**SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

**Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Draft MINUTES**

Present: Councillor B Chandler (Chair), Councillors N Cole, G Dupree, L Dupree, G Farr, G Noble.

Councillor D Wright (NWBC)

Clerk – D Jeans

Seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies**
   1. All Councillors were present.
2. **Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting (12th April 2021 - Video Conference)**
   1. The minutes were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising**
   1. There were no matters arising.
4. **Chair’s Annual Report**

4.1 Councillor Chandler welcomed guests and advised that although at the start of this year most Covid restrictions were still in place, we returned to face-to-face Parish Council meetings in May 2021. Parish councillors returned and continued to work hard throughout, as these restrictions still impacted us all. It was important to again thank residents and councillors for their time and energy helping our friends and neighbours during the last couple of years. The Council welcomed three new councillors this year who each bring valuable skills and enthusiasm to look after our village. Cllr R Pugh stepped down to concentrate on supporting the village hall.

4.2 Despite the changes and challenges of the year our Parish Council continues to make progress on issues that are important to the residents of Shustoke.

4.3 This year the Council had we created a Recreation Ground working group consisting of Councillors, residents and stakeholders. The group met separately from the full Council and reported back to the face-to-face Parish Council meetings. Using the information from a village survey - ‘Future of the recreation ground area on Wilkinson Way’ – organised and completed by Councillor L Dupree, the working group met with suppliers and researched funding for play/fitness equipment. A supplier was agreed at our recent SPC meeting, with work on funding bids beginning shortly.

4.4 Improving the green space in the recreation ground was likely to be a long, slow process. The working group had been able to progress this with Elaine Dupree contacting various suppliers and working with CAVA to research funders. Useful information from the survey report informed design and layout for the equipment. The working group will move on to enhancing other areas of the recreation ground once it has secured the play/fitness equipment.

4.5 The work to clear the pathway near the gate had been completed to allow a clear line of vision for anyone accessing or leaving the carpark.

4.6 The working group would also be organising some fund-raising events to add to the £326.89 raised on the ‘Just Giving’ page to improve the carpark surface. The Chair offered thanks to everyone who had contributed.

4.7 The Merevale Estate had donated 70 trees to Shustoke Village. These trees would be planted along the far boundary of the recreation ground as part of the **Queen’s Green Canopy**. Tree planting will be completed over the next few weeks to create a green legacy, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate for now and the future.

4.8 Looking after our green space and responding to the effects of climate change was going be an important part of how we manage our green space as a working group. The Council wanted to provide an open space for nature to thrive while creating a healthier place for Shustoke residents. If any residents was interested in joining the working group, they were asked to contact the Clerk, David Jeans: [Clerk@shustoke-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@shustoke-parishcouncil.org.uk)

4.9 Traffic on the B4114remained an issue for many residents. As Covid restrictions had been lifted, the traffic on the B4114 increased significantly. The Council would continue to campaign for support to deal with this from WCC. This was especially important as road closures for HS2 work would no doubt impact the village.

4.10 It was important to note that our new WCC Cllr David Humphreys and NWBC Cllr David Wright had attended our recent SPC meetings and had been both helpful and supportive of local issues.

4.11 Shustoke Parish Council was represented at Hazelwood PPG, North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, North Warwickshire Area Committee of Town and Parish Councils and the WCC Reference Group to ensure residents are kept updated with all relevant information. All updates were communicated at SPC meetings and on our website: <https://shustoke-parishcouncil.org.uk/>

4.12 The Chair advised she would be stepping down this year and took the opportunity to thank the Clerk, David Jeans for his hard work and support. It had been greatly appreciated. The Chair also paid a huge thank you to all the Councillors for their dedication and commitment to SPC.

1. **Village Hall Report**

5.1 Councillor Cole advised that the Hall was now benefitting form an internet connection and a remotely controlled heating system. Work on the toilet area was planned, and a new floor and kitchen were under consideration. The Hall now enjoyed regular bookings providing a healthy income.

1. **Recreation Ground Working Group**

6.1 The Chair updated the meeting on the progress achieved by the Group. It was hoped that membership would incorporate other village stakeholders in due course. The main challenge was funding, but there was an opportunity to commence enhancements during 2022/23.

**7. Queen’s Jubilee Celebration Working Group Report**

7.1Councillor G Dupree advised that a picnic was scheduled for 5th June in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, assisted by a £500 grant from NWBC. The Group were looking for additional volunteers to assist with the event.

**8. Allotments Committee Report**

* 1. No representative was in attendance.

**9. Reports from County or Borough Councillors**

9.1 Councillor Wright offered the apologies of Councillor Humphries. He outlined details of the proposed civil parking enforcement which would allow much more room for shoppers and short-term visitors in Atherstone and Coleshill.

1. **Reports from other Shustoke Organisations**
   1. No contributions were forthcoming.
2. **Contributions from Members of the Public (Maximum of 30 minutes)**

11.1 A resident reported damage to the fence adjacent to a shared parking area in Croxall Drive. Councillor G Dupree advised that the Council was aware but that the title deeds showed the fence was the responsibility of the residents living next to the fence. The Council would be working towards its repair, either by volunteers or through funding by the relevant residents.

**I certify that the above minutes, comprising three pages, accurately reflect the meeting which took place.**

**Signed …………………………………… Name ………………………………….**

**Chair Date .…………………………………..**