

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 30th October 2023 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

PUBLISHED MINUTES

Present: Councillors G. Dupree (in the Chair), O. Brown, G. Farr, R. Hill and N. Larkin
Clerk – Neil Millard
9 members of the public

1 Apologies

1.1 An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor G. Noble.

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

3.1 The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting of the Council had been circulated to all members.

3.2 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held 21st August 2023 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 There were no questions or presentations from the members of the public who were present.

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:-

		£
Clerk	Salary Aug 2023	322.70
Clerk	Expenses Aug 2023	27.00
Coleshill Mowing	Horticultural Services Aug	360.00
HMRC	PAYE Aug 2023	80.80
HSBC	Bank Charges	5.00
Moore	External Audit Fee 22/23	252.00
Coleshill Mowing	Horticultural Services Sept	360.00
Clerk	Salary Sept 2023	322.90
Clerk	Expenses Sept 2023	27.00

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

7. Consideration of the External Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2023

7.1 The Clerk reported that the external auditor's report had been circulated to all members. He also confirmed that the report and the accounting statements had been publicised on the Council's website in accordance with statutory requirements.

7.2 It was RESOLVED that the auditor's report and its contents and recommendations be received and accepted.

8. Approval of the Clerk's action in respect of grass cutting at the Recreation Ground

8.1 The Clerk reported that an initial cut had successfully taken place in accordance with the decision taken at the previous meeting. He had also subsequently recommended by email that members accept a further cut at a higher cost than previously agreed. He had requested to precipitate a speedy decision that members indicate their acceptance by email to ensure that a final cut could take place prior to the end of the season. He advised that four members had indicated their support for the Clerk's recommendation and an order had been placed for the work.

8.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk's action as described above in respect of grass cutting at the Recreation Ground be formally approved.

9. Consideration of representation and proposals at the AGM of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils

9.1 The Clerk reported that he had circulated details of the Annual General Meeting of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils including workshops relating to items of interest to local councils and a marketplace also for items of interest. The charge for attending the ancillary sections of the event is £10.

9.2 It was RESOLVED that the Chairman attend the full event on behalf of the Council and as such the fee of £10 be paid.

10. Consideration of Security of the Recreation Ground Car Park

10.1 The Clerk advised that he had received approaches from Shustoke school and local residents regarding arrangements for closing gates at the recreation ground. The residents were indicating that they had been assured that the existing arrangement was only temporary.

10.2 The Clerk also reported that the school had made a tentative offer for a member of support staff to close the gates. He confirmed that he had sought to clarify the current arrangements and had then subsequently contacted the school to clarify if this offer was still open but had yet to receive a reply.

10.3 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk make a further representation to the school with a view to accepting the original offer involving a member of support staff.

11. Consideration of Future Arrangements for Grass Cutting at the Recreation Ground

- 11.1 The Clerk urged members to consider its requirements for grass cutting at the recreation ground in the next financial year to ensure that tenders are received and arrangements are in place at the start of the next season.
- 11.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk produce a draft specification for consideration at the next meeting.

12. Report on the Activities of the "Friends Of Shustoke Recreation Ground"

- 12.1 James Hammond attended the meeting on behalf of the group and reported that the group has its own bank account and Facebook page. He advised that the aim is to raise 65k to put in place play and related equipment. The most recent balance is £10k including a promise of £5k from Birmingham International Airport. A number of other bodies are being approached including HS2. A quiz night was held recently raising £1200. James confirmed that he is happy to report to future meetings and advised that stage two of the group's plans is to provide additional equipment.

13. Furnace End Community Fibre (Broadband) Partnership

- 13.1 The Clerk reported that he had been approached by Openreach supported by Warwickshire County Council regarding the establishment of a community fibre (broadband) partnership to include the village of Shustoke. The Clerk expressed his concerns that this was merely an approach by a commercial organisation seeking business.
- 13.2 The Clerk was asked to obtain more information regarding the cost of signing up to the scheme before any further action is taken.

14. Consideration of Information Regarding a Community Orchard Scheme

- 14.1 Members were invited to identify sites for potential location of community orchards to be submitted to NWBC which may be developed by community organisations if NWBC is successful in obtaining funds from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund.
- 14.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred pending further information from NWBC regarding the outcome of its application.

15. Consideration of Co-option of a Member to Fill a Casual Vacancy on the Council

- 15.1 The Clerk confirmed that a vacancy had arisen following the resignation of L. Dupree. The vacancy had been advertised and no poll had been claimed and therefore the Council should fill the vacancy by co-option. Local resident, Kerry Jones had previously indicated her interest in joining the Council and was present at the meeting.
- 15.2 It was RESOLVED that Kerry Jones be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy on the Council and she declared her acceptance of office.

16. Consideration of the future of the Council's allotments

- 16.1 The Clerk advised of an email exchange with the Secretary of the Allotments Association and confirmed that he had not as yet received a copy of the Association's constitution.
- 16.2 The Secretary of the Association, Mr. Stirrop was present at the meeting and sought and received information from the Chairman. He subsequently undertook to forward a copy of the Association's constitution to the Council.

- 17. Consideration of any response to consultation regarding planning applications at the following locations:-**
a) Keepers Cottage, Blythe Road
b) Waterworks House, Station Road

17.1 The Clerk reported that details of both applications had been circulated to all members and no objections or comments had been received.

17.2 It was RESOLVED formally that no representations be made on behalf of the Council in respect of these planning applications.

18. Progress Reports for information only

18.1 Councillor Larkin briefly advised that another community “clean-up” day provisionally planned for September had been deferred due to the weather until possibly November..

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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

Signed **Name**

Chair **Date**
