

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors G. Dupree (in the Chair), G. Farr, R. Hill, K. Jones and N. Larkin
Clerk – Neil Millard
Councillor D. Wright (NWBC)
4 members of the public

1 Apologies

1.1 An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor O. Brown.

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 and extraordinary meetings 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 27th November 2023 and the extraordinary meeting of the Council held 29th January 2024 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 Gill Dupree spoke on behalf of Friends of Shustoke Recreation Ground to update the council and members of the public. She reported on details of the donations or commitments made to the group including a pledge of £5k from Birmingham Airport, Councillor's funding of £2k and £500 from the National Grid and The Plough will also donate funds from an event. She advised that a bid has been made to "Inclusive Communities" funding administered by the Heart of England Foundation using Commonwealth Games legacy funding. She also informed the meeting that an event will be held by the Green Shoots Project who have partnered with the group and two other local communities.

4.2 Mrs Dupree advised that it would be useful for the group to know how much money the Parish Council holds for providing the play area. The Clerk confirmed that he would clarify and report to the group.

5 Reports by County and District Councillors (for Information)

5.1 Councillor David Wright (NWBC) gave a detailed, wide ranging and interesting report to the meeting. He reported that the council tax will increase 2.99% generating an additional £180k. He also reported that an arms length company is to be established to provide accommodation in areas of need and that NWBC has invested with other local authorities in a recycling facility

in Coventry. He advised that a survey suggested that 90% of people contacting the council were happy and that 80% suggest that the council provides value for money.

- 5.2 He also pledged the sum of £2,000 to the Friends of Shustoke Recreation Ground Group from his councillor's funding pot.

6 Approval of List of Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that due to technical difficulties with the HSBC banking application he was unable to provide a list of accounts.

7. Consideration of Quotations for Providing Horticultural Services Within Shustoke on Behalf of the Council In 2024

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that quotations had been sought from a number of companies to undertake grass cutting at the recreation ground and work at various locations around the village. Quotations had been received in respect of the separate responsibilities and for performing both elements and he submitted details of the various figures.
- 7.2 The Clerk recommended that the Council maintain the existing separation of responsibilities and accept quotations from Tame Grounds Maintenance for grass cutting at the recreation ground and from Coleshill Mowing to continue its existing responsibility for the other work in the village.
- 7.3 It was RESOLVED that the separation of responsibilities be continued and the quotation from Tame Grounds Maintenance in the sum of £240 plus VAT per visit (12 per annum) for grass cutting at the recreation ground be accepted.
- 7.4 It was RESOLVED that the quotation from Coleshill Mowing in the sum of £2,304 (incl. VAT) per annum for all other responsibilities be accepted

8. Future Arrangements for Securing the Recreation Ground Car Park Gates

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that he had made contact with the head of the school and advised that she was keen to maintain the current access situation and wanted to help the council in finding a solution.
- 8.2 He also advised that a provider of an after school club on Tuesday-Thursday had offered to secure the gates as they left the car park at 4.30 pm on the above days of the week.
- 8.3 Two residents who were present at the meeting who have been closing the gates indicated that they were happy to close the gates on Monday and Friday.

9. Consideration of an Outline Proposal for Part Lease of the Recreation Ground by Romulus FC

- 9.1 The Clerk had circulated an outline of a preliminary approach by Romulus FC, a non league football club based in Sutton Coldfield. The approach relates to taking over a section of the recreation ground to provide facilities for junior football including potentially their academy and soccer camps and other related activity. The club would take over responsibility for grass cutting and would, after initial set up costs, pay a rent to the Council. All revenue from the activity would accrue to Romulus, although theoretically rent could be increased as the facility became more successful. Public access would be maintained when the facility is not being used for formal activity.

- 9.2 There was some debate regarding safeguards and any covenant on the land which may prevent the Council from entering into any agreement.
- 9.3 It was RESOLVED that the Council consider the proposal further and in more detail including Investigation of any covenant or other restriction
- 9.4 It was RESOLVED that the council informally meet representatives of Romulus FC to obtain more information regarding their proposals.

10. Additional Representation on Shustoke Village Hall Management Committee

- 10.1 The Chairman paid tribute to the service and commitment to the Council and Shustoke of Gill Noble who had decided to resign from the Council. It was noted that her decision created a vacancy for a Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.
- 10.2 It was RESOLVED that Gill Farr be appointed as the Council's third representative on the Shustoke Village Hall Management Committee.

11. Approval of WALC Training for New Members of the Council

- 11.1 The Clerk advised that WALC provided training courses for new councillors and asked the Council to agree that each new member could undertake the course if they wish and the costs be met by the Council.
- 11.2 it was RESOLVED that the Council meet the cost of any new member wishing to attend the "Councillor Training" course specifically designed for new councillors.

12. Nomination of Contributor to "Connecting Four" Magazine on Behalf of the Council

- 12.1 The resignation of Gill Noble had also created a vacancy as the Council's contributor to the "Connecting Four" magazine.
- 12.2 It was RESOLVED that Kerry Jones be nominated to provide articles on behalf of the Council in the "Connecting Four" magazine and that all articles be referred to the Chairman before submission for publication.

13. Consideration of Deferring the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting and Associated Arrangements

- 13.1 The Clerk asked members to consider deferring the Annual Parish Meeting to allow more time for preparation. He also asked members to consider the associated arrangements for the meeting including catering and guest speakers.
- 13.2 It was RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting be re-scheduled to 20th May 2024
- 13.3 It was also RESOLVED that the Council provide basic refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits) at the meeting.

14. Provisional Schedule Of Meetings 2024/2025

- 14.1 The Clerk advised that the village hall had informed that other groups were looking for vacant evenings and recommended that the Council confirm the dates it required for the calendar year as soon as possible. The Clerk had submitted a draft schedule of meetings

