



Shalden Parish Council

Minutes of the Shalden Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 23rd March 2018 at 8pm.

Present:

Cllr Andrew Shirvell (Chairman)

Cllr Rosemary Hartgill

Cllr Martin Nonhebel

EHDC District Councillor Glynis Watts

Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

Rob Wood (Clerk Shalden PC)

Forty Shalden residents

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell: The Chairman welcomed everyone attending the Shalden Annual Parish Meeting. He then introduced Rob Wood the new Parish Clerk, who can be contacted about any parish matters.

2. Apologies: Cllr Tony Jenkins, Cllr David Orme, Henry Wilson, Peter Rankin, Lorraine Champness, Tom and Sarah Floyd, Janet Nonhebel.

3. Confirmation of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 24th March 2017: The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

4. Shalden Parish Council annual report – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell: The Chairman opened by saying that this would be his first APM without Mike Trapaud at his side and that he was most grateful for all of his work over many years and that he will be greatly missed.

This year has been a fairly average year for the Parish Council with no unusual matters to deal with. The Parish Council have commented to EHDC on planning when necessary and HCC contacted about road and footpath matters. The usual donations have been made to Shalden PCC (for Churchyard Maintenance), Alton Citizens Advice Bureaux and to the Villager Magazine. David Warwick has continued with his campaign to get fibre broadband installed in the village, which is progressing. In 2018, a new Parish Council website is planned which will allow the Parish Council to comply with transparency legislation. To help fund this and training for the new Clerk, the precept has been increased to £7000 for the 2018/19 year. ESSO are renewing their pipeline from Southampton to London and the route may pass through our parish (a route south of Alton is preferred). Parish Council meetings have been moved to Wednesdays. The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for their continuing support and help during the year.

5. Shalden Village Hall Committee report – Cllr Rosemary Hartgill: The members of the committee were thanked for all of the hard work that they have done to keep the Village Hall in good condition. Improvements this year included new pea shingle for the car park (re-tarmacking may be necessary). The Beehive School have signed a new rental agreement.

Thanks were given to those who had helped to put on another excellent fireworks display and to those who prepared and served the food. Thanks to Cathy Boyes who organised the children's party. A memorial bench for Mike Trapaud is being organised by Ian Champness and the best location for this has been agreed to be outside the Village Hall in the car park. Ian Champness added that he had received many very generous donations towards the fund.

5a. Election of Village Hall Committee: the new committee are; Rosemary Hartgill (chairman), Bernard Dunk, Tim Gordon-Jones, Ian Holliday, Mark Ommanney, Cathy Boyes, Lauren Ash, Gary Rice-Martin and Martin Nonhebel. Jenny Dunk has recently left the committee and her input will be missed. Proposer for the Village Hall Committee was Andrew Buchannon and this was seconded by Peter Wilson.

6. Village fête report – Ian Champness (on behalf of Peter Rankin): The fête this year was held at Shalden Park House, thank you to Michael and Linda Campbell. It was a great day and £3000 was raised. Thanks were given to all who helped with the fête in any way. The money raised has been donated to Alton and Basingstoke Cardiac Rehab Unit (£300), Alton Community Hospital (£300), Hampshire Air Ambulance (£300), The Jo Cox Foundation, which was the choice of our hosts (£400), MacMillan Care (£400), Naomi House (£400), Shalden Church fabric and organ fund (£500) and St Michaels Hospice (£400). Michael and Linda Campbell have kindly offered to host the fête next year at Shalden Park House, the fête will be held on Sunday 24th June.

7. Report from Beehive Montessori (by the Chairman on behalf of Annette Eyre): Thanks were given to the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council and the Beehive said how much they would miss Mike Trapaud. A sister nursery has been opened at Lindford in September. During the election day last year, the school walked from the recreation ground to Lasham Nursery where they had lunch. The Beehive would like to thank Avenue Nursery for accommodating them. The children have been enjoying using the footpath in School Field, and they thanked John Connor who had made a walkway for them to be able to enjoy the beautiful views and wild flowers. The children have enjoyed their end of year sports day and the run up to Christmas, spring has been a busy time preparing our fourteen leavers for the start of school in the Autumn term.

