

Shustoke Parish Councillors are summoned to take part in an  
**Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**7.30pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
at  
**Shustoke Village Hall**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

*Ver 140921*

**Present:** Councillor G Noble (Acting Chair), Councillors G Dupree, L Dupree  
Clerk – David Jeans

### **1. Apologies and Approval of Absences**

- 1.2 Councillors approved the absence of Councillor Chandler.
- 1.3 Councillors noted the absence of Councillors Cole and Pugh.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 It was agreed this would be agenda-specific.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> July 2021)**

- 3.1 The minutes of the last Ordinary meeting had been circulated. Councillor Noble proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Councillor G Dupree 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 the Public (Maximum 30 minutes)**

- 5.1 There were no members of the public present.

### **6. Village Crime and Disorder Issues**

- 6.1 Councillor G Dupree advised that he had not been able to attend the last Neighbourhood Watch meeting but that he would pass the minutes to the Clerk, when received.
- 6.2 Councillors were aware of a recent report from Councillor Cole in respect of anti-social behaviour at the Reservoir and the actions being taken by Severn Trent. Councillor L Dupree felt that a Parish Council Facebook Group facility would facilitate notification of such events and enable residents to provide instant feedback. Following discussion, Councillor Dupree agreed to present options on a social media presence at the next meeting.

## **7. Coronavirus Crisis Update**

- 7.1 Councillors felt that this item should remain on the agenda but that there was no local action currently required.

## **8. Financial Report**

- 8.1 The Clerk had circulated the 2021/22 accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August and presented the Chair with recent invoices and a SPC payment schedule for the period 12<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 which she signed. The documents were countersigned by Councillor G Dupree.
- 8.2 The Clerk advised that the Connecting Four editorial team had requested an annual donation of £175. This compared with the Council's donation of £150 in 2020. Given the value of the magazine and its reach, Councillor Noble proposed that the Council should fund the full £175. This was seconded by Councillor L Dupree and agreed by all Councillors present.
- 8.3 Councillor Noble proposed that the financial report be approved, seconded by Councillor G Dupree, 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 applications.

## **10. Horticultural Services and Handyperson Activities**

- 10.1 The Clerk asked Councillors to consider what amendments they required to the horticultural services contract for 2022, and whether they wished the contract to remain with the current company, or to issue invitations for new quotations.
- 10.2 Councillor L Dupree felt that the football pitch grass cut should be finer. She felt its current state was such that it prevented proper use.
- 10.3 Following further discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk should discuss minor changes to the 2022 contract, but subject to price, the current contractor would be invited to continue for a further year.

## **11. Recreation Ground**

- 11.1 The Clerk reported that the invoice for phase one of the improvements had been received and paid. He also reported correspondence from two residents who felt that there should have been more advance notice of the changes.
- 11.2 Councillor L Dupree outlined details of her successful bid for a WCC grant for adult gym equipment of £2,000. Councillor G Dupree advised that publicity would need to be pre-approved with the County Council. Councillors requested the Clerk send a letter of thanks to the WCC Councillor who supported the bid. Councillor L Dupree formally proposed acceptance of the grant, seconded by Councillor Noble, and agreed by Councillors present.

11.3 Councillor L Dupree reported that a local businessman (whom the Council had contracted in the past) had offered to improve the quality of the football pitch by changing its orientation, rolling the pitch flat, painting the white lines and providing new goal posts. The offer carried no costs to the Council. On a proposal from Councillor G Dupree seconded by Councillor L Dupree it was agreed that the offer would be accepted in principle, but that the Clerk would seek full details in writing before any work commenced.

## **12. Road Safety Issues**

12.1 A response from the County Council had been received and circulated to Councillors. The Clerk reported that he had written to two major transport companies whose vehicles were regular users of Church Road, but no satisfactory responses had yet been received.

## **13. Developments in Local Government impacting on the Parish Council or Shustoke**

13.1 This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **14. Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

14.1 No County or Borough councillors were present.

## **15. Report from Village Hall Management Committee**

15.1 No member of the Committee was present. In view of their absence, the Trustee meeting scheduled after the Parish Council meeting had been postponed.

## **16. Reports from Parish Councillors**

16.1 Councillor Noble reported that Nether Whitacre Parish Council was in discussion with the County Council in respect of roadside verge 're-wilding'. The Clerk was asked to ascertain what progress was being made.

## **17. Correspondence**

### **17.1 Victim Support Request**

17.1.1 The Clerk reported a request for a donation to Victim Support in view of the growth in calls for assistance from the Charity during the last sixteen months. Councillors declined to provide a donation.

### **17.2 E-Initiatives – Charging bases**

17.2.1 A request from a commercial company had been received in respect of the installation of an electric vehicle charging device within Shustoke. The Clerk reported on the financial status of the company. He also highlighted that the forthcoming WALC conference would be addressing climate change issues and a coordinated plan might emerge thereafter. Councillors elected not to pursue the current offer.

### **17.3 Community Use of Village Hall**

- 17.3.1 The Clerk had received a request from the Safer Neighbourhood Team to use the village hall on 9<sup>th</sup> October for a community property marking session. The request had been passed to the Hall Committee but a charge of £22 was to be made. The Police had queried the charge and had asked the Parish Council to fund the £22. The Police had postponed confirmation of the location of the event, awaiting the Councillors' decision.
- 17.3.2 On a proposal by Councillor Noble, seconded by Councillor G Dupree, Councillors resolved to fund the event due to its importance and community nature, but that an attempt would be made to recover the amount from the Village Hall Management Committee.