

Shustoke Parish Councillors are summoned to take part in an
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
7.30pm Monday 19th December 2022
at
Shustoke Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Councillors N Cole (Chair), G Dupree, L Dupree, G Farr, G Noble
Clerk – David Jeans

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

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held 31st October 2022 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 not covered within the main agenda.

5. Contributions from the Public (Maximum 30 minutes)

5.1 No members of the public were present.

6. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

6.1 No County nor Borough Councillors were present.

7. Village Crime and Disorder Issues

7.1 The Clerk reported that he had now spoken with the new officer in charge of Shustoke Reservoir, Ian Martindale. The current parking charge of £1 was thought to be the minimum practicable fee but he was happy to attend a Parish Council meeting and address the matter with Councillors.

7.2 Following discussion, Councillors agreed to invite Mr Martindale when there were more substantive issues to raise.

- 7.3 Councillor Farr raised the issue of anti-social parking adjacent to The Plough. Various options were considered, but Councillor L Dupree undertook to discuss the issue with the Licensee on an informal basis, prior to further action being taken.

Action – Councillor L Dupree

8. Financial Report, Strategic Objectives and 2023/24 Discussion and Precept Decision

- 8.1 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Council's accounts for the period up to 17th December. The Chair proposed acceptance of the financial report, seconded by Councillor Farr and agreed by Councillors present. The Chair signed the documents.

- 8.2 The Chair was presented with recent invoices and a payment schedule for the period 1st November 2022 to 17th December 2022, which he signed and which were countersigned by Councillor L Dupree.

- 8.3 The Clerk reminded Councillors of their discussion of the Council's strategic objectives and their financial implications at the last meeting and that Councillors needed to resolve the level of precept for 2023/24. Councillors had previously identified the following strategic priorities and projects:-

- i) Continuation of the plan to provide new children's and adult play / activity equipment.
- ii) New vehicle and pedestrian gates – recreation ground.
- iii) Continuation of adequate horticultural services throughout the Village.
- iv) Annual tree survey.
- v) Investment of £2000 per annum to earmarked reserves.

- 8.4 The Chair summarised previous Council discussions highlighting the need for an additional £3,000 for the following year, to meet the Council's financial commitments. However, he felt that the new recreation ground gate should be funded through the National Lottery grant rather than from the revenue budget. Other Councillors expressed support for the Chair's proposal.

- 8.5 Following further discussion, Councillor Cole proposed that the precept should rise by £3,000 (20.6%) in 2023/24 and this was seconded by Councillor L Dupree and agreed by all Councillors present. The Clerk was asked to inform the Borough Council.

Action - Clerk

9. Planning Matters

- 9.1 There were no current applications requiring discussion.

10. Horticultural Services and Handyperson Activities

- 10.1 The Clerk reported that the current contractor had been asked to provide details of his proposed charges for both a one-year and two-year period, but this was still awaited.

- 10.2 The Clerk reported the Council continued to await repayment of the repair costs for the shared fencing, in line with the agreement with the managing agent of the rented houses in Croxall Drive. In the light of the failure of the Agent to respond, he had submitted a complaint to the Agent's Headquarters.

11. Recreation Ground

- 11.1 Councillor L Dupree summarised the recent work of the Working Group. Work on the new path would commence early 2023. Councillor G Dupree's presence at the School Fair had generated donations and enabled residents to be briefed on the proposed enhancements to the recreation ground. The dead tree had been removed, but the remains shaped to enable a sign to be affixed. The volunteer group operating the vehicle gate had advised that a new gate was required as soon as possible. The Working Group were seeking three or more quotes. The Chair proposed the Working Group be given authority to accept a quotation for a new gate on behalf of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor G Dupree and agreed by Councillors present. Councillor L Dupree advised that the Group was working with other parish councils (Ansley and Kingsbury) to secure funding from a 'Green Shoots' organisation. The Group would next meet 11th January.
- 11.2 The Chair thanked Councillor G Dupree and his wife for their efforts at the School Fair.
- 11.3 Eighteen residents had sought to sponsor a jubilee tree with £235 donations received to date. It was agreed that certificates would be hand delivered by Councillors following the next Council meeting.

12. Road Safety Issues

- 12.1 Councillor Farr mentioned that anti-social parking in Bixhill Lane – associated with the parking issues of The Plough - had prevented an ambulance reaching its destination. Councillor L Dupree had agreed earlier in the meeting to raise parking issues with the Licensee.

13. Climate Change Issues

- 13.1 Councillor Noble advised that local interest in 'Warm Welcome' events was limited, with potential beneficiaries requiring transport which complicated the process. In view of the events being hosted in Coleshill, it was agreed the proposal would be placed on hold.

14. Warwickshire Association of Local Councils & NWAC

- 14.1 The Clerk advised that both Councillor Chandler and himself had stood down from the roles of Chair and Secretary albeit he continued to operate as acting secretary pending his replacement.

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

- 15.1 The Clerk had circulated the presentation on emergency planning provided at the recent Town and Parish Council Reference Group. He advised that the County Councillors and Officers were making significant efforts to improve relationships with town and parish councils.

16. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

- 16.1 Councillor G Dupree summarised the actions taken by the Committee to clear the outside areas of the Hall. The Committee was working on a programme of works required which would

inform the draft 2023/24 budget to be presented to the Trustee Body in January. The Committee hoped to return some funding for the use of the Council on community projects, but would need to retain some reserve.

- 16.2 Councillor Noble queried the progress of the kitchen renovation, suggesting the delay in completion would be deterring potential hirers. Councillor Dupree outlined the process being undertaken and gave assurance that the new kitchen would meet the needs of the majority of hirers.
- 16.3 The Clerk referred to issues experienced in other North Warwickshire councils, where the village hall's insured value had not been regularly updated, leaving some councils with large bills to cover. The Chair advised that the Hall's insurer had provided a recent valuation and that he was confident the Hall was fully and properly insured.

17. Reports from Parish Councillors

- 17.1 Councillor L Dupree raised the issue of anti-social parking by parents delivering and collecting school children. She gave examples of dangerous parking at junctions, and unseemly encounters between drivers and residents. School staff no longer parked in local roads and the School's newsletter carried a regular request to parents to park safely, but the problems continued.
- 17.2 Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should request further attention from the Police, next term, and an item would be included in the Council's Connecting Four copy.
Action Councillor Noble / Clerk

17.3 Patient Participation Group

17.2.1 The Clerk reported that he had contacted the practice manager via the only available contact system but that no reply had been forthcoming. He would renew efforts to make contact.

Action - Clerk

18. Marketing and Communication

- 18.1 Councillor Noble asked for contributions to Connecting Four which would be published at the end of January.
- 18.2 Councillors agreed the precept decision and the antisocial parking issue should be included.

19. Recruitment of Parish Clerk

- 19.1 The Chair reported on progress of the Recruitment Panel.

20. Correspondence

- 20.1 The Clerk had circulated relevant correspondence to Councillors.
- 20.2 School Defibrillator

20.2.1 Councillor L Dupree reported that she had received a request from the School for a donation toward a defibrillator to be installed in the School. Councillor Farr offered details of other organisations which might help, and Councillor Dupree undertook to pass them on.

20.2.2 Following discussion, Councillor Cole proposed a donation of £100 from the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Noble and agreed by Councillors present. The Clerk was asked to process the payment once the relevant details had been obtained.

Action - Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.36pm.