



## Shalden Parish Council

**Minutes** of the meeting of Shalden Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 8.00 pm.

**Present:** Andrew Shirvell (Chairman), Rosemary Hartgill, Tony Jenkins, Martin Nonhebel and David Orme.

**Also in attendance:** Rob Wood (Clerk)

**1. Apologies:** None.

**2. Public Session:** None of the public attended the meeting.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were reviewed, agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising:**

a. Footpaths: the Clerk walked FP#1 (between Southwood Road and Southwood Farm) and FP#6 (section at the back of Sunacres Farm and Marlefield) as an end of season check that the issues reported to HCC by Helen Dudley, our Footpath Warden had been resolved. It was observed that this was the case and Helen has agreed to report any future issues to the parish council in the first instance.

**5a. Correspondence:**

- i. GTS Property re: The Golden Pot. Email responded to after input from the parish council, essentially the Golden Pot has closed and is felt by the owners to no longer be commercially viable. The parish council responded that they would not have any objection to a potential change of use, but this would be dependant on the nature of the future plans for the site. They also advised the agent to contact EHDC Planning Services at Penns Place, Petersfield for their advice and thoughts.
- ii. EHDC: budgeting for parish council elections May 2019. Cost of uncontested election approximately £150; cost of contested election for a parish of 500 approx £1200.
- iii. EHDC: precept notification request – by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 for 2019/20 year if possible
- iv. HCC: Hampshire Countryside Service rights of way cutting priority lists – request for up to five footpaths. The parish council suggested that the clerk contact Helen Dudley the parish footpath warden for her advice.
- v. David Hayles – Alton runners are interested in using the recreation ground on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The Clerk asked the parish council as to whether they should charge for the use of the Pavilion. It was agreed to charge Alton Runners £30 for this.

**5b. Planning:**

- i. 24188/007: 'Uplands', Upper Anstey Lane, Shalden, GU34 4BP. Lawful development certificate for single storey side and rear extension. No comment returned.

**6. Finance:** The current financial position, forecast and proposed budget for 2019/20 were shared with the parish council prior to the meeting.

a. Current position and projection for year end

The Clerk presented the Councillors with the Income and Expenditure for the year to date and a projection of spending for the remainder of the current financial year for their inspection. The current account balance was £3053.71 and reserve account balance was £2061.76. Since the last meeting, work on the pavilion septic tank had been completed and so £4545.56 had been paid to DC Andrews for the work. A donation\* of £2000 towards this was received from the Village Hall Committee, the council asked the clerk to pass on their thanks for their help. The projected balances for the end of the financial year were £1040.34 in the current account and £2061.76 in the reserve account. (\*M. Nonhebel queried whether the funds given to the parish council by the Village Hall Committee should be recorded as a payment or donation, due to the link between the two parties. The chairman called a vote and it was decided 4-1 to record the payment as a donation).

b. Bank reconciliation: a current account bank reconciliation of £3053.51 was presented and verified against the bank statement by the council.

6c. Budget and precept for 2019/20: The Clerk presented a projected income and expenditure for the 2019/20 financial year which can be found in the finance section of the parish council website. The projected income, assuming that the precept remained at £7000 as this year is £8778.15, including a VAT refund of £1314.15 covering 2016-18 and expenditure of £8748. Potential income from the recreation ground was omitted as there is currently no agreement for its use next year. This would result in a closing balance in April 2020 of £1040.34 with ~£2060 in reserve. The budget was discussed; there was a strong feeling that if at all possible, the council would like to not raise the precept again this year, as last year's budget significantly increased over the previous year and there was some pushback about this from residents at the APM. It was agreed that it would be prudent to make provision for a contested parish council election in 2019 (£1200). It was questioned whether an allowance should be made for further pavilion works given the expenditure this year, it was felt that this expenditure was unusual and that there were reserve funds as well as other sources who may be able to help, so no allowance has been made. D. Orme also offered assistance from his Councillor's fund, as he had some remaining in his budget should there be any need. The Clerk suggested that some new pea shingle for the parking area and paint for the outside of the pavilion might be helpful. D. Orme will check remaining funds and contact the Clerk to discuss further. It was unanimously agreed that the precept be kept at £7000 for the next financial year and that this figure be returned to EHDC by the clerk.

d. Parish council donations

The chairman asked that the annual donations which the parish council has historically made to the Village Magazine, Shalden PCC and CAB be revisited as this had been postponed at the last meeting until expenditure on pavilion improvements was complete. It was decided that this year these donations could now be made, but the chairman noted that the parish council's stance on making donations needed to be reviewed by the clerk ahead of the next financial year and that it was possible that from this point, donations would have to stop being made and replaced with a grant application system.

**7. Website build:** The Clerk reported that the build of the parish council section of the website was now complete. The council had been given the opportunity to view the website before the meeting and agreed that they were happy with the design and for the website to be linked to the parish council's domain name ([www.shaldenpc.org](http://www.shaldenpc.org)). The council expressed their thanks to the Clerk for his work on this project. It was decided that the website should be advertised through the Villager Magazine, noticeboards and through email groups that are known of in the parish. D. Orme offered to contact Sue Bottomley, who curates an email list in the Old Odiham Road area of the parish. It was also decided that the Clerk should write an article on the website about the large spend this year on the recreation ground.

The second phase of the website build is to widen it to function as a hub for parish activities. D. Orme suggested that organisations should be invited to have a page on the website by the council as opposed to requesting that they have one, so that the council can have control over the content and make sure that it is relevant to those living in the parish.

**8. Recreation ground update:** Work on the new septic tank has been completed by DC Andrews who the council would like to thank for his donation of metal fencing to make safe the tank entrance hatch. The remaining improvement, which is the addition of a new low energy heater in the men's toilet has been quoted at £260, Larry George will fit this soon. The HPFA have now agreed to release the £750 donation towards the works that have been done. The fireworks display this year was a great success, the Clerk coordinated well with Ian Holliday, and the remains of the fire had already been cleared. The football club are regularly using the facility now and so far £300 had been taken in pitch hire.

**9. AOB:** The next parish council meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> of January at 8pm.