

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 28th October 2024 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

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

1 Apologies

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

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 19th August 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 James Hammond reported on progress regarding the installation of phase one of the play equipment in the Recreation Ground. Contractors had been on site and work was due to start the following week. Fund raising continues and an application to the National Lottery has been made.

4.2 Peter Robson from Bixhill Lane outlined issues with deliberate obstruction of a public right of way and potential inaccuracies within the definitive map.

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 submitted a list of accounts as set out below containing all payments made since last approval.

		£
HSBC	Bank charges	5.00
Coleshill Mowing	horticultural servs Jul	384.00
HMRC	tax	260.00

Netwise	domain renewal	24.00
Clerk	Expenses August	22.00
Clerk	replace padlock	24.99
Clerk	Salary August	346.90
HSBC	Bank charges	5.00
Coleshill Mowing	horticultural servs Aug	384.00
Clerk	Expenses Sept	22.00
Clerk	Salary Sept	346.70
Tame GM	horticultural servs	944.00
Tame GM	horticultural servs	944.00
NWBC	play area inspection	62.94

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

7. Consideration of Co-Option to Fill a Casual Vacancy on the Council

7.1 The Chairman reported that Rachael Gough, a local resident and former member of the Council had indicated a willingness to be co-opted.

7.2 It was RESOLVED that Rachael Gough be co-opted to become a member of Shustoke Parish Council

7.3 Councillor Gough confirmed her eligibility and declared her acceptance of office

8. Consideration of the Council's Involvement in Future National Celebrations

8.1 The meeting was advised that there was still no formal proposal primarily due to difficulties in arranging potential entertainment.

8.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Consideration of Formal Approval for a Proposal to Provide a War Memorial on the Village Green

9.1 The Clerk reported that a proposal to site a memorial on the green had been outlined informally at the last meeting with unanimous support from members at that meeting. The Clerk also advised that the proposal required formal approval.

9.2 Councillor Gough suggested that if the "village green" is officially designated as such, that obstacles may not be allowed to restrict unencumbered access for the village. The Clerk undertook to investigate and clarify the position.

9.3 It was RESOLVED that subject to clarification of the above issue the Council agree in principle to the location of a war memorial, as previously described, on the Village Green

10. Consideration of Purchasing Plants for the Various Community Planters Around the Village

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

11. Consideration of Future Replenishment of the Community Planters each July and September

11.1 A request was made to establish a budget and give approval to replenishing the community planters during the course of the year.

11.2 It was RESOLVED that the Council spend up to £100.00 per annum to replenish the community planters located around the village.

12. Consideration of a Response to Request by Fillongley Parish Council

12.1 The Clerk submitted a request from Fillongley Parish Council for financial support for representation at a planning appeal in respect of a temporary solar farm. The Clerk advised that the Council did not have a general power to support this request. He further advised that the Council may be able to use the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which required compliance with strict criteria regarding benefit to inhabitants of the parish.

12.2 A debate took place where members discussed the merits of the application and the principle of NWBC defending their apparent decision to refuse permission. The question of the legal and financial position of the Council was also discussed.

12.3 It was RESOLVED that the Council decline to support the request by Fillongley Parish Council due to the mixed views of members as outlined above and the decision be communicated to FPC

13. Consideration of the Arrangements for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Parish

13.1 The Clerk asked members to consider the arrangements for the meeting, specifically the question of a guest speaker and potential invitees to the meeting and any associated arrangements.

13.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk advised that WALC had published a helpful document offering advice on staging the meeting and he would circulate to all members

14. Consideration of Purchasing a Christmas Tree for Location on the Village Green

14.1 A discussion took place on the question of a potential location for a Christmas Tree and the logistics of providing lighting for a tree.

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

15. Consideration of a Request from Nether Whitacre Parish Council Regarding Maintenance of the Railway Bridge at Station Road

15.1 The Clerk reported correspondence with NWPC regarding supporting them in maintaining the railway bridge or approaching Network Rail regarding the condition of the bridge.

15.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Network Rail in support of NWPC regarding the condition of the railway bridge and its maintenance.

16. To consider payment to secure the gates at Shustoke Recreation Ground and general update on the existing security position

16.2 It was RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

17. Rights of Way; Bixhill Lane

17.1 Issues regarding alteration and deliberate obstruction of public rights of way had been highlighted earlier in the meeting by a member of the public.

