

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
7.30pm Monday 10th January 2021
Shustoke Village Hall

Draft Minutes
Ver 120122

Present: Councillor N Cole, (Acting Chair), Councillors G Dupree, L Dupree, G Noble
Clerk – David Jeans
Councillor D Wright (NWBC Leader) – Part

In the absence of Councillor Chandler, Councillor Cole took the Chair. He advised the meeting that Councillor Pugh had resigned from the Council. On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Noble expressed thanks to Rebecca for her sterling service as councillor, and her work revitalising the Village Hall.

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

1.1 Councillors approved the absence of Councillor Chandler.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 It was agreed this would be agenda-specific.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (18th November 2021)

3.1 The minutes of the last Ordinary meeting had been circulated. Councillor Cole 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 L Dupree advised that several residents had reported an individual trying car doors during the night of 9th January. Details had been circulated via social media. Councillors noted that individuals would need to make their own complaints to the police if a crime had occurred and that the Council could not take on that role. However, information or intelligence could be passed to the police either directly from the Council or via Neighbourhood Watch.

7. Coronavirus Crisis Update

7.1 The Clerk confirmed that regulations were no longer in place to conduct remote council meetings, but these were being sought by NALC.

7.2 A pandemic update was provided by NWBC Councillor Wright within item 17.

8. Financial Report

8.1 The Clerk had circulated the 2021/22 accounts to 31st December. The Clerk presented the Acting Chair with recent invoices and a SPC payment schedule for the period 13th November 2021 to 10th January 2022 which he signed. The documents were countersigned by Councillor L Dupree. Details of the predicted 2021/22 budget outturn had also been circulated.

8.2 Councillor Cole proposed that the financial report be approved, seconded by Councillor L Dupree, and agreed by members present.

8.3 The Clerk raised the issue of the Council's bank which had begun to charge for its services, in line with other banks. He had circulated a comparison table of the charges currently imposed by different banks and asked Councillors to agree a way forward. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Cole that the unused 'Village Hall' account be closed but that the SPC accounts would not be moved to another bank. This was seconded by Councillor L Dupree and agreed by Councillors present.

9. Determination of 2022/23 Parish Precept

9.1 The Clerk advised Councillors they needed to decide upon the 2022/23 precept level. He had circulated a briefing paper outlining the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 and the impact of precept rises up to 10%, with proposed budgets for 2022/23 based upon 0, 5 and 10% precept rises for illustration.

9.2 Councillors considered the strategic aims of the Council for the medium term which included the provision of children's and adult play equipment and the maintenance of the best possible Village environment for residents and visitors. The needs of Villagers were discussed, and the impact of a rise in precept whilst the cost of living was also rising. The impact of inflation on the future revenue costs of the Council was also considered, particularly in relation to the Council's revenue position in 2023/24 if there was no precept rise in 2022/23.

9.3 Following extended discussion, a 2022/23 Parish Council precept rise of 8% was proposed by Councillor Noble, seconded by Councillor Cole and agreed by Councillors present.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 There had been no Shustoke planning items requiring consideration.

11. Tree Planting within the Village

11.1 Merevale Estates had offered to provide trees for Shustoke Village, and Councillors had been asked to consider suitable locations.

- 11.2 Councillor L Dupree felt that there was an opportunity to plant trees within the recreation ground. Councillor Noble thought there might be a Platinum Jubilee Wood. Councillor G Dupree questioned whether residents could sponsor a particular tree.
- 11.3 During discussion, it was agreed that the Council should establish a Jubilee Working Group to move the tree issue forward and to plan appropriate celebrations, involving residents. Councillor G Dupree agreed to lead the Group.
- 11.4 Following further discussion, it was agreed the Clerk would seek further information from Merevale Estates and this matter would be the responsibility of the Working Group.

12. Horticultural Services and Handyperson Activities

- 12.1 The Clerk reported that one of the planters required repair and sought authority to approach the handyperson. This was agreed by Councillors.

13. Recreation Ground

- 13.1 Councillor L Dupree reported on the progress of the Recreation Ground Working Group. There were currently four potential providers of equipment and a large local company was likely to provide financial assistance in respect of the recreation ground drainage issue. The Group would be meeting again on 12th January.
- 13.2 Councillor L Dupree raised the possibility of funding from the Village Hall reserves. Councillor Cole agreed to raise this issue with the Village Hall Management Committee.

14. Road Safety Issues

- 14.1 The Clerk advised that Councillor Humphreys had contacted the County Council Road Safety Department with reference to Village 'gates' but the initial view was that Church Road was unsuitable for such gates. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the reasons for that view.
- 14.2 Councillor Humphreys had not yet progressed a grant for the recreation ground car park resurfacing.

15. Climate Change Issues

- 15.1 Councillors discussed provision of a public charging point for visitors to the Village. The best location was thought to be the Reservoir car park. The Clerk undertook to contact Severn Trent.

16. Developments in Local Government Impacting on the Parish Council or Shustoke

- 16.1 The Clerk reported that there were ongoing regular meetings between the diverse levels of local government in Warwickshire, but the representatives had not met since the last Council meeting.

17. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- 17.1 Councillor Wright (NWBC) reported that the Borough’s pandemic position was similar to the national picture with high incidence of infection but low hospitalisations. The booster programme was running above average, and children over 12 were now part of the vaccination programme with numbers attending higher than the national average.
- 17.2 Councillor Wright advised that public consultation meetings had been held in respect of changes to the Coleshill High Street junction. The scheme involved the introduction of ‘No Right Turns’, but the County Council had agreed to reconsider the ‘No Left Turn’ rule. However, it might be a situation of adopting the initial proposal or abandoning the scheme.
- 17.3 The new parking enforcement arrangements were to commence 1st February 2022 and would apply to both on-street parking and Borough Council-owned car parks. He understood there would be 8 enforcement officers for the Borough. Marketing would be commenced shortly, and parish councils would receive further details before commencement. It was agreed this would be shared on the website and on social media.

18. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

- 18.1 Councillor Cole reported that Hall activities were increasing with two new groups joining the list of clients. The audited accounts would be presented to the next Trustee meeting 14th March.

19. Reports from Parish Councillors

19.1 Social Media Presence

- 19.1.1 Councillor Lisa Dupree advised of a delay in establishing a Parish Council social media presence, but she anticipated this would be resolved shortly.

20. Correspondence

- 20.1 The Clerk had circulated a proposal by Severn Trent to start charging Blue Badge holders the same parking fees as other motorists. Councillor Cole suggested that the disabled spaces near the entrance gate would be a long way from the existing pay machines, and the Clerk agreed to raise this with Severn Trent.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.09pm.

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 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