'Monkey Run'. The style of fencing posed a real risk to children and dogs. The Clerk undertook to liaise with the Nether Whitacre Council Clerk and Network Rail.

15. **Correspondence**

15.1 Power for People Campaign

15.1.1 The Clerk had received a request for the Council to support the Power for People campaign which would facilitate local 'community' generation of electricity. Details had been circulated to Councillors.

15.1.2 The Council resolved to note the position of the Power for People campaign and to keep in view what actions might be taken by the Council to promote sustainability and to tackle the negative impacts of climate change.

15.2 Volunteer Footpath Group

15.2.1 The Clerk had received a request through Nether Whitacre Parish Council for financial support to the Volunteer Footpath Group. Details had been circulated to Councillors.

15.2.2 The Council resolved to provide an annual donation of £100.

15.3 Christmas Tree – Shustoke Parish Church

15.3.1 The Clerk had received notice from the Church that the annual Christmas Tree Festival would take place during the first week in December; the church would then be lit by the tree lights & the church open during December, Advent & Christmas. The Church was looking for sponsorship to cover costs, and had suggested £30 for Councillors (+ Villagers) to attend to decorate a tree during the first week in December, or £60 for the Church to decorate a tree for the Council, to its preferred theme.

15.3.2 On a proposal by the Chair, seconded by Councillor L Pugh, Councillors resolved to provide £30 to Shustoke Church and £30 to Crisis at Christmas. Councillor L Pugh agreed to liaise with Gill Noble, Shustoke Parish Church, in respect of decorating the tree.

15.4 General Election 12/12/19

15.4.1 NWBC had written to the Clerk to book the Village Hall for 16 hours on Thursday 12th December 2019.

15.4.2 The Clerk had confirmed that the Hall was available, and had raised the probability of a heating supplement with NWBC which the liaison officer was happy to accept.

15.4.3 Councillors agreed a heating supplement should be considered for all hall hirers during the winter period and Councillor R Pugh would take this forward.

15.5 Ring and Ride Bus Service

15.5.1 The Clerk had circulated details of a proposed Ring and Ride Bus service to replace the existing contract terminating January 2020, along with indicative costs assuming funding based upon parish population levels.

15.5.2 Following discussion, Councillors supported the proposal in principle, but the Clerk was asked to ensure consideration was given to the following points:-

- i) Funding of the service should be based on parish population levels;
- ii) A statement from WCC should be provided as to why no County funding/subsidy was being offered;
- iii) That other funding / sponsorship be sought (eg. Morrisons and other Coleshill shops etc.);
- iv) That an additional stop at the Griffin Public House (Church Road) be added to serve the residents at the Almshouses adjacent to Shustoke Parish Church;
- v) That a service based on Wednesdays and Saturdays (rather than Wednesdays and Fridays) be considered to widen the customer base.

15.6 Hall Christmas Lights

15.6.1 Councillors agreed that the hall Christmas lights should be 'switched on' 3rd December 2019. Councillor Gough had previously agreed to manage the process.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.