7. District Councillor report – Cllr. Glynis Watts:

Since 2008/9, EHDC has set itself financially on a more commercial footing. Why is this? Mainly because the government revenue support grant in 2008/9 was £6.1M and has been reduced since then to nil in the 2017/18 year. This has been a major issue that has had to be addressed, and has been done by a number of initiatives including increasing the EHDC property portfolio and by selling services to other councils. This has been a major challenge to overcome but Cllr Watts reported that finances are in good order.

Cllr Watts then spoke about three major issues affecting Alton and its surrounding villages.

a. Alton Community centre: The Community Centre has been historically supported by funding from EHDC. From the 2017/18 tax year this will no longer supported. Grant help will be available, but will only be to help with a specific project. This means that the Community

Centre will have to become primarily funded through independent means, using for example a system such as 'Friends of the community centre'. Options are being explored and the Community Centre have been aware of this funding change for some time.

b. Alton Sports Centre: Despite funding challenges, £30M is being spent on two new sports centres (to open 2019), one in Alton and one in Bordon within the regeneration area. The original Alton Sports Centre was built using money raised from the sale of council house stock at the time (about 30 years ago). The sports centre was built to be a district wide centre. This resulted in large amounts of wasted space, whereas the new centre will have a more flexible futureproofed design. It will reflect future changing use and will only have a local catchment area.

c. EHDC property portfolio: The property portfolio provides a very important source of revenue that will help to cover funding gaps from central government grants. There is a £200M borrowing limit available to buy property. EHDC has a balanced portfolio but over the next 20-30 years this will provide a significant legacy for the future. Within Cllr Watts cabinet portfolio, new offices in Liphook have been built on an old site, which both provide a return of 5% and also provide jobs and safeguarded land for employment that would have gone to housing. This scheme had Local Enterprise Partnership support.

A final point was that there will be electoral boundary changes to be confirmed shortly, Bentworth is to join Shalden, Lasham and Froyle. Holybourne will join the Alton area.

8. County Councillor report – Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee

a. County Matters:

Council Tax has gone up by 5.4% for those of us in East Hampshire – but Hampshire has the lowest Council Tax of all English Counties except Somerset. The Central Government Grant to help pay for all County Services is less than half what it was in 2010 and by 2020 it will be eliminated and replaced by allowing us to keep some of our business rates but not all our business rates unfortunately.

We are now spending over £500 million alone in adult social care a year and keenly await the Government White Paper to be produced this summer to learn how we are to cope with this overwhelming problem and the interaction with the NHS going forward.

Four County Councils in England are thought to be under great financial pressure, including Surrey, we are proud that Hampshire is one of the best managed despite the acute cutbacks we have had to make as our Government Grant has been cut to ribbons.

The County is once more attempting to put together a Combined Economic Authority without an elected mayor, including Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight for greater (in size) Hampshire whilst continuing its opposition to try and split Hampshire into two local authorities and consign East Hampshire to Solent City.

b. Shalden Matters:

Shalden is one of the smallest parishes of the 15 that Cllr Kemp-Gee covers, but has the highest APM turnout.

Constant battle to repair worst of potholes and other Hampshire Highways issues.

Golden Pot junction and the Avenue, community highways initiative being drawn up.

Upper Anstey Lane is due to be resurfaced in the summer/spring programme.

Much work undertaken with regard to Broadband, including deputation from Shalden to visit County Hall with David Warwick and Sue Bottomley, finally things seemed to be moving.

9. Questions from Shalden Parish residents:

a. For the Chairman

Q. Sue Bottomley asked about the Parish Precept for the 2018/19 year, she said that the precept had increased by approximately 16%, which seems rather significant. She asked why and what do residents get from the precept?

A. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council only has one source of income which they receive from EHDC, which is called a precept (this is divided amongst the houses in the parish). The Parish Council request a precept from the District Council each year, which is used to; pay the Parish Clerks salary, office equipment, maintenance (including mowing) of the recreation ground and pavilion. Historically the Parish Council have had a low precept relatively, but this year it has had to be increased to cover the costs of training a new Clerk, and changing the way of working for the Parish Council from paper to digital including setting up a new website. The precept has been increased to £7,000. The Chairman suggested that Mrs Bottomley speak to him after the meeting.

