

SHOBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014

Clerk: John Wilkinson, 4 Silver Way, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon. EX17 1HP

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Present. Cllr C. Furse (ch) Cllr J. Lee, Cllr C. Boulton, Cllr R. Ayre, Cllr F. Harper, Cllr B. Curle. Cllr N. Dyson, Cllr P. Hare-Scott. 2 members of the public.

1. Public Questions.

None

2. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M. Finning, Cllr R. Dawkins and Cllr M. Squires.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the November 2013 meeting were signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Declarations of Interest.

Declarations were received from Cllrs Furse, Boulton and Harper on item 7 and Cllrs Boulton and Harper on item 6.

5. Roads and Footpaths.

5:1 The road at Camps Bridge is passable as a single trackway. No further news has been received concerning a permanent repair.

5:2 P.C. Bradshaw and his PCSO attended the meeting having been asked to come in connection with the attempts to calm traffic running through the village.

P.C. Bradshaw professed an interest in progressing to speedwatch and knew that some equipment was already installed in the village. These were SDR's, stationary data recorders which were capable of producing mean average speeds at which the village is being traversed. He did, however, point out that from observations and calculations derived, speeding was not an issue in the village.

Consideration was also given to farm traffic which at certain times in the year was alleged to be hazardous and a suggestion was made that the 30mph signs be moved. PC Bradshaw said that he could discuss signage etc at a meeting on the 15th January but he would not be able to invoke speedwatch. He was asked whether the village speed limit of 30mph could be reduced to 20mph but said that such changes are not within the remit of the police force.

Gathered statistics would govern cases.

Two target offenders could be monitored by the police since it was known roughly at what time they were in the village and PC Bradshaw promised to look further into this.

On the matter of the pinch point outside the Village Hall, it was stated that although it was a known hazard, no serious accidents had ever been caused by it and the idea of a priority arrow might well induce speeding rather than prevent it. Mr Andrew Down of Moor Farm said that he thought that it worked well as it stood and changes might well become a retrograde step.

5:3 Mrs Maher gave her presentation on the condition of the parish footpaths. She said that she, Cllr Furse and Cllr Harper met to consider the financial and other strategies plus a list of repairs to be carried out. There was a sum of £650.00 available composed of two years'

allowances. It was felt that the most pressing work was the path steps almost opposite the Village Hall which were very muddy and badly broken down.

Cllr Harper undertook to work with Mrs Maher, the Clerk to attend to the paperwork.

The blocked drains from Fin Lee downwards are to be photographed for the Highways Department to evaluate.

6. Playing Fields.

The Clerk was asked to contact ROSPA to get a quote for the inspection of the playing field equipment. This should be done by February.

Nobody had been appointed to the chairmanship of the playing field group. Until March, Ms Browne has agreed to continue. The safety inspection rota is in place until March.

Providing the annual cost remains unchanged, Mr. John Hill is to be approached to cut the grass for another year.

The question was asked as to how the vacancy of a chairman for the playing field group was to be found. It could be expected that the candidate might come from the parents whose children use the park and it would be propitious to make an appointment by March.

7. Allotments.

Cllr Boulton left the meeting for the entire consideration of section 7.

The email received from the Silverway Partnership which outlined their version of the terms of lease of the Allotments. This was almost identical to the Clerk's previous summation and proved that the lease was rolling until either party gave eighteen months' notice of cessation.

The Clerk was asked to approach Silverway again to discover whether there was a positive intention to sell the site. The Clerk was further asked to determine the size of the plot.

8. Finance.

8:1 The current bank statements were presented, they showed a credit balance of £2465.46 in the current account and £3,134.92 in the deposit account.

8:2 There was considerable discussion concerning the amount to be claimed for the annual precept. The Clerk produced two years' figures to support his assertion that the claimed figure remain unaltered, a cushion of money in excess of the perceived amount being some comfort in the current fiscal climate. Cllr J. Lee proposed that this be so, seconded by Cllr Furse with all in favour

8:3 The Clerk had pursued the matter of the notice board to the point where little remained but to take the defaulters to court. Since they had a poor record of responding to communications of any sort, it was unlikely that they would respond to the courts. This would mean that any money spent on initiating legal proceedings would be at hazard.

8:4 The Community Transport Company of Crediton had made an appeal for funding and since costs continually rise and the service is heavily used by Shobrooke villagers, Cllr Ayre proposed that the amount be doubled from last year to bring it up to £100.00. This was agreed unanimously. The award will be ratified at the March meeting.

9. Planning.

13/01298/FULL Erection of fodder store, Orchard Hayes Farm, Approved.

13/01689/FULL Installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic solar array to generate 4kW Jericho Street, Thorverton. No objection.

13/01653/FULL Installation of ground mounted solar panel array to generate 5kW. Great Gutton Farm. No objection.

13/01676/FULL Conversion of office/domestic storage and car port in redundant agricultural barn, to dwelling, Wyke Farm, No objection.

10. Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.

The putative standing orders and financial regulations, produced by Cllr Curle were discussed and with minor amendments were signed by the Chairman. They will be lodged in the church safe.

11. Correspondence.

The printed matter received by the Clerk over the past two months was presented.

12. Chairman's Reports.

It was decided to submit the name of Ms Lesley Browne as the Shobrooke representative for invitation to the Royal Garden Party next May or June.

Cllr Boulton announced that he had now taken over all the duties consequent upon the salt warden, Cllr Dawkins feeling incapable of satisfying the role.

Mrs Mel Boulton has taken over the duties of Neighbourhood Watch.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm, next meeting 11th March 2014.
