

# Shobrooke Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14 March 2017

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

### Members Present:

Cllr R Ayre (Chairman)	Cllr A Jones
Cllr B Curle	Cllr J Lee
Cllr C Furse	Cllr L Pitts
Cllr J Ingham	

### In attendance:

Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC (left 8.10pm), J Hole, Parish Clerk

### Formal Business

#### 01/03/17 Apologies

Cllr A Ripper (work) and Cllr C Boulton (at hospital)

#### 02/03/17 Declaration of Interest

None

#### 03/03/17 Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017

Agreed and signed as a true record

#### 04/03/17 Mid Devon District Council

4.1

Planning Applications:

None. Cllr P Hare-Scott confirmed that a planning application had been submitted for 365 houses at Creedy Bridge. The Clerk reported that no consultation had been received from MDDC.

4.2

Planning Decisions:

None

#### 05/03/17 Road and Footpaths

5.1

Outstanding Road and Footpath issues

I.

Blocked drains at Exeter Hill/ Exeter Hill Cross towards Shobrooke, Raddon Top to West Raddon, road by Rew Cross, Efford, outside Setters and Church lane - reported to DCC. There was no update.

II.

Poor road surface by church and Zephyr- reported to DCC – Cllr M Squires had spoken to the Neighbourhood Highways Manager and understood that an order for the work had been issued.

III.

Backfilling of steps on FP15 and 17 – this had been deferred until dryer weather

IV.

Pothole on Riverford Lane – reported to DCC

5.2

New issues identified

Pothole between Exeter Hill Cross and Stump Cross – **Clerk to report.** There were numerous potholes on A3072, which it was assumed DCC were aware of – **Clerk to check** if these have already been reported

5.3

Update on P3 contractor's insurance

The Clerk reported that the P3 contractor would send a copy of his insurance certificate when he received it back from DCC.

**06/03/17 Finance**

6.1 To approve signatures for this month's cheques  
Cllr C Furse and Cllr J Lee

6.2 Parish Council Payments Current Account:  
These were agreed as

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
6.2.1	P Keen	Production and printing costs for footpath leaflet	365.00
6.2.2	Shobrooke Reserve Account	To move money back to reserve account (S106 grant now received from MDDC)	2,400.00
6.2.3	J Hole	Salary and expenses	135.68
			<b>£2,900.68</b>

Copies of the footpath leaflet were now available

6.3 Parish Council Payments received current account:

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
6.3.1	MDDC	S106 grant for south playground fence	2,043.66
			<b>£2,043.66</b>

The difference between the MDDC grant and the money to be transferred back to the reserve account was the VAT, which the Parish Council had paid and received back from HMRC.

6.4 Balances:

6.4a Parish Council Current Account balance: £2,451.66

6.4b Parish Council Footpath balance (in above current account figure): £1,148.66

6.4c Parish Council Reserve Account balance: £5,786.63

6.5 Financial Statement and Budget Monitor – attached for Cllrs

**07/03/17 Matters raised by the Chair**

7.1 None

**08/03/17 Councillor's Reports**

8.1 To consider any Councillor for areas of responsibility

8.1a Report from Raddon Hills Meeting – to consider if it would be useful for the Raddon Hills group to have a website and would councillors be interested in training on code of conduct and interests?

Cllr R Ayre gave a verbal report from the Raddon Hills meeting. There had been a presentation by Martin Rich on the Big Energy Saving Network Initiative. Tom Vaughan from DCC Highways had reported that the lengthsman programme was now drainage and gully maintenance only with two visit for each parish per year with no input from parishes and the programme should be completed by year end. Easements that highways are aware of will soon be available to view on DCC's website. The pot hole grant from central government had increased and county councillors were being consulted about how best to spend this fund. The road warden scheme information had been re-written to make it more user friendly and the Community Enhancement fund had been introduced to allow parishes to apply for funding for a wide variety of road related works. It was noted that only pot holes which meet the safety defect criteria will be filled due to budget constraints. In practice this means that smaller pot holes which do not meet the safety criteria will not be filled even if they are next to pot holes that are being filled. Thorverton Parish Council had employed a lengthsman who could be hired by other parishes if required. There was a footpath update and a brief update from some parishes. Councillors had no comment about whether it would be useful for Raddon Hills Group to have a website and noted that code of conduct and interests was covered in the new councillor training course. The next Raddon Hills Meeting was scheduled for Monday 30 October in Rewe.

