

**Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
7.30pm Monday 12th July 2021**

**at
Shustoke Village Hall**

Draft Minutes

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Present: Councillor B Chandler (Chair), Councillors N Cole (Vice Chair)
Councillors G Dupree, G Noble, R Pugh
Clerk – David Jeans

NWBC Councillor David Wright was also present for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies

1.1 Councillor L Dupree had reported she was ‘isolating’. Councillors approved her absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 It was agreed this would be agenda-specific.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (5th May 2021)

3.1 The minutes of the last Ordinary meeting had been circulated. Councillor Chandler proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Councillor Noble, and this was agreed by Councillors present.

4. Matters arising

4.1 There were no matters arising which were not scheduled for discussion within the main agenda.

5. Contributions from Public (Maximum 30 minutes)

5.1 No member of the public was present.

6. Village Crime and Disorder Issues

6.1 Councillor Chandler reported that the Neighbourhood Watch group had met the previous week. She asked if a Councillor wished to attend future meetings and Councillor G Dupree volunteered to represent the Council.

6.2 During discussion, Councillors agreed that incidence of anti-social behaviour had reduced in recent months.

7. Coronavirus Pandemic Update

7.1 Councillors agreed that there were no issues to discuss.

8. Financial Report

8.1 The Clerk advised that the 2020/21 Council accounts had been finalised and the necessary documents added to the website. The period for members of the public to examine the accounts ended on 23rd July. The Certificate of Exemption had been sent to the external auditor as required.

8.2 The Clerk had circulated the 2021/22 accounts to 30th June and presented the Chair with recent invoices and a SPC payment schedule for the period to 1st April to 11th July 2021 which she signed during the meeting. The documents were countersigned by Councillor Cole.

8.3 The Clerk reminded the meeting that Councillors had previously resolved to support the new Four Parishes Youth Club by matching the contribution of Nether Whitacre Parish Council. This had been confirmed as £500 and the Clerk asked for confirmation that this amount should now be paid direct to the Youth Club. Councillors agreed that £500 should be transferred in line with the previous Council resolution.

8.4 Councillor Noble advised that the Club had enrolled its maximum of 16 young people and the Club was looking for additional leaders.

8.5 Councillor Chandler proposed that the financial report be approved, seconded by Councillor Cole and agreed by members present.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 The Clerk continued to circulate summaries of planning applications but there had been no recent Shustoke application.

10. Horticultural Services and Handyperson Activities

10.1 Comments had been received in respect of grass cutting on the recreation ground and allotments, and these had been passed on to the contractor. Councillor Chandler advised that such comments had been a feature over several years as the recreation ground surface was not particularly even and had been affected by mole infestations over many years. During discussion, Councillors agreed that the Council should be proactive and highlight any issues on the website and social media.

10.2 The handyperson had declined to take on repair work to the telephone kiosk and estimates had been sought from other contractors.

11. Recreation Ground

11.1 On behalf of the Working Group, Councillor Chandler updated the Council on actions taken to date. Councillor L Dupree had developed and delivered a questionnaire seeking residents views on new activity equipment. A previous survey (2019) had generated 29 responses but the latest survey had provided 134 responses. There had been a 60/40 split between residents

and non-residents, and 109 of the responses were from people with children under 15 years of age. 75% of the respondents had asked for adult gym equipment.

- 11.2 Councillors approved an application for funding from Warwickshire County Council which Councillor L Dupree had previously agreed to submit. Approval was also given to seek additional funding as determined by the Working Group.
- 11.3 The Clerk advised that the initial commercial hirer of the recreation ground continued to make occasional use of the area. He had also received a request for use by the Youth Club. The Clerk asked Councillors whether, in view of the financial support given by the council to the Club, use of the recreation ground should be free of charge? This was agreed.
- 11.4 The Clerk advised that Phase One of the enhancements (creation of footpath from the main entrance gate) was scheduled to take place at the start of the School holiday.
- 11.5 Councillor Noble reported that she had spoken to the farmer adjacent to the Recreation Ground and he had agreed to make good the border to prevent unauthorised passage through the hedge.

12. Road Safety Issues

- 12.1 The Clerk had circulated the response of the Highways Authority to the Council's enquiry in relation to heavy goods vehicles using Church Road.
- 12.2 Councillor Chandler felt that the Council should write to the companies operating large goods vehicles through the Village and the Clerk was asked to do so.
- 12.3 Following discussion in respect of a Council-funded Village speed check operation, the Clerk agreed to check with the Highways Authority what evidence would be relevant to a WCC decision to investigate speed reduction measures.

13. Local Government Restructuring and Changes to the Role of Parish Councils

- 13.1 Councillor Chandler reported that no progress has been made since the last meeting.

14. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- 14.1 NWBC Councillor Wright advised that the Borough Council was slowly returning to normal, albeit essential services had been difficult to maintain during the pandemic. Green waste collections had been suspended for a time. £27m of grants had been awarded to local businesses and the Borough had been the best performing council in the Region. Community grants had enabled Shustoke to have a defibrillator installed. Councillor Wright hoped that the community spirit engendered during the pandemic would continue to be maintained by parishes.
- 14.2 Councillor Wright advised that the 'Unitary' debate had abated but might return. The Borough and County Council had disagreed over the predicted savings achievable, and the Borough remained opposed, but recognised that there were opportunities for changed process and closer working with other councils.

14.3 The Clerk queried whether the Borough recognised the link between temporary closure of waste and recycling centres and the growth in fly tipping. Councillor Wright outlined the actions being taken by the Borough to reduce fly tipping and to bring offenders to justice.

15. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

15.1 Councillor Cole updated the meeting and reported that a cleaner had been hired for a weekly clean.

15.2 Councillors agreed that a Trustee meeting would take place after the next Council meeting (13th September) at which the audited accounts would be presented.

16. Reports from Parish Councillors

16.1 Councillor Chandler reported that the WALC structure was under review.

16.2 Councillor Noble agreed to create and submit the Council's 'Connecting Four' copy until further notice.

16.3 Councillor L Dupree had raised a proposal to consider wild flower verges for 2022. It was agreed that she should develop a formal costed proposal for a future meeting.

17. Correspondence

17.1 The Clerk had received a letter from a local resident in respect of the Buzz bus service, countersigned by 19 other regular users, praising the service and in particular, the driver/owner John Cooney. Unfortunately, the service had been terminated at the end of May as the WCC Councillor grant funding had expired and not renewed.