

SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL -

Shalden Annual Parish Meeting will be

Held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7:30pm.

Minutes

Attending: Cllr Shirvell (SPC Chair), Cllr Kemp-Gee, Cllr Costigan and 14 residents (inc 2 Parish Cllrs).

- 1. Chairman's welcome and introduction – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell**
- 2. Apologies.** Received from Cllr Hartgill and Cllr Orme, Footpath Warden and one resident
- 3. Confirmation of minutes of last APM, Wednesday 23rd March 2022.** No queries raised and duly signed as an accurate record
- 4. Shalden Parish Council (SPC) annual report – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell**
 - Thanks noted to County and District Cllrs and residents for attending the meeting
 - SPC met 7 times over the last 12 months and as part of their work reviewed 16 planning applications - 2 were commented on in detail. Thanks noted to Cllr Orme who brings his planning experience from EHDC to the discussions.
 - SPC manages the maintenance of the Recreation ground and monitors the condition of local roads and footpaths raising matters to the Countryside Access team, HCC and EHDC where appropriate.
 - AFC have continued to use the Rec and have taken on some of the pitch management themselves. This has been financially beneficial to the Parish Council and ensured AFC are happy with the playing quality of the grounds
 - Thanks noted to the Footpath Warden who also keeps an eye on the local footpath network and with a number of local residents is ensuring they are in good condition.
 - Also of note was the work of Cllr Stewart who arranged for the planting of the Platinum Jubilee trees –an avenue has been planted with Preschool on the Rec.
 - Residents who took part in the spring litter picks were also thanked for their time.
 - Grants have been awarded to CAB, The Villager and towards the grounds maintenance for church
 - SPC's main income is the precept £8,500 that is collected through Council Tax. Precept was increased slightly for 2023/24 to £8,750 to cover election costs and utilities.
 - A reminder that this is an election year for Parish and District. Cllr Shirvell confirmed he is not standing for re-election after 30 years. Cllr Hartgill also not standing after 20 yrs service. Only one of the existing five Cllrs are planning to stand. Cllr Shirvell thanked all the current Cllrs for their time and for the skills they have brought to SPC's work. Clerk was also thanked.
 - No questions raised but thanks noted to Cllr Shirvell for his service to the community.
- 5. Shalden Village Hall Committee report – Mr Ommanney**
 - Over the last 12 mnths, committee have worked hard to maintain hall and finances. The hall is used by Preschool and provides a steady income. Other income is generated from rentals and table hire.
 - Events/Activities:
 - Village Hall received a grant from Cllr Costigan and along with grant from SPC and a donation from a resident, was used to put on Jubilee celebrations. Thanks noted to Mr Andreae for use of barn. Plans are also underway for the Coronation

- Historic map of the village has been reframed and placed up in Hall. Jubilee book was also put together by 2 residents and has been sold locally.
 - Woodland Trust provided trees for Jubilee planting.
 - Shalden fireworks returned after 3 yr absence
 - Maintenance of the Village Hall. The building needs continual upkeep and in the last 12 months there have been new fencing and gate installed along with new fire extinguishers and glass repairs.
 - Finance this time last year £5,816 and today £4,892 taking into account maintenance work that has been completed
 - Thanks to VH Committee for their voluntary work
 - **Election of Village Hall Committee** – Mark Ommanney, Nora, Ian Holliday, Steve Black, Cathy Taylor, Debbie Todd and Bernard Stewart were proposed and seconded by attending residents. If the Honorary Chair decides to stand down then another committee member will be recruited.
 - No questions raised
- 6. Report on Church of St Peter and St Paul – Mr Rankin**
- Shalden PCC thanked PC for grant towards the upkeep of church yard
 - All maintenance is funded by donations from locals, fund-raising events and grants.
 - Number of repairs from 5yr plan that are outstanding to ensure rain fastness and intent is that they will be completed this year with funds from the “Fabric and Organ Fund”.
 - Pastoral update. Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden parish proposal: comments on draft proposal are anticipated shortly, with the recommendation to the Bishop to proceed with the next step of Public Consultation in April/May or May/ June this year. Any objections during this period the proposal will have to be revisited.
 - From Sept 21 pastoral care has been taken over by Canon Micklefield with 2 services a month. Revd Nicole was appointed focal priest for Shalden by Parish of the Resurrection in the Alton Area. The Revds Owen-Jones from Medstead have helped with administration for parish.
 - The last annual Parochial Church meeting will be 7pm Weds 19th April. A Coronation service will be held at 10am on Sunday 7th May.
 - No questions raised
- 7. Village fête report – Mr Rankin**
- Shalden 2022. A great event and a summary was provided to attending residents. A record no of 342 adults visited along with under 16yr and dogs. Thanks noted to the Campbells for hosting, the sponsors and to all the helpers.
 - £3,500 donated to local causes. Residents asked to let organisers know of any local charities or groups who would like to be considered.
 - 18th June 2023 confirmed for the 2023 event.
 - No questions raised
- 8. District Councillor report – Cllr. Tony Costigan. Report attached as Appendix One**
- May elections. Note that Parish Cllrs roles need to be filled. Every parish is finding recruitment and retention hard and it is an important job. Please do consider standing for your local council.
 - Bin collections. Competition for drivers saw 75% recruited from truck company at the yard. EHDC have reviewed T&Cs. Catch up took longer than anticipated but back on track. Parts for replacements and repairs are proving very difficult
 - Roads. Potholes. Liaising with HCC to get something done. Please do report issues so that attention can be focused where it is needed.

