

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 27th November 2023 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors G. Dupree (in the Chair), G. Farr, and K. Jones
Clerk – Neil Millard
8 members of the public

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors R. Hill and N. Larkin.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes of Meeting 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 30th October 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 Elaine Dupree spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Recreation Ground seeking assurances from the council regarding responsibility for maintenance and safety inspections following the potential installation of play equipment.

4.2 The Chairman remarked that there was no change in the Council's position particularly regarding the question of safety inspections

4.3 Mrs Dupree also advised that she had submitted a report to the Council regarding the "Green Shoots" project.

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 Clerk advised that no payments had been made since the last meeting due to ongoing issues regarding transfer of access to the bank account.

7. Consideration of the Council's Budget for the 2024/2025 Financial Year

- 7.1 The Clerk submitted a draft expenditure budget identifying the Council's core activity and a miscellaneous contingency to allow more flexibility for members.
- 7.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to an extraordinary meeting to be held in January.

8. Consideration of the Council's Precept for the 2024/2025 Financial Year

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that NWBC had not published details of the Council Tax base for the forthcoming year. He had been advised of a provisional figure which suggested an increased tax base but he confirmed that it would not be possible to definitively establish the impact on residents until the figure is formally published.
- 8.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to an extraordinary meeting to be held in January.

9. Consideration of Implementing the 2023/2024 NJC Pay Award from 1st April 2023

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that the 2023/24 pay award had been agreed and in accordance with his contract the increased rate of pay would be implemented from 1st April. He advised that the increase amounted to an extra £1 per hour (£360 per annum)

10. Consideration of Specifications and Related Arrangements for Grass Cutting Within the Parish In 2024

- 10.1 The Clerk submitted draft specifications for grass cutting at the relevant locations within the parish with a limited number of amendments in comparison to the current year. The draft specification had been circulated to all members.
- 10.2 It was RESOLVED that the draft specifications as submitted be approved by the Council and the Clerk begin the process of obtaining quotations for the work required.

11. Consideration of Security of the Recreation Ground Car Park

- 11.1 The Clerk reported that he had received no response from the school regarding co-operation in securing the car park to either his emails or a telephone call. He confirmed that he would pursue the head of the school as a matter of urgency.

12. Consideration of Representation by Over Whitacre Parish Council regarding Daw Mill

- 12.1 Philip Mason (Chairman of Over Whitacre Parish Council) made a detailed presentation to the meeting regarding the history of the Daw Mill site and the upcoming public inquiry into an appeal by the owners of the land against an enforcement notice by Warwickshire County Council.
- 12.2 He asked the Council to join Over Whitacre Parish Council and others in supporting the action of Warwickshire County Council by submitting a letter of support addressed to the Planning Inspectorate following a specific format. He also advised that this was a matter of urgency as correspondence needed to be submitted prior to the inquiry and no later than 10th December.
- 12.3 It was RESOLVED that the clerk write a letter of support expressing the Council's concerns regarding the site and including the specific format as detailed by Mr. Mason

13. Progress Reports for information only

- 13.1 The Chairman reported to the meeting regarding sponsorship of a Christmas Tree at the Church.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

Signed **Name**

Chair **Date**