

SHRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Shrawley Village Hall

Monday 11 March 2019 commencing at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors Mr R Tesh – Chairman
Mr P Benkwitz
Mrs A Dorrell
Mrs J Griffin
Ms R Mosedale
Mrs N Thomas

In attendance: Mr S Clee Clerk, District Councillor P Cumming, County Councillor P Grove along with 4 members of the public.

333 Apologies for absence:

Councillor C Honan who had recently undergone surgery and required recuperation.

334 County & District Councillor's Report

Councillor Grove presented an overview of Worcestershire County Council matters including:

- a £55million Government grant towards the Southern Worcester City Link Road,
- significant improvements reported in Children & Young People Services where a previous Ofsted in 2017 had found to be inadequate,
- environmental improvements were being made at County Hall with a substantial reduction in the use of plastic and water cups and
- a meeting on 15 March with Hannah Davies, the District Liaison Manager, to discuss the proposed April road closure and the installation of the entrance gates.

Councillor Cumming reported that MHDC

- was increasing the 2019 / 20 Council Tax by £5.00 for a band D property with the increase earmarked for reserves to off-set future Government grant reductions and
- MHDC had been nominated for a National Award for their environmental responsibilities.

Councillors expressed concern about a number of planning issues including:

- two long outstanding applications, particularly the one for a rural worker's cottage, 18 / 01262, that was validated on 27 September 2018,
- whether adequate preparations were being when Planning Officers go on maternity leave to ensure work is up to date and handed over efficiently and
- the status of the 2017 Bromford Development application for 57 dwellings at Astley where serious concerns continue about the traffic impact along the B4196 through Shrawley.

Councillors Grove and Cumming left after their respective reports to attend other Parish meetings.

335 Confirmation of the Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 14th January 2019 as circulated earlier were approved and signed by the Chairman.

336 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.

337 Planning Matters

This item was covered under the District Councillor report.

338 Village Litter Picking

Standing orders were suspended for an open discussion about the letter from Mrs Dring and Mrs Westwood. A number of suggestions were made including working with neighbouring parishes and paying the lengthsman to litter pick regularly. Options are restricted because of the Parish Council's insurance which limits work on the highway, particularly outside the 30 MPH zone.

The Clerk advised neighbouring Principal Councils had devolved funds to Parishes to litter pick on their behalf. The scheme worked well and was executed more promptly than waiting for the District "man in a van" to attend. It was agreed to write to Councillor Cumming and ascertain if MHDC would look at funding such a scheme. Standing orders were then reinstated.

339 Relocation of Holt Post Office

Following discussion members considered Shrawley residents would not be significantly affected by any relocation of Holt Post Office to Holt Fleet and RESOLVED not to raise an objection.

340 Parish Grit Bins

The Clerk was awaiting confirmation as to where up to 2 Tonnes of grit salt could be stored. Three bins would then be ordered for the locations where landowners had given permission.

341 Road Closure from 1 April 2019

Council noted the County Council Road Closure Notice. The Clerk is to write to Hannah Davies requesting road linage along the B4196 be refreshed at the same time as the road closure.

342 Finances

- Four cheques issued since the last meeting were approved retrospectively:
 - # 104 - £120.00, Harper Farming for Christmas Tree
 - # 105 - £167.40, Village Hall for Safety Mirror less share of Christmas Tree
 - # 106 - £93.28, Mark Burkes for 2 year village website host
 - # 107 - £23.98, Mark Burkes replacement of cheque # 93 lost by recipient.

Barclays initially charged £12.50 for stopping cheque # 93 but this was rebated in full.

- Four cheques were approved at the meeting for:
 - £513.05 - Clerk's February & March net salary and expenses
 - £97.80 - HMRC for February & March income tax
 - £154.30 - Shaw & Son for New Member Declaration Book
 - £11.98 – Mark Burkes for 2 year Domain Name renewal

Income & Expenditure sheets to date were noted along with a bank balance of £15,842.10 after payments approved during the meeting but before outstanding lengthsman receipts.

The Clerk advised the County Council had confirmed the lengthsman scheme would operate again for 2019 / 20 and the contract had been signed and returned to WCC.

Councillors approved gifts for Richard Levett and Jenny Maturi who are retiring from CALC – subsequently £38.48.

Councillors noted a draft budget for 2019 / 20 showing a small surplus for the year.

343 Date of the next Meeting

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.10 pm. The next meeting is the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** on Monday 8 April 2019 commencing at 8.00 pm.

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Parish Council will then take place on Monday 13 May 2019 commencing at 7.15 pm, attended by the newly elected Parish Councillors.

Chairman.....
13 May 2019

Matters raised under Public Participation included:

- Richard Bowles of the Forestry Commission explained why heavy machinery was being used for tree removal in Shrawley Wood.
- There would be a “walk in the wood” on 14 May 2019 commencing at 5.30 pm.
- Concern was expressed about heavy lorries using Church Lane. Councillor Grove was to take this up with Highways.