

# SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 26th June 2023 at 7.30pm

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

### PUBLISHED MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors G. Dupree (in the Chair), L. Dupree, G. Farr and G. Noble  
Clerk – Neil Millard  
13 members of the public (Part)

#### **1 Apologies**

1.1 All Councillors were present.

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

2.1 There were no declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.

#### **3 Minutes of Meetings of the Council (15th May 2023)**

3.1 The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council had been circulated to all members. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council and the ordinary meeting of the Council held 15th May be approved as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

#### **4 Questions or Presentation from Members of the Public**

4.1 A number of local residents were present at the meeting and they voiced significant complaints about the standard and frequency of the grass cutting at the recreation ground. A number of those present indicated that they did not feel that they were getting value for the Council Tax they are paying. Concerns were also raised regarding the general appearance of the village including the planters. There was also a willingness from people to get involved in a community effort to enhance the appearance of the village where possible.

4.2 The Chairman explained the Council's responsibilities and the difficulties arising from a change of contractor. He also acknowledged the concerns of residents and assured those present that the Council would work to improve the situation and indicated that it would try to organise a community volunteer day.

#### **5 Reports by County and District Councillors (for Information)**

5.1 There were no reports forthcoming and no members of the District or County Council present at the meeting.

#### **6 Approval of List of Accounts**

6.1 The following list of accounts paid since the last meeting was circulated to all members prior to the meeting:-

		£
Cllr L Dupree	Coronation Event Expenses	499.84
Connect 4	Annual Donation	260.00
LH Tree Services	Flailing	50.00

HMRC	PAYE April 2023	299.60
Jo Draper	Refreshments AMoP 220523	150.00
HSBC	Bank Charges	5.00
Clerk DJ	Expenses May	20.70
Clerk DJ	Salary May	275.40
Clerk NM	Salary May	322.90
Clerk NM	Expenses May	18.00
Zurich Municipal	Insurance 2023/4	365.00
HMRC	PAYE May 2023	264.20
Coleshill Mowing	Horticultural Services May	360.00

6.2 It was RESOLVED that the above list of accounts as submitted to the meeting be approved

## 7 Consideration of Financial Report submitted by the Clerk

7.1 An interim financial report detailing all of the Council's receipts and payments, budget position and bank balances etc was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

7.2 It was RESOLVED that the contents of the financial report as submitted be noted and approved

## 8 Consideration of Co-option to fill Casual Vacancies (3)

8.1 Local resident, Olwen Brown was present at the meeting and indicated her willingness to become a member of the Council

8.2 It was RESOLVED that Olwen Brown be co-opted to fill a casual vacancy on the Council and that she declare her acceptance of office at or before the next meeting of the Council.

## 9 Consideration of Representation on the North Warwickshire Area Committee (of WALC)

9.1 The Clerk advised the meeting that the North Warwickshire Area Committee had a formal constitution that required specific representation rather than the ad-hoc in place in the other areas of the county.

9.2 It was RESOLVED that the Chairman be appointed as the Council's representative on the Area Committee and that representation be reviewed regularly.

## 10 Consideration of the Council's Horticultural Services contracts including arrangements for the allotments path

10.1 Members discussed at length the current position regarding the council's horticultural services and in particular the concerns expressed by members of the public at the meeting. Consideration was given to the best way to address the issues raised, the requirements of the council's contracts and members' expectations. The meeting also considered the question of future arrangements for maintenance of the path at the allotments.

10.2 It was agreed that the Chairman meet the relevant contractor at the recreation ground to discuss the feasibility of collecting the cuttings to try and improve the appearance of the ground and to assist with future cutting.

10.3 It was RESOLVED that the Council agree to spend up to the sum of £400 to engage a contractor to collect the grass cuttings if necessary.

10.4 It was RESOLVED that no further action be taken by the Council in respect of maintaining the path at the allotments

**11. Consideration of a Response to Consultation regarding the Nether Whitacre Neighbourhood Plan**

11.1 The Clerk advised that the Council had been invited by the planning authority to respond to the draft Neighbourhood Plan submitted by Nether Whitacre Parish Council

11.2 It was RESOLVED that the Council make no response to the consultation.

**12. Consideration of any comments regarding the following planning application: Waterworks House, Station Road**

12.1 The Chairman advised that he been approached by neighbours to the above property who were unhappy with the proposals. He had explained the Council's role in the planning process and had some sympathy with their view. NWBC had been asked to extend the consultation period until after the meeting.

12.2 It was RESOLVED that no further action be taken on this matter.

**13. Consideration of any Amendment to the Council's Schedule Of Meetings for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year**

13.1 Members were invited to consider any changes to the schedule of meetings to take account of potential unavailability.

13.2 Councillors agreed the following amendments and additions to the schedule of meeting dates for the 2023/2024 municipal year

Ordinary Meeting	7.30pm Monday 30th October 2023 (additional meeting)
Ordinary Meeting	7.30pm Monday 27th November 2023
	(To include precept discussion and decision - amended date to replace December meeting)

**14. Consideration of Arranging a Community Volunteer Day and any Potential Expenditure**

14.1 Members were asked to consider arranging a community volunteer day to try and improve the visual appearance of the village. This would try and address some of the concerns raised by residents at the meeting and tackle some of the issues that were outside the contractual responsibility of the Council.

14.2 It was RESOLVED that more detailed proposals including a date would be prepared by Councillor L. Dupree and circulated by email to all members for joint approval.

14.3 It was RESOLVED that expenditure of up to £200 to provide plants and planters or similar items as required by the detailed proposal be approved.

**15. Consideration of a Donation to the Friends of the Recreation Ground Group**

15.1 Councillor L. Dupree proposed that the Council make a donation to support the Friends of the Recreation Ground and help to establish a financial base for the group. She suggested that the money donated to the Council through the "Easy Fundraising" scheme could be utilised.

15.2 It was RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a donation of £100.00 be made to The Friends of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Shustoke

**16. Progress Reports for information only**

16.1 The Chairman related that any current issues had been discussed during the course of the meeting.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.*

**I certify the above minutes, comprising four pages as a true and correct of the meeting which took place.**

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

**Chair** ..... **Date** .....