- Planning. All Officers back from Havant/Waterlooville and big shakeup inc recruitment. Enforcement officers back to work.
- Move from Penn's Place on target
- Projects that are upcoming are detailed in the report distributed to attendees

Q. Thank you for not blaming problems on funding.

A. £10m made through property portfolio and that goes to bottom line. EHDC does not have a finance issue.

Q. Is there anything on the list of projects that you would pick out as pertinent to Shalden?

A. Nothing in particular but gives you a general overview of what work the Council is completing

Q. Move to "Muddy Barn". Please could you provide some more detail

A. EHDC own building that we are moving to (new location still in Petersfield) and it will be the EHDC head office. Penns Place will likely be developed but this matter is still to be discussed.

Q. Divorce from Havant/Waterlooville. When the merging arrangement was instigated, the argument was that it would share operating costs but a short time later it is being changed again. Why?

A. The arrangement didn't work. Suffered greatly with the officer time gone from EHDC and finding that we were getting 40% of time and officers were physically spending their time at Waterlooville. Change in mngt at EHDC has seen it would be brought back.

9. County Councillor report – Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee. Attached as Appendix Two

Q. Increase in fly tipping since recycling centre charges installed. Good response but is it a waste of money

A. Two types of fly tipping: person who can't be bothered to book and go. Can't do much about this. Second source is cowboy builders who will not go and pay for waste disposal. Residents need to check using reliable provider. Prosecutions are increasing and some parishes are installing movement activated cameras. Spring Clean will raise profile and the issue. Waste team do respond speedily and observation is taking place in hot spots of fly tipping.

Reminder to use online service for logging. More effective if done there and then. Reduce email exchange

10. Questions from Shalden Parish residents

Q. Deep and grateful thanks noted to Chair for over 30 yr service. Meetings run extremely efficiently and thanked for all he has done. Discussion about the rewarding experience and would recommend others take an interest in the role.

Meeting closed 8:19pm

Appendix One - District Councillor's Report for Shalden PC

Budget brings a dozen new ways to help

This year's budget has allowed us to put hundreds of thousands of pounds behind brand new schemes aimed at helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

On Thursday February 23, councillors approved the 2023/2024 budget, setting out the council's finances for the next 12 months. And EHDC Leader Cllr Richard Millard announced twelve new projects that will provide vital support for local residents in the difficult financial climate. The new schemes range from advice on dealing with the rising cost of living to community buses to help people get about, from swimming lessons for children to support groups for older people, and from bike hire in Whitehill & Bordon to speed cameras at traffic hot spots.

In total £350,000 has been put aside in next year's budget to fund welfare schemes such as these. That total includes every penny raised by a two percent increase in Council Tax, around £150,000. The wellbeing of East Hampshire's residents is the council's top priority, so we are delighted to announce that thanks to the prudent way the Conservative Administration has run the District's finances we are able to dedicate more than £350,000 to welfare projects.

The 12 projects we are announcing now will help thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds across East Hampshire. And we would not be able to do any of them if it wasn't for the strong financial footing we have developed as a council. The budget we have prepared for next year tackles major increases in expenditure while keeping the Council Tax burden on our residents low.

Delivering by the dozen. Our twelve new welfare schemes are:

- 1. Cost-of-living outreach.** An outreach worker will attend the luncheon clubs, community centres, GP surgeries and other organisations to talk to residents about the help on offer during the rising cost-of-living.
- 2. Cost of Living initiatives.** We will support foodbanks, emergency heating projects, a scheme to provide white goods and promote our support for guests from Ukraine
- 3. Investing in Planning Enforcement.** Following last year's investment in the service the number of enforcement notices we served spiked over the last 12 months. We are building on this great work with further investment into our Planning Enforcement team in 2023/2024.
- 4. Community Transport.** In partnership with Community First we will provide an East Hampshire Health and Wellbeing bus to residents, particularly those in rural areas, to get them to medical appointments or welfare services.
- 5. Recycling rates.** We will drive down contamination in recycling and improving our recycling rates through an education programme in schools.
- 6. Children's swimming lessons.** The cost of lessons means some children don't get the chance to learn to swim properly. With our partners Everyone Active, we will offer up to 500 children free access to a 12-week course of swimming lessons at our fantastic Swimming Pools.
- 7. Men's Sheds.** We will provide a building for Men's Shed, a charity where local men and women can meet, make and mend things, reducing isolation and loneliness.
- 8. Wheels to Work.** We will buy two additional electric mopeds that will give young people living in isolated rural areas the wheels they need to get to work or training.
- 9. 'Let's Get East Hants Green' campaign.** Later this year we plan to launch a campaign to inspire young people to connect with nature and protect and enhance their local environment. This will include a habitat creation kits for schoolchildren to grow food and improve biodiversity.

