

SHUSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

PUBLISHED MINUTES

Present: Councillors G. Dupree (in the Chair), G. Farr, R. Gough, R. Hill and N. Larkin
Clerk – Neil Millard
1 member of the public

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Brown and Jones.

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 The Clerk reported that he had erroneously recorded Councillor Jones as giving her apologies when she had in fact attended the meeting. He advised that the copy to be signed and those circulated at the meeting had been amended.

3.3 It was RESOLVED that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held 16th December 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 question was raised regarding the potential provision of a path to the play area given the waterlogged nature of the recreation ground. The Chairman advised that there was no plan at present due to the potential cost.

4.2 Councillor Hill advised that he may have some broken up gym mats that he would be happy for the Council to use to help fill a dip in the ground at the play area.

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.

5.2 The Clerk advised that Councillors Humphries and Simpson had advised him that he were unable to attend the meeting due to a clash with a meeting at NWBC

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.

		£
Wicksteed	Play equipment	13,000.00
HSBC	Bank charges	5.00
Clerk	Salary Dec	362.00
Clerk	Expenses Dec	18.00
Tame GM	horticultural servs	972.00
NWBC	grounds maintenance	1,212.23

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

7. Consideration of the Council's Precept for the 2025/2026 Financial Year

- 7.1 The Clerk submitted a report confirming that the Council Tax base for the 2025/26 financial year will be £222.85. He advised that a freeze to the Council Tax for residents of Shustoke would produce a precept of £18,777. The report also identified the impact of various percentage increases to the precept on Band D properties in the Parish.

- 7.2 It was RESOLVED after consideration that the Council require a precept of £19,715 for the 2025/26 financial year (an increase of 5%)

- 7.3 It was also RESOLVED that the Council increase its working reserve to the sum of £5,000

8. Consideration of Horticultural Services Within the Parish for the 2025 Season

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that he had been asked to source a new company and following a recommendation he had approached Graceful Property Management based in Shustoke. He submitted a quotation in the sum of £325.00 per month for the six month season. He advised that this was an increase of £5.00 per month from the 2024 contract and as such recommended that the Council accept the quotation.

- 8.2 It was RESOLVED that the Council accept the quotation in the sum of £325.00 pcm (total sum = £1,950.00) from Graceful Property Management for horticultural services in the village during Summer 2025.

- 8.3 A meeting, as proposed by the contractor, to take place during March with the Contractor, Clerk and Councillor Gough to finalise requirements.

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

- 9.1 Councillor Larkin reported that due to personal reasons she was unable to commit to organising any events at the present time. She indicated that a proposal may be submitted for an event at a later stage of the year.

- 9.2 It was RESOLVED that no further action be taken on this matter at the present time and further consideration be made at a future meeting.

10. Consideration of Amendment to the Schedule of Meetings for the Current Municipal Year

- 10.1 It was RESOLVED that at the Clerk's request the Council hold an ordinary meeting on Monday 17th March to replace the previously scheduled meeting in March

11. Consideration of a Further Request by Fillongley Parish Council

- 11.1 The Clerk submitted a request from Fillongley Parish Council seeking a letter of support for submission to an appeal into a planning application for a solar farm. Members discussed the merits of both the application and opposition.
- 11.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write expressing the Council's view that solar farms should ideally be developed on less productive ground

12. Consideration of a Request on behalf of Old Arley Protection Society

- 12.1 The Clerk submitted an email from the above organisation concerning a planning application relating to a slaughterhouse at Old Arley and in particular the traffic implications of increased use.
- 12.2 it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write expressing the Council's unhappiness with any over-intensification of heavy goods traffic given the difficulties to pedestrians resulting from the state of the existing footpaths in the village

13. Recreation Ground; Fence adjacent to the play area.

- 13.1 Councillor Hill advised that with the ground being waterlogged it was not possible to get a vehicle with materials close to the play area. He outlined some suggestions for replacing or repairing the fence and agreed to produce some figures for consideration at the next meeting.
- 13.2 The Chairman reported that Friends of Shustoke Park were proposing a scaled down version of phase two for the play area. This was due to the rejection of the National Lottery application and to maximise match funding opportunities. The group were seeking approval from the Council when a formal quotation is received from Wicksteed and for the Council to make a further financial contribution.
- 13.3 Members agreed in principle to the outline proposal and the question of an additional financial contribution but a formal decision will be made at the March meeting when the Council's outturn for the current financial year is clearer. Any decision on delegating responsibility to the Clerk will have to be made at that meeting as well.

14. Traffic/inconsiderate driving in the village

- 14.1 Councillor Gough reported that she had been advised of numerous incidents and near misses involving vehicles travelling to and from the Secret Garden School. It was also considered that the problem is being exacerbated by the road layout and poor signage.
- 14.2 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to WCC Highways department drawing their attention to the issues and in particular the current speed limit and seeking assistance in addressing the problems.
- 14.3 It was also RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Head of the Secret Garden School alerting them to the issue and asking them to highlight the situation with parents.

15. Progress Reports for information only

- 15.1 The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Councillor Humphries advising of his efforts in respect of the crossroads at Furnace End, including being advised that to install traffic lights would cost £1M.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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

Signed **Name**

Chair **Date**