

Shillingford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019

Present: Cllrs Carr (Chairman), Turner, Parrott Howard, Barwell, TDC Cllr Swain, Clerk Sarah Sharpe and 10 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Stamp, Cllr Turner, DCC Cllr Connett, TDC Cllrs Foden & Nuttall

2. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations– None

3. Open Forum – A member of the public requested that item 7 was addressed prior to the council session so that members of the public could comment. The Chairman agreed. The Clerk gave the following update:

- a. TDC Response to concerns regarding the presence of asbestos – The Clerk said that following concerns raised by parishioners that the rubble bank at the Village Green contained asbestos material, on 17th January, the Clerk raised the matter with the TDC Environmental Protection Officer. On 29th January she received an acknowledgement regarding the urgency of the matter. She however didn't receive any further correspondence or updates until 4th July following her chasing the matter. The response stated that a representative of the Trust had confirmed in writing that there was no asbestos present. This was contrary to the information in January that the Trustees had been advised to arrange for a competent asbestos analyst to test the material. The Clerk sought clarification and today received an update that due to legislation, if the work was carried out after 2000 there is an assumption no asbestos is in the material. The work to create the bank was in 2017 and the dragging up of the sub surface beneath the tarmac to create the bank was moving materials that were deposit prior to this date.
- b. TDC Response to Town and Country Planning legislation enquiry – The Clerk reported that a parishioner had asked whether section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act may be relevant to the rubble banks at the Village Green. This give the local planning authority (TDC) the poser in certain circumstances to take steps requiring land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. The TDC Planning Enforcement Officers response was that this legislation can be used where and or buildings are in a poor state and the Council can issue an Untidy Land Notice. The Officer's view was at even though the pile can be viewed from the road, he did not consider it to have a detrimental impact. This was challenged on 15th July, as a subjective assessment as parishioners would appear to feel strongly that the rubble DOES have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area. The challenge has not been acknowledged with no further comment from the Planning Enforcement Officer.

A member of the public stated that the rubble that is now in the bank was originally laid prior to the opening of the Millennium Field and not later in 2008. Although this pre dates the relevant legislation TDC Cllr Swain informed the meeting that TDC has acknowledged there may be a small amount of asbestos present but the risk assessed as acceptable. Therefore, further pursuit of this with the TDC was unlikely to change the outcome. A member of the public asked Cllr Swain what happened to the asbestos roof tile from the rubble bank that was handed to him at a previous meeting and he said that the Environmental Protection Officer declined to take It preferring to rely on the site inspection carried out by his officer .

Cllr Swain offered to progress the Town & County Planning legislation enquiry with the Planning Enforcement Officer and the consensus was that this was the best course of action.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (circulated) – Ordinary meeting of 10th June 2019 & Extraordinary meeting of 8th July 2019 – signed and accepted as a true record.
Proposed Cllr Barwell **Seconded** Cllr Howard **All Agreed**

5. County & District Councillors Reports – Cllr Swain stated that his updates had been covered in the public discussion at item 3.

6. Matters Arising –

- a. Shillingford Remembers Booklet – Cllr Carr said that this project was currently on hold due to the personal commitments of those involved.
- b. Litter – The Clerk said that she was now in receipt of the litter picking kit which has been provided by TDC. It consists of a wheelbarrow, a broom, shovel, 15 bag hoops, sets of gloves, reflective waistcoats and pickers.

7. The Village Green – See item 3.

8. Defibrillator Training - The Clerk said that on Thursday 26th September, Longdown Parish Council have arranged to host training delivered by South Western Ambulance Foundation Trust, which is funded by our TDC councillors. It is open to residents within the Kenn Valley Ward. The training is at 7pm in Longdown village hall. This may be beneficial to parishioners who missed the recent training provided in our parish. Notices have gone on the noticeboards.

9. Level of Support, services and responses from TDC – In addition to the issues raised in item 3, a planning matter raised by a parishioner was sent to the TDC planning Enforcement Officer along with photographic evidence that the footprint of an agricultural barn had been significantly extended without planning permission. The matter was raised with TDC on 7th February. The Clerk chased the matter with TDC on 15th July, some 5 months later due to no response. The Planning Enforcement Officer confirmed that the matter was still being investigated with correspondence still ongoing with the owner. There would appear to be a pattern across a number of TDC departments where matters referred are rarely acknowledged and responses forthcoming only after being chased. This represented a waste of the Clerk's time and parishioners' money. TDC Cllr Swain agreed that there has been an issue with the lack of responses from TDC. The Clerk had received an apology from the Environmental Protection manager but he would pursue the lack of service from other departments. Cllr Swain emphasised that his role was to facilitate communication between the councils and he would progress our concerns.

10. Planning Consultation 19/01367/CONSULT – The Clerk explained that BT were proposing to remove 27 under used telephone kiosks, including the kiosk in Shillingford St George. It is a modern glass kiosk and no calls have been made from it in the last 12 months. Following discussion it was agreed that it is an eyesore and the Parish Council would welcome it being taken out of service.

Proposed Cllr Carr Secoded Cllr Barwell All Agreed

11. Barratt Homes Development – Cllr Carr reported on a meeting with Barratt Homes on 8th July to discuss their proposed planning applications to develop land adjacent to Waybrook Lane (Alphington end). The draft plans were available for members of the public to view at tonight's meeting. Plans have been uploaded onto the parish website. The main area of concern was the potential increase in traffic volume in Waybrook Lane and the fact that the developers have designed pedestrian and cycle routes that cross Waybrook Lane to access the new school which will be built. Following a discussion with the developers, they will be sending a letter to TDC planners and DCC Highways, suggesting consideration of Waybrook Lane being made a one-way traffic flow and councillors have suggested this is in the direction of Alphington, from the A30 overbridge so as not to affect local parishioners' access. It is understood that Exminster Parish Council will support us in progressing this with planners. Once the letter is received, the Clerk suggested that a follow up letter from the Parish Council is sent to TDC and DCC supporting the suggestion and then being proactive in any subsequent consultation.

12. Old Village Pump – Cllr Carr said that the Pump would originally have been part of the forge in Shillingford St George. It has been donated by a member of the parish with a view to the Parish Council refurbishing it and putting it in a prominent position for all to enjoy. Cllr Barwell advised that he has assessed the pump and it is quite unique. He felt that a refurbishment could be done at a low cost. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take this on as a project on behalf of the parish and agreed a maximum budget of £100.

Proposed: Cllr Barwell Secoded: Cllr Carr All Agreed

- 13. TDC Climate Emergency Declaration** – The Clerk reported that recently TDC had declared a climate emergency and a number of Parish Councils including Ide had followed suit. This is aimed at implementing a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's emissions to meet the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change which advises the UN. This may be relevant at a parish level with future decision making and to consider open green spaces, working to improve public transport, encouraging the reduced use of vehicles, and supporting more sustainable ways of living in our rural environment. There isn't necessarily a need to make a declaration but Councillors could agree to make considerations of climate change an integral part of decision making and the way the Parish Council operates. Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council would not make a declaration but would make climate change central to their decision making and keep the matter under review.
Proposed: Cllr Parrott **Seconded:** Cllr Howard **All Agreed**
- 14. Tree Charter** – The Clerk said that the Woodland Trust has launched a Charter for Trees, woods and People for the 21st century. This is 800 years on since the Charter of the Forest. There are 10 guiding principles:
- Nature, Planting, Arts & Heritage, Utility & Livelihoods, Protection, Planning, Health & Wellbeing, People & Access (to trees), Coping with Threats and the Environment. This links closely with the discussion on climate change. There are reported to be more trees being cut down than planted for the first time in 40 years and Parish Councils are being urged to sign up to the 10 principles. There is a national tree day on 30th November when people will be encouraged to plant a tree. Following discussion, it was agreed that tree planting is important to the Parish. Councillors resolved to sign up to the Charter and although the Parish Council does not own land for planting, tree planting in the parish would be encouraged.
Proposed: Cllr Parrott **Seconded:** Cllr Howard **All Agreed**
- 15. VAT Refund Submission** – The Clerk reported that this had been successfully transacted and £204.79 had been received from HMRC.
- 16. Pension Regulator Declaration** – The Clerk confirmed that the Pension re-declaration had been submitted and nothing further needs to be done for 3 years unless the Parish Council employs someone who is eligible to be part of a employers' pension scheme.
- 17. Donation to Country News** – The Clerk said that in the past few years the Parish Council had made a donation of £100 to Country News to help towards costs. They always print our newsletters and any other notices without charge. This year due to financial constraints, Dunchideock Parish Council had made a £25 donation whereas previously they have given £100. It is understood that any monies would be gratefully received and the Clerk suggested that this year the Parish Council consider a £25 donation with a view to reviewing the amount in subsequent years. This was agreed.
Proposed: Cllr Carr **Seconded:** Cllr Howard **All Agreed**
- 18. Finance Update & Expenditure for Approval**
18.1 The Clerk reported the Bank Balance as £3,226.76 as of 31st July 2019. £04.79m discussed at item 15 has been received and there was £1,407.29 expenditure since the last report. Cllr Barwell signed the bank reconciliation document and Councillors resolved to accept the accounts.
18.2 Donation to Country News - £25.00
18.3 Emergency Phone for Shillingford Abbot defibrillator - £72.00 (last year of 4 year contract)
Proposed Cllr Carr **Seconded** Cllr Barwell **All Agreed**
- 19. Highways Issues**
a. Update on remedial work near A30 overbridge – The Clerk stated that on 9th May Simon Pearson of DCC Highways had emailed that he would get a 'rolling straight edge test' conducted on this stretch of road following the Parish Council raising concerns initially in August 2018 about the ride quality and again in May following unsuccessful remedial work. Despite a request for an update for today's meeting, nothing has been received.