10. Stock Condition Survey. All local authorities have an obligation to make sure housing conditions in East Hampshire are up to scratch. We will run a stock condition survey to make sure local homes are in good condition.

11. Speedwatch Cameras. Speeding on our roads can be a serious danger to residents. We will buy ten speed cameras for towns and villages in East Hampshire where traffic speeds are a real problem.

12. Riding the Green Loop - Free Bike Hire Scheme. This summer we will launch a free bike hire scheme on the Green Loop in Whitehill & Bordon, giving visitors the chance to enjoy the award-winning 7km green loop through the town. Ten bikes, including a mix of electric and conventional bikes, will be available.

Keeping our budget balanced

- We have had to overcome tough financial pressures to produce a balanced budget, including £2.4 million in rising inflation costs. This has been met through investment returns, more efficient services and from savings accrued from splitting with Havant Borough Council.
- This year the Government allowed councils to increase Council Tax by up to 3 per cent but we are planning an increase of just 2 per cent, keeping our Council Tax among the lowest in the area.
- The £2.4 million increase in costs, largely down to inflation, has been tackled in several ways. A transformation process - a concerted effort to re-shape our services and devise new, more efficient ways to deliver them - is expected to save £500,000 in efficiencies, with more to come.
- Successful cash investments have reaped another £500,000, and the same sum again will be saved in staffing costs thanks to the separation from HBC
- These are challenging financial times for us all and it has been a difficult task to create a budget that manages the increases in our costs and allows us to meet our welfare ambitions while not placing a financial burden on our residents.
- Our Council Tax increase of two per cent will gather a further £150,000 to the council, every penny of which will go towards our raft of new welfare projects. This year, changes of Government rules allowed councils to increase Council Tax by three per cent, but we have not gone so far.
- We have also made Council Tax repayments easier for residents by offering the option to pay in 12 monthly instalments instead of ten, reducing the monthly payment by about 15 per cent.

Cllr. Tony Costigan

Appendix Two - County Councillor's Report for Shalden PC

- It's good to be here again at your APM and thanks for inviting me.
- Finance:
 - As you know Council Tax has gone up by 5%, with just under half going to adult social care.
 - Our 23/24 budget is £2.2 billion with half, £1.1 billion, coming from central government for EDUCATION and the other half being expended by the CC on the multifarious services we provide that assist in most aspects of our daily lives.
 - Of the non-educational £1.1 billion, nearly 3/4 now goes on either adult social care, with our ageing population, and children's services, with the intensifying need to care for a significant and growing number of disadvantaged children including immigrants.
 - These areas of expenditure are a remorseless sponge that keeps expanding AND YET our moral compass tells us that that is the correct thing to do but should it come from national or local taxes? That is the issue!

- Over my 18 years as your County Councillor the balance of our spending has thus changed very considerably. Through cash limits and council tax freezes the cash amount of our non-educational spend has changed very little since 2010 but very much more now comes from Council tax and almost nothing from the Rate Support Grant (RSG).
- With this change of balance within a finite amount of money, the amount available for our other services has plummeted. Hence the issues we face today: highways and potholes are a case in point.
- Alton Rural has some 500 miles of road, mostly country lanes, spread over 100 square miles - some 10% of Hampshire's total road network. We maintain the County's Highways with a £180 million budget and sticking plaster hand-outs from Government like the recent £6 million Hampshire received in the Spring Budget.
- I'd just make one more point on this. With the RSG virtually disappearing and with the possibility of our whole budget more than covered by council tax and local business rates combined then the pressure for devolved powers becomes inexorable - NO TAXATION WITH REPRESENTATION - a powerful thought expressed at the times of the Civil War here and the American Revolution! I will leave that thought with you!

TURNING TO LOCAL MATTERS

- Golden Pot (start of municipal year) following on from work on. Hope work has made a difference. Remains a dangerous junction
- The Avenue. White line has been added
- Local Highways and Planning Issues.

Thanks to the Parish Council and Clerk and District Councillor for work over the past 4 year term.

Cllr Kemp-Gee