

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 16th December 2024 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

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

1 Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies received as all members of the Council were present at the meeting.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary 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 28th October 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 A concern was raised regarding the obstruction of footpaths due to vehicles parking on them. Concern was also raised about overhanging foliage obstructing the footpath towards the Griffin PH.

4.2 The Clerk advised that he would contact Warwickshire CC regarding the obstruction caused by the overhanging foliage.

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
HMRC	tax	260.20

Coleshill Mowing	horticultural servs Sept	384.00
Clerk	defib signs	96.00
Clerk	Salary Oct	346.90
Clerk	Expenses Oct	18.00
HSBC	Bank charges	5.00
Clerk	Salary Nov (+ pay award)	467.70
Clerk	Expenses Nov	22.00

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

7. Consideration of the Council's budget for the 2025/2026 financial year

7.1 The Clerk submitted a draft budget for the 2025/2026 financial year which had been circulated to all members. He reported to members on the differences in comparison to the previous year's budget.

7.2 A debate took place regarding the possible out-turn for the remainder of the year and the question of reserve funds.

7.3 The Clerk advised that he would check the recommendation contained in the Practitioner's Guide produced jointly by NALC and auditors regarding reserve funds.

7.4 It was RESOLVED that the draft budget for the 2025/2026 financial year be approved.

8. Consideration of Specifications and Related Arrangements for Grass Cutting Within the Parish In 2025

8.1 The Clerk submitted a draft specification for horticultural services within the village in 2025. He also reported on a quotation from Tame Grounds Maintenance for grass cutting at the Recreation Ground and asked members to consider arrangements for 2025

8.2 It was RESOLVED tht the draft specification be approved subject to clarification regarding timing of hedge trimming.

8.3 It was RESOLVED that the quotation from Tame Grounds Maintenance of £283.50 per visit for a maximum of 12 visits at the Recreation Ground be acceted.

8.4 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seek an alternative contractor to undertake the separate grass cutting and related work around the village and also investigate the additional cost of cutting grass at the allotments

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

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

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

10. Consideration of the Arrangements for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Parish (28th April)

10.1 Members were asked to consider the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, including guest speakers, catering and any other special arrangements.

10.2 It was RESOLVED that the Council provide basic refreshments (tea/coffee, cake/biscuits) for 20 people at the Annual Meeting of the Parish

11. Consideration of Payment to Secure the Gates at Shustoke Recreation Ground and General Update on the Existing Security Position

11.1 There was no report in respect of this issue and therefore no further action is required at the present time.

12. Fireworks

12.1 The subject of setting off fireworks in public places was discussed following a report that a local resident intended to do so in the Recreation Ground. It was reported unequivocally that it is against the law to set off fireworks in a public place.

12.2 It was RESOLVED that the Council use its website to publicise this fact at the highest risk times and the information also be added to village Facebook/WhatsApp groups where appropriate

13. Dogs/Dog Fouling at Shustoke Recreation Ground

13.1 The question of dog fouling in the Recreation Ground and an existing byelaw enacted by NWBC and potential enforcement was discussed.

13.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with NWBC regarding potential enforcement, signage and action in other areas.

14. Furnace End Cross Roads

14.1 An email had been received and circulated to all members seeking support for a campaign to take action following numerous road traffic accidents at the Furnace End junction (B4114/B4098)

14.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact all relevant agencies to urge that action be taken to improve this junction to remedy the accident record

15. Application to National Lottery Community Fund in respect of Shustoke Recreation Ground

15.1 The Clerk reported that the application by the Council had been rejected by the National Lottery Community Fund with an outline explanation for the decision. The Clerk asked members to consider whether to make another application taking into account the advice from the National Lottery.

15.2 It was RESOLVED that no further action be taken on this matter at the present time.

16. Progress Reports for information only

16.1 The Chairman reported that the first phase of work to provide play equipment in the Recreation Ground had been completed.

16.2 The meeting place on record a formal vote of thanks to Friends of Shustoke Park for its sterling work in fundraising and delivering the project so far.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