Q. The Chairman was asked if there would be a Parish Council response to the ESSO pipeline consultation?

A. The Chairman responded that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 18th of April and an official response made.

b. For EHDC Cllr Glynis Watts

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel asked why has money not been invested in building a new community centre in Alton?

A. There is a 2-3 week consultation opening now about whether to build a new Community Centre at the Coors brewery site. There is space there to do it and funds available. EHDC have asked the public whether they would like a new build on the Coors site, build a new centre on another site or to take on a major refurbishment of the existing building.

Q. Litter on verges of the Old Odiham Road; why is the Old Odiham Road not set up for routine litter picking by the council?

A. Cllr Watts to investigate and reply directly to resident.

Q. Peter Wilson asked a question regarding the impact of future interest rate rises on the net return from the EHDC property portfolio?

A. Cllr Watts to investigate and reply directly to resident.

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel asked for clarification of what items can be recycled and what should be put into which bin – how should residents find this out?

A. Cllr Watts: we can only collect items that HCC say they can recycle. Information about what can be recycled and how is available through the EHDC website.

Q. Fly tipping – constant problems with fly tipping on the byway on the Old Odiham Road by the golf course that contractors refuse to clear. What can be done?

A. Cllr Watts asked the resident to write to her directly and explain where and what the issue is and that she would then look into it.

c. For Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

Q. Sue Bottomley – could a salt box be added to Upper Anstey Lane please?

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee asked Mrs Bottomley to contact him directly and that he would follow this up for her.

Q. Peter Wilson complained about the type of traffic calming humps that have been installed disrupting traffic flow through Alton, could this have been better spent repairing our roads?

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee is not the County Councillor for Alton and was not consulted.

Q. Lisa Wilson said that more articulated lorries are coming up and down the Old Odiham Road perhaps accessing the building site and are damaging the verges (haunching). Mrs Wilson said that her house sits directly adjacent to the road and the verge had now been taken right up to the bollards directly outside of her house. She asked what could be done to help protect her cottage please?

A. Whilst verge damage cannot be helped but Cllr Kemp-Gee was concerned about Mrs Wilson's safety. He asked for Mrs Wilson's address and offered to visit her to look at the issue directly.

Q. Ian Champness asked whether flashing speed signs might be an option for traffic calming on the Old Odiham Road?

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee said that an option for a Parish (potentially shared with another) could be to purchase this type of sign.

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel said that he finds it difficult to contact Hampshire Highways directly to report a problem.

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee replied that the system for reporting issues with our roads has now changed, although this does mean less direct contact with Hampshire Highways. Now if you see a pothole that requires repair, this should be reported through the HCC website (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>). Each enquiry is given a number that can be used to track progress. Cllr Kemp-Gee is able to chase this up on residents behalf if repair is not done in a timely manner. If residents do not have access to the internet, please could they contact the Clerk, Rob Wood who will be happy to report them on your behalf.

Q. Sue Bottomley asked how many houses are there in Shalden?

A. Approximately 400 people and 150-200 homes. Cllr Kemp-Gee was happy to check.

Q. Sue Bottomley asked what impact the ESSO London to Southampton pipeline might have in our parish?

A. The current position is that there is a consultation currently underway on a number of different routes that can be found on the HCC website. Cllr Kemp-Gee said that the installation of the pipe itself would be likely to be quite disruptive, but that in itself it did not pose a hazard to health. He encouraged residents to take part in the public consultation. The

Chairman said that there will be a public exhibition at the Community Centre in the near future if residents would like to find out more about it.

Q. Ian Champness asked if a salt bin could be added at the sharp corner of Shalden Lane by the Church please?

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee noted this and will follow up.

General comments

Tim Gordon-Jones thanked the Chairman for his work clearing the roads with the snow plough during the recent bad weather. The Chairman thanked Mr Gordon-Jones and said that this was a service that he provides that is paid for by HCC.

Ian Champness gave a vote of thanks to David Warwick for his excellent work towards getting Fibre Broadband installed in Shalden Village. This was warmly echoed by all present.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking our District and County Councillors for attending and answering questions from residents and thanked everybody for coming to the meeting.