b. Scraping of Markham Lane – A response has been received from the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer that work did appear to be needed to scrape the centre of the lane, however it was felt that this would uncover more extensive repairs that would be needed and that this lane was a low priority and unlikely to be put on the programme of work. The Clerk has responded that this lane carries a significant amount of local traffic and large milk tankers need to access Markham Farm and therefore the priority of the road should not be low. A reply is awaited.

c. Waybrook Lane weight restriction request – Prior to the meeting with Barratt Homes, and following concerns raised by parishioners about the large vehicles using and sometimes getting stuck in this lane, the Clerk had emailed the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer requesting consideration of a weight restriction. A response has been received that we should submit our views to future consultation linked to the impending developments. This request may have been superseded by the suggestion of a one-way flow but is worth consideration should the former not be supported.

In addition, Cllr Stamp has reported that he has been in touch with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to request that the edges of the parish lanes are scraped. He has been advised that this work is not done until the autumn but is likely to be a low priority.

20. Village Hall – Cllr Carr reported that the Treasurers report illustrates a good income from bookings which are now being taken into next year with several block bookings. A number of community events are coming up which will be on the website and in Country News. On Friday 27th Sept at 10am there will be a village hall work party with all-comers welcome. Quotes are being obtained for LED lighting.

21. TALC Update – Cllr Parrott reported he attended with Cllr Barwell. The new Leader of the District Council did an input which included looking at the planning process. There was a big emphasis on wanting to work with parish councils. Climate change was also discussed. The secretary who had resigned was re-elected, there being no other volunteers for the role.

22. Clerks Correspondence – The Clerk updated that the Parish Council that the DALC Annual Report was available should Councillors wish to read it. There is a Statutory review of Polling Stations being conducted by TDC. Details are on the noticeboards. A planning application has been received for 6 The Willows which was too late for this meeting. An Extraordinary meeting is proposed for Tuesday 27th August to consider the Parish council response. The Polling Charges from the May elections had been received for £157.75. This will be placed on the agenda for the Extraordinary meeting.

23. Public Discussion – A member of the public reported having seen 20mph interactive signs in Kennford and asked if this may be possible in this parish. The Clerk stated that she would find out some information from the Kenn Parish Clerk.

A member of the public raised a query about development land on Shillingford Hill which appears to be up for sale. This matter was addressed by information from other members of the public present.

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to get a Tree Preservation order on a memorial tree in the parish. The Clerk agreed to find out.

24. Chairman's Remarks – The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their ongoing support.

23. Date of Next Meeting – The next Ordinary meeting will be on Monday 14th October 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

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