

MEETING OF SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD on Wednesday 13th September 2023 AT 7:30pm in Shalden Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllr Taylor, Cllr Wood, Cllr Jones, Cllr Orme (Chair)

Also in attendance: K Horton (Clerk) and 5 residents

- 1) **Welcome.** Cllr Orme opened the meeting
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** None received
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Wood noted a non- pecuniary interest in item 12c
- 4) **Approval of Minutes.** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th June 2023. No questions raised and duly signed as a record of the meeting.
- 5) **Co-option to the Parish Council.** Further to confirmation from EHDC that following the notification of a Casual Vacancy, an election has not been requested, the PC will co-opt and fill the vacancy. To consider any applicants and complete the Co-option process.
One resident has confirmed their interest in being co-opted and meets the eligibility requirements. Cllr Jones proposed Katie Whitcher be co-opted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Taylor and attending Cllrs voted in favour.
- 6) **Public forum: Adjournment of the meeting for 10 minutes to allow the public to raise matters.**
 - Cllr Orme explained there would be a chance to speak with Cllrs at the close of the meeting in addition to this public forum
 - Resident thanked Council for updates on website and for the inclusion of “The Villager”
 - Footpath Warden introduced herself to the new Cllrs.
 - Resident on Old Odiham Road raised concerns about the speed and volume of traffic on the road. Cllrs were asked to consider installing village gateway fencing in the manner of South Warnborough to highlight the road is residential or to look at the feasibility of installing a speed camera/limit reminder. The resident does not feel these items would be intrusive and would help residents feel safer. Cllr Orme shared some details of historic work that had been undertaken to address the concerns
- 7) **Parish Council Finances/Administration**
 - a) **Clerk’s report**
 - b) **Financial summary** for June to September 2023 and in addition:
 - i) Notification/authorisation of payments. No queries raised and duly approved. Cllr Wood proposed the contract for electrical supply be reviewed with Cllr Jones and Orme in agreement.
 - ii) Approval for transfer of monies from Savings account to Current account. Proposal made and approved to move £2,000 between accounts.
 - iii) Status report on update of signatories on SPC bank account. Matter has been actioned.
 - iv) Further to the closure notification from NatWest, to approve the transfer of SPC bank accounts from NatWest to Unity Trust. Report on alternative bank accounts considered and assuming Clerk can confirm Unity Trust do not have any political affiliation then Cllrs approved the transfer of the bank accounts to this establishment.

c) **SPC Website.** Further to the Hugo Fox notification, to consider the Clerk's recommendation for a website provider for SPC's site. Report considered and Cllr Wood proposed remaining with Hugo Fox for the time being. This was Seconded by Cllr Jones and approved.

d) **Recreation Ground and Alton Football Club.** Report from Clerk on meeting with AFC representatives and to approve the proposed remedial works and mowing schedule/costs.

- **Proposal to cement a pole for security of goal posts.** Cllrs were in agreement for this to be installed but want to be sure the pipe work for the septic tank is avoided.
- **Fire extinguishers.** Cllrs approved the servicing/replacement of the fire extinguishers at the Pavilion.
- A proposed budget of £400 for the reported remedial work was proposed by Cllr Orme, Seconded by Cllr Taylor and approved by the Cllrs
- **Skelping parking area/pavilion** – Idea of improving the parking provision was floated. Cllrs will visit site and consider the matter more closely.
- **Mowing** - Quotes considered and Cllrs approved Mr Smith to carry out monthly mowing work.

8) **Drains on Shalden Lane. To clarify what action has been taken in relation to the reported flooding in June and agree any further action, within SPC's remit, to address the localised issue.** Cllr Taylor confirmed that HCC had emptied the drain (logged by Clerk). Run off has been cleared (soakaway to field). Cllrs in agreement that this is not a long term fix and potentially the grips do need to be cleared too. Cllr Wood will take pictures to log issues and share Highways haunching (where edge of road has eroded). Cllrs were in agreement that flooding be logged as and when it happens.

9) **Communication and engagement.** To consider a number of proposals on how Shalden PC might engage and communicate with residents and confirm what action will be taken on this subject. A number of proposals were considered by the Cllrs and it was agreed that the following would be trialled:

- Chair's report bi-monthly between meetings to provide update on any works. This will be included in The Villager. Cllr Orme proposed and Cllrs in agreement.
- Discussion with any attending residents after the formal PC meeting has closed.
- Advertise signing up for the PC "news" service.
- Villager article introducing all Cllrs

10) **Shalden Village Hall.** To receive a report from Cllr Jones on the recent meeting of the Village Hall Committee and consider any required action(s).

- Meetings are held quarterly
- Maintenance review – sagging roof being looked into
- Finance:
 - Electric costs going up
 - Funding and grants – applications being made for sound insulation to allow residents to more comfortably make use of space.
 - Insurance claim ongoing

11) **Footpaths.** To receive a report from Cllr Taylor following his meeting with the Footpath Warden Cllr Taylor thanked Footpath Warden for her time. Cllr Taylor would like Rights of Way map on the PC website and will action in due course

Cllr Taylor proposed the following actions and Cllrs approved of them:

- a) To consider the recommendation that EHDC be asked to move the completion of the mowing schedule for the nominated footpaths from August to late June.
- b) To consider the suggestion on engaging residents in maintenance work and to agree whether the Clerk should get confirmation from the insurance company on what cover would be in place for working groups to complete work and/or use their own gardening equipment.
- c) To review the information that has been sourced on Lengthsman funding and agree any further action in relation to this.

Cllr Orme proposed an extension of half-hour to the meeting and Cllrs approved

12) Correspondence:

- a) **Note of thanks.** Andrew Shirvell's thanks received for his retirement gifts
- b) **Fireworks.** To consider a request from a resident to use the Recreation Ground for a fireworks display. Cllrs were in agreement that the Rec would be available for this event and a hire agreement is to be completed with a zero fee.
- c) **Grant request.** To consider a grant request from Alton Counselling Service. Agreed to move to last item. Cllr Wood excused himself. Cllr Taylor proposed grants be considered at one point of the year in the round and this was agreed by the other Cllrs.
- d) **Potholes.** To consider a request from a resident for the Parish Councillors to personally report potholes in the parish to EHDC reporting system. Cllrs noted this was not a responsibility for Cllrs as individuals and while they will report on potholes when they see them, it is essential that residents should also take responsibility for doing this. Cllrs can be used for escalating matters that are not dealt with.
- e) **Lasham village committee.** Notification of the closure and sale of The Royal Oak.
- f) **Pageant Master for UK Town and Parish Councils.** Beacons for D Day 80.

13) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29th November at 7:30pm

Meeting closed 9:13pm

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Signed: D Orme, Chair of SPC

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Dated