**09/03/17 Clerk's Report**

None

**10/03/17 Parish Council**

10.1 Playing Field

10.1a To consider latest Inspection Report

There were no issues identified on the latest report. Cllr C Furse reported that the new self-closing hinge on the playing field gate meant that small children could not get into the playing field as they could not reach up over the gate to operate the catch. She suggested either removing the catch and allowing the weight of the gate to act as a closer or cutting a hole in the wire mesh so that children could reach through to operate the catch. It was felt that removing the catch would allow the gate to blow open in windy weather and cutting a hole might be a better option, although care would need to be taken to ensure that there were no sharp wires exposed. Cllr A Jones agreed to inspect the gate and to cut a hole if possible.

10.2 Update on bus shelter/bench

Cllr A Jones would install the bench shortly and Cllr R Ayre would bring back two old chairs and dispose of the rest.

10.3 Update from Cllr L Pitts re date and time for litter pick

Cllr L Pitts reported that following discussion with the two volunteers, it had been agreed that there was currently not enough litter to justify an organised litter pick on a set date. Instead, litter would be kept in check by the volunteers and Cllr L Pitts on an individual basis as and when necessary. The need for an organised litter pick would be kept under review.

10.4 Update on parking issues and to note response from Police

The owner of the car transporter parked in School Close owned another transporter parking opposite Moor Lane. Nichola Payne, PCSO had viewed both vehicles and reported that the vehicle in School Close was parked legally, with all the relevant documentation and was not causing an obstruction. She had advised the owner to remove the letter from his vehicle and explained the community tension it was causing.

Regarding the vehicle parking opposite Moor Lane, Nicola had sent the following update "Although I have spoken to the registered keeper we are on tricky ground in relation to any offences that Police can deal with. At the last time of checking the vehicle was not directly on the junction but was parked back a little. The guidelines in the highway code are literally guidelines, and not necessarily enforceable. The visual obstruction is a problem, but I am also advised it is difficult for large vehicles to turn into Moor Lane. This would be an issue even if it were a standard car. I am awaiting some feedback from a traffic officer and from highways as to the best/long term solution. I cannot ask the driver to move if another just takes his place and is not dealt with in the same way. Equally, if we deal with the low-loader, vehicles on the other side of the junction will also have to be dealt with in the same way. I am not happy to target one resident unless all drivers parking there were to be treated the same. I am sure the Parish Council will understand the need to deal with the issue in the most harmonious way possible."

MDDC Housing Officer had advised that there was no action that MDDC could take against a vehicle parked legally in School Close. Cllr J Lee suggested that the tenancy agreements in School Close might state that commercial vehicle cannot be parked on the Close, but this did not extend to non-residents of the Close. Cllr B Curle reported that the DVLA website did not show the vehicle details for the vehicle parked opposite Moor Lane and he had requested that the Clerk contact Nicola Payne, PCSO to find out if the vehicle was taxed and had a valid MOT. No reply had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this with DVLA direct.

10.5 Update on new bin liner for bin by bus shelter

MDDC should be able to provide a new bin liner and the Clerk had e-mailed them a photo of the current bin.

**11/03/17 Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Highways Engagement Survey – completed

The Footpath Warden had reported that, following land owner agreement, the stile on FP27 at Shobrooke Park would be replaced with an iron gate shortly, the cost of which would need to be met from the Parish Council's P3 budget (expect to be between £150.00 - £200.00)

**12/03/17 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda**

- i. DCC Footpath Warden had requested that MDDC provide a dog mess bin at the end of FP 23, Shobrooke Cross. MDDC had advised that this needs the support of the Parish Council
- ii. MDDC have formally requested details of projects that could be funded by S106 contributions (outline of works and target price)
- iii. There were two broken directional signs – pictures to be sent to the Clerk who would obtain a quote and find out from Cllr M Squires if it was possible to get a grant for the cost.
- iv. Parking on the footpath at School Close near the bench, under the cherry tree
- v. Photographs of councillors on the website/bus shelter (possible group photo, rather than individual photos?)
- vi. Sign on footpaths re dog mess, especially on the road by the church – the Clerk reported that she had asked MDDC for signs and had been told these would be put up in School Close following the last report, but to date this had not happened.
- vii. Report from Cllr P Hare-Scott and Cllr M Squires to be added to future agendas

**13/03/17 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11 April 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.**

**End of formal business**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm