

Shustoke Parish Councillors are summoned to take part in an
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
7.30pm Monday 15th November 2021
at
Shustoke Village Hall

Draft Minutes Ver 18/11/21

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

Also present:- Councillor D Humphries (WCC) and Councillor D Wright (NWBC)

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

1.1 Councillors approved the absence of Councillor R Pugh

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 It was agreed this would be agenda-specific.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13th September 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 at the previous meeting.

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

5.1 There were no members of the public present.

6. Village Crime and Disorder Issue

6.1 Councillor Noble highlighted an unexpected private event at the Reservoir about which she thought the Council should have been informed in order that the website and social media might be updated.

7. Coronavirus Crisis Update

7.1 Councillors agreed 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 31st October and presented the Chair with recent invoices and a SPC payment schedule for the period 13th September to 12th November 2021 which she signed. The documents were countersigned by Councillor Cole. Details of the predicted 2021/22 budget outturn had also been circulated.
- 8.2 Councillor Chandler proposed that the financial report be approved, seconded by Councillor G Dupree, and agreed by members present.
- 8.3 The Clerk advised Councillors they would need to make a decision on the 2022/23 precept level at the January 2022 Council meeting. Their decision would need to be based on a strategic spending plan and a review of the Council's general and earmarked reserves in the context of affordability for residents. He had circulated a first draft 2022/23 budget for Councillors to consider in the light of their priorities for 2022/23 and beyond.
- 8.4 The Chair felt that additional funding needed to be found for horticultural services to improve the look and feel of the Village. Councillor Cole highlighted areas he hoped the Village Hall Management Committee might improve, particularly the external areas. Councillor L Dupree felt that the use of social media would produce volunteers to assist a working party.
- 8.5 The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Council was likely to receive requests for Christmas donations which needed to be agreed by Councillors at a Council meeting. He asked Councillors to consider whether they wished to approve any particular donation prior to the January Council meeting. Councillor Noble highlighted the Church Christmas Tree appeal, and Councillor Cole added the Warwickshire Search and Rescue charity. On a proposal from Councillor Chandler, seconded by Councillor L Dupree, £60 was to be provided to Shustoke Church and £100 to Search and Rescue. It was also agreed that Councillors, in turn, would each propose their preferred charity on an annual basis.

9. Planning Matters

- 9.1 The Clerk had circulated details of an application in respect of a property in Back Lane.
- 9.2 Councillor resolved not to make formal comments.

10. Horticultural Services and Handyperson Activities

- 10.1 The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Council had agreed a two-year deal which extended into 2022/23. He had written to the contractor to request the minor changes agreed by the Council in September.
- 10.2 The Clerk advised that the Handyperson had not been in action, to date, but had undertaken work on behalf of the Hall Management Committee.

11. Recreation Ground

- 11.1 The Clerk had circulated the play equipment annual inspection report and asked Councillors if they wished the handyperson to undertake remedial work. In view of the current work of the Recreation Ground Working Group, it was agreed no action would be taken at present.
- 11.2 Councillor Chandler provided an update on the work of the Working Group. An online meeting had taken place and it had been agreed the group would liaise with potential providers, and then consider where the new equipment would be located. Proposals would also be made in respect of the remaining equipment.
- 11.3 Councillor L Dupree raised the issue of the state of the car park surface, and suggested that the cost might be met through crowd funding which she was aware some School parents were keen to organise. The Clerk was asked to seek quotes for the work required.

12. Road Safety Issues

- 12.1 The Clerk had reported the issues previously raised by Councillors but no action had been taken, to date.

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

- 13.1 The Chair suggested that this item could be removed from the agenda until potential issues were resurrected.

14. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- 14.1 Councillor David Humphreys introduced himself as the Village's new County Councillor. He highlighted potential funding opportunities from the County's Road Safety grant funding of £1m. Bids were required by 31/12/21 and suggested villages might receive £6k - £8k. On behalf of the Council, he offered to make a bid for Village 'Gates' which had been found to help reduce speeding.
- 14.2 Councillor Humphreys summarised the proposed road layout changes at Coleshill's High Street / Blythe Road junction and details of the public sessions scheduled. He also mentioned that there might be permanent traffic lights at the Coleshill bridge, and that the weight limit of the Coton Lane bridge (northern end) was to be reduced from 17 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes which would lead to heavier traffic levels in Nether Whitacre and Blythe Road.
- 14.3 Councillor Humphreys also had £6k funding for small projects and the Chair asked him to consider funding for repairs to the recreation ground car park surface.
- 14.4 Councillor Wright outlined the Civil Parking Enforcement process which would arrive 1st February 2022 and include the introduction of Council car park charges.

15. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

- 15.1 Councillor Cole advised that the Hall currently enjoyed 6 regular users and hire income was returning to pre-pandemic levels. A cleaner had been employed, and the Council's handyperson had dealt with a number of issues. The heating was now controlled remotely which ensured it was not left running after events, wasting energy.

16. Reports from Parish Councillors

- 16.1 Councillor L Dupree outlined her proposal in respect of the Council's social media presence which would allow immediate contact with residents and the facility to receive feedback. Councillor Chandler seconded the proposal and Councillors agreed that Councillor L Dupree should set up the appropriate page.
- 16.2 Councillor Chandler summarised the content of the recent WALC Annual Conference which had focussed upon climate change. She felt that this should be a standing item on the Council's agenda in order that local initiatives might be developed involving residents and particularly younger people.

17. Correspondence

17.1 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations - Trees

- 17.1.1 The Clerk had circulated details of the potential donation of trees by the Merevale Estate.
- 17.1.2 Councillors were in favour of accepting the offer and asked the Clerk to ascertain further details from the Estate.

17.2 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – Community Grant Fund

- 17.2.1 The Clerk had circulated details of the proposal by the WALC County Officer for parish councils to establish community grant funds.
- 17.2.2 Councillors were not in favour of adopting the proposal.

17.3 Tyre Planters – Blythe Road at Station Road

- 17.3.1 The Clerk had received a report of tyre planters installed at the triangular island in Blythe Road at Station Road. He had notified Councillors and liaised with the Nether Whitacre Clerk who was aware of the person responsible. The individual was under the impression the location was part of Nether Whitacre parish and once advised, had removed the tyre planters immediately.
- 17.3.2 Councillors noted the update.

The meeting closed at 9.52pm

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council agreed the below schedule of meetings for 2021/22 at its Annual Meeting, May 2021:-

Ordinary Council Meeting	7.30pm Monday 10 th January 2022 (inc. precept determination)
Ordinary Council Meeting	7.30pm Monday 14 th March 2022
Annual Meeting of the Parish	7.30pm Monday 11 th April 2022
Annual Meeting of the Council	7.30pm Monday 9 th May 2022
Ordinary Meeting of the Council	8.30pm Monday 9 th May 2022