

SHOBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2014 in the Village Hall

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

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Present. Cllr C. Furse (ch) Cllr C. Boulton, Cllr J. Lee, Cllr B. Curle, Cllr F. Harper, Cllr N Dyson, CCllr M. Squires, Cllr P. Hare-Scott(MDDC)

1 Public Questions.

None.

2. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R. Dawkins and Cllr M. Finning. Cllr Finning accompanied the apology with a notice of resignation which she will confirm in writing in due course.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the January 2014 meeting were proposed for signature by Cllr Boulton, seconded by Cllr Dyson with all in favour.

4. Declarations Of Interest.

Cllrs Furse, Boulton and Harper declared an interest in item 7, Cllr Harper declared an interest in item 6.

5. Roads and Footpaths.

5:1 Nothing more had been heard about possible repairs to Camps Bridge.

5:2 With the conclusions reached at the January meeting and in the presence of the Police, it was felt that the Road Safety sub committee had concluded its work.

There were several suggestions emanating from their activities.

The Village hall has become busier recently and it has become necessary for many people to walk along the road and up the hill from parked cars to the Village Hall. Many of these walkers are children and it was suggested that although a physical discrete footpath could not be installed, a painted exclusion zone could be painted on the road to warn passing traffic that people walked along the route.

A sign indicating that older and possibly infirm people may wish to cross the road could be erected in the area of the centre. It had to be remembered that there was a warden run estate for older people in the village and larger numbers than normal of older parishioners may be in the vicinity.

Similarly desirable would be notices warning drivers that children often crossed the road and lower in the village, a sign warning of the presence of a playing field.

The Clerk was asked to contact Highways Dept. and ask the price of carrying out each of the above adjustments.

He was also asked to invite David Baker and Mr. Davies of Highways to speak at the annual parish meeting.

5:3 All had gone well with the Footpath Repairer and satisfaction had been expressed about his work. The grant for 21014/15 had recently been applied for since there was more for him and money was needed to pay for it. The contractor had requested payment when the work had been completed rather than waiting for the next meeting.

A complaint had been received about the condition of the stone wall opposite the Red Lion. Both County and local councils had been contacted and MDDC had sent two engineers to examine the wall. They concluded that the wall was safe and stable and no further action was called for.

There was a complaint that various gullies around the village had become blocked with soil and silt. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways about this.

6. Playing Field.

6:1 Nobody had come forward to take responsibility for the Playing Field management. Members undertook to seek a replacement for Ms Browne who has promised to continue to administer the monthly inspection rotas and reports for the foreseeable future.

6:2 The Clerk reported that RoSPA was to inspect the Playing Field equipment some time in March.

6:3 The current set of inspection reports were circulated.

6:4 The Chairman took the notice about training for Playground staff and volunteers to copy it and circulate it among the volunteers.

6:5 The Clerk reported that the residue of the grant made by CCllr Lee as part of 'Invest In Devon' had been sent to the PC in cheque form. This £1143.00 was paid into the deposit account. The Clerk was asked to obtain a speed limiter for the roundabout. This will be a Wicksteed part.

7. Allotments.

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

7:1 The Clerk had received confirmation of the owners' intention to sell the land which comprises the allotments. This is to be done by tender sometime in the future. The PC is to be provided with details when they become available.

A letter dated 10th March officially cancelled the existing contract to take effect from 29th September 2015.

The PC expressed interest in buying the site and a sub committee was formed to monitor this. Cllrs Lee and Dyson volunteered to join this and two more members will be sought during the forthcoming meeting of the Allotment Association.

Cllr Lee saw it as an opportunity to acquire the land but asked that the PC did not become difficult about it since this may prejudice the PC's ability to obtain more land in the future.

In order to raise the purchase amounts which are assumed to be in region of £10,000.00, the Clerk was asked to approach sources of finance including Paul Tucker, John Bodley-Scott, DALC, National Allotment Association, Lottery Funding, PWLB, Princes Trust and Lloyds Bank. It must also be established whether the allotment site only is on offer or whether the whole field is for sale.

8. Finance.

8:1 Current bank statements were presented. The deposit account showed a credit balance of £4,278.19, the current account stood at £2,085.94 credit.

8:2 The Clerk reported that the Crediton Community Transport Co. has gone into liquidation.

8:3 There was only one account to settle on the agenda.

8:3:1 John Wilkinson Clerks pay £276.42

An account presented after the preparation of the agenda was £162.00 for Country Matters who had carried out repairs to the footpath steps and a gatepost.

This was paid on the evening to be ratified at the May meeting.

The Clerk was asked to circulate current account statements prior to each meeting.

9. Planning.

13/01653/FULL Installation of ground mounted solar panel array to generate 50kW of power at Great Gutton Farm. Application approved.

14/00034/FULL Installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic panel array (30 sq m). Way Farm, Bickley, Courtesy information from an adjoining parish. There were no comments.

There was some discussion of the Local Plan Review and whilst it was realised that it could have far reaching effects on some parishes there would be little impression made on Shobrooke which was declared a 'dying village' It was decided that no further action would be taken.

10. TAP Funding.

Only a short time remains for applications for this year's TAP funds. Cllr Dyson is to apply for the entire available sum to facilitate the purchase of computer equipment for the Community activities already planned. She was supplied with the relevant form.

11. Correspondence.

Printed matter was presented to the meeting.

12. Chairman's Reports.

Cllr Boulton was enthusiastic about having the Village Hall registered as a Community Assets. Other members suggested that the allotments could also be so registered.

The Raddon group was to meet at the Red Lion on September 24th: there was a request for light refreshments on that occasion.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm. Next meeting (AGM) Tuesday May 13th
