

SHRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the Shrawley Parish Council held in Shrawley Village Hall on **Monday 12th September 2016 commencing at 7.45pm.**

Present: Councillors Mr P Benkwitz (Chairman)
Mr M Partridge
Mr R Tesh
Mrs A Dorrell
Mrs N Thomas
Mrs P Armstrong
Mrs C Norris

In attendance: Mr S Clee Clerk, County Cllr P Grove, District Cllr P Cumming & 5 members of the public.

137 Election of Chairman

Councillor Peter Benkwitz was unanimously elected Chairman with Councillor Michael Partridge becoming Vice Chairman.

138 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th July 2016 as previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman following minor amendments.

139 Declaration of Interest for a) The Meeting and b) Any Changes to be notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality;

a) There were none. b) There were none.

140 Planning Matters:

Members noted the planning sheet previously circulated. The only outstanding application is 15/01753/Out for up to four dwellings on land in Rectory Lane where the target date was 26th January 2016.

141 County & District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Cumming informed Council MHDC were looking at a £1.4M project to demolish Priory Lodge Hall in Malvern and replace it with a new Council Chamber and Reception Hall which would make annual savings of £180K for Malvern Hills DC.

County Councillor Phil Grove stated GCSE examination results this year were up by 3% on last year across the County. He stated the County Council have to find an additional £34M saving during 2016-17. The New Energy from Waste Plant at Hartlebury was still on schedule to be transferred to the County Council in March 2017.

142 Parish Plan

Councillor Partridge informed Council that both he, and Councillors Armstrong & Tesh had recently attended a meeting hosted by MHDC at the Guildhall in Worcester relating to proposed applications beyond development boundaries. District Cllr Pam Cummings stated she would look into MHDC view on parishes producing Neighbourhood Plans.

143 Planning Meeting with Malvern Hills DC

Cllr Tesh reported on a meeting hosted at Malvern with Mr Duncan Rudge recently. District Cllr Pam Cumming also attended. The meeting looked at MHDC performance levels and delays in planning processes. Mr Rudge stated a new Planning Software Scheme was due to be introduced in early 2017 and a lot of reporting issues and tracking progress should be improved following the new software implementation.

144 Millennium Green

It was reported the grass on the Millennium Green has recently been cut. Councillor Armstrong stated that she had invited an alternative quotation to maintain the area. She stated improvements to the footpath were needed perhaps using sleepers and wood chippings.

145 War Memorial

Council noted the second alternative quotation received from Davis Memorials was significantly more than the quotation from Independent Memorial Inspection. It was agreed to use the earlier quotation and apply to the War Memorials Trust for a grant towards the restoration and cleansing of the Memorial before proceeding further as Council do not have any budget for this matter in the current financial year.

146 Bus Shelter Shrawley

The Chairman had met with Malvern Timber Framed Buildings who could supply two local shelters within our £1,000.00 budget. The Clerk reminded Council that permission was necessary from Worcestershire County Council.

147 Village Defibrillator

The Chairman informed Council the discussions regarding a village defibrillator were still ongoing with West Midlands Ambulance Trust.

148 Planning Sub Committee

Following a discussion it was agreed Councillor Tesh would coordinate a working group supported by Councillors Naomi Thomas and Partridge.

149 Parish Magazine Report

The Council agreed a rota system would be sent by email to all Councillors so they can take turns to write the monthly parish magazine report. It was noted the monthly articles should be submitted to the magazine editor by 19th of each month.

150 Parish Working Groups

The Chairman stated he had some ideas to create various working groups where individual Councillors could take a lead. He would circulate his response to all members for further consideration.

151 Road Safety

Council discussed recent accidents within and near the Parish. County Councillor Grove agreed to ask the County Council Highways Authority to carry out a safety audit and report back its findings.

152 Dog Mess

Council discussed the increase in dog mess around the Parish. It was stated the majority of complaints came from Shrawley Woods and land under the ownership of the Forestry Commission. It was agreed to monitor this issue.

153 Village Hall Issues

Councillor Partridge informed Council the New Deeds had been produced by solicitors and a fee of £230.00 had been paid for registering with the Land Registry.

He further reported on a letter the Village Hall Trustees had received, from Messrs Hallmark Hulme Solicitor's client, relating to issues with the lease agreement relating to sections of the car park and land where the Village Hall septic tank sits. It was noted a reply letter had been sent to the land owners from Councillors Benkwitz and Partridge along with John Lee, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee following consultation with the Village Hall insurance company.

154 Lengthsman Scheme

Councillor Armstrong stated she had a few ideas to develop the lengthsman scheme locally and would e-mail them to all members for consideration. The hourly rate charged had increased from £12 to £13 with effect from 1st September.

155 Telephone Box

A presentation took place prior to the commencement of the meeting by Mr Peter Knott who was very kindly restoring the telephone kiosk. The Parish Council is to ascertain whether to replace the existing glass and at what cost.

156 Village Weeds & Grass Cutting

The Clerk informed Council he had requested a quotation off Worcestershire County Council for the possible transfer of grass-cutting and weed control to the Parish Council who could better manage and control its implementation. Cllr Armstrong said she would source a local individual who would be happy to provide a second quotation and she took away a local map showing the area WCC currently maintain.

157 Accounts for Payment

a) *Three payments were authorised retrospectively:*

** Barclays Cheque # 003 - £54.99 – John Mills Village Website*

** Barclays Cheque # 004 - £384.00 - CS Gardening Services – (Lengthsman – June & July)*

** Barclays Cheque # 005 - £54.99 – Mike Miles Millennium Green Works*

The following payments were authorised during the meeting:

** Barclays Cheque # 006 - £231.26 – refund Mike Partridge for Land Registry + postage*

** Barclays Cheque # 009 - £436.80 – Clerk's Salary & Expenses for (August & Sept 2016)*

** Barclays Cheque # 007 - £89.20 – HMRC*

** Barclays Cheque # 008 - cancelled*

b) *Income and expenditure today were noted as previously circulated.*

c) *It was noted the TSB Account was now closed and all our Banking takes place with Barclays Bank in Kidderminster.*

d) *It was noted our External Audit by Messrs Grant Thornton had resulted in an unqualified audit.*

158 Date of the next Meeting

There being no other business the meeting ended at 22.55pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday 14th November 2016 commencing at 7.45pm.

Chairman.....
14th November 2016

Items discussed under public participation included:

- Refurbishment of the Telephone Box
- Discussion ref the issue of un-named resident's reservations about voicing concerns in Public Forum at Council Meetings
- Compliments were expressed to the Council for last month's Parish Magazine report
- Update on Broadband for both 01905 and 01299 (Stourport exchange) numbers