

Shillingford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th October 2019

Present: Cllrs Carr (Chairman), Turner, Parrott, Howard, Barwell, DCC Cllr Connett, TDC Cllr Swain, Clerk Sarah Sharpe and 8 members of the public present.

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

2. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations– None

The Chairman re ordered the agenda and took item 5 at this point to allow County and District Councillors to leave for other commitments.

3. Open Forum – A member of the public spoke in relation to item 7a & b. He said that the copper beech tree on the edge of the village green and the boundary of Fourways, the bungalow adjacent to the village hall was blocking light to the property, causing damp and the roots were invasive to the building. He asked the Parish Council to consider their responsibilities in relation to this and also urged consideration in relation to the application of any tree preservation order.

A member of the public asked DCC Cllr Connett whether the proposed Park & Ride facility at Peamore would lead to more bus services coming through Shillingford St George and Shillingford Abbot. Cllr Connett said that this was just at the idea stage and not yet subject of a planning application. He felt it unlikely as the nature of a Park & Ride is to take a direct route to the town centre and areas of employment. He offered to make the enquiry in case this early in the work may find an opportunity to benefit other local transport service.

The Chairman re ordered the agenda and took item 7 at this point

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (circulated) – Ordinary meeting of 12th August 2019 & Extraordinary meeting of 27th August 2019 – signed and accepted as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Barwell Seconded Cllr Howard All Agreed

5. County & District Councillors Reports – DCC Cllr Connett gave an update on possibility of Park & Ride facility at Peamore. Last Wednesday, the Cabinet at Devon County Council debated the update report on South West Exeter, where planning permission has previously been given for industrial/commercial use. The report also included reference to a proposed Park and Ride facility. The Cabinet confirmed that council officers should proceed with proposals for a Park and Ride including consultation with Stakeholders. Cllr Connett has asked that Shillingford St George, Exminster and Kenn Parish Councils are included as key stakeholders as part of the process.

TDC Cllr Swain stated that it had been reported at our last meeting on 12 August 2019, that Teignbridge had inspected the rubble at the village green and responded to the Parish Council in an email dated 12 August that they do not consider there is asbestos present. Cllr Swain said that he pursued this further with TDC, pointing out that to his untrained eye there seemed to be at least 3 fragments around an inch in size that appeared to be asbestos. As a result, TDC did a further inspection, which some of our parishioners are aware of. This was an internal exercise not a formal assessment and there is no written report to share, however the advice remains unchanged. Even with the few visible tiny fragments there is a low risk of harm, comparable to the existence of a garage or shed made from a similar product.

If the Parish Council is concerned, it would be possible to get a licensed asbestos contractor to do an assessment or get the contractor to remove the fragments.

Cllr Swain said that at the last meeting he offered to contact the Trustees of the Village Green with a view to setting up a channel of communication that might be helpful. He reported that he had met with the Chair of the Trustees and spoken to another Trustee. He said that if the Parish Council had any suggestions for ways forward, he would be willing to pass this on. The Chairman thanked TDC Cllr Swain for his efforts to mediate in this matter.

6. Matters Arising –

- a.** Shillingford Remembers Booklet – Cllr Carr said that he had now received the information required for the content of the booklet. The next stage was to arrange a meeting with members of the Shillingford History Society to agree format and content. Finances are in place and progress will be reported in due course.
- b.** Old Village Pump – Cllr Barwell showed a photograph of the restored pump. It has been overhauled including replacement of the seal and leather washer inside the cylinder. It is now working. He suggested that it is secured to the side of the village hall with a trough underneath it as a feature and would progress this idea with the village hall committee to be reported back to the next meeting.
- c.** Tree Charter – The Clerk said that the Parish Council was now signed up to the Tree Charter and email updates would be sent to councillors when received.

7. Memorial Copper Beech Tree – Councillors received updates on the following matters:

- a.** To consider concerns of residents regarding the intrusive nature of this tree on adjoining property. The Clerk advised that the Parish council archive had been checked by the Chairman for meetings leading up to and including 1976 when the tree was planted. There was no mention of the tree and there is no evidence it was planted by the Parish Council of that time. The tree stands on land owned by the Trustees of the village green. The Clerk had taken legal advice from two sources and it confirmed that the Parish Council has no responsibility or legal obligations for this tree. The advice is for the concerned residents to take the matter up with the Trustees as the landowners.
- b.** To receive information regarding a Tree Preservation Order – At the last meeting on 12 August 2019, a member of the public had asked about applying for a Tree Preservation Order on the Copper Beech tree. The advice was that an application can be made by any one to the District Council. The Order if made puts restrictions on the landowner in relation to what can and cannot be done to the tree. The legal advice was to inform interested parties that they can proceed with this matter themselves if they wish to do so.

8. Refurbishment of Telephone Kiosk in Shillingford Abbot - The Clerk said that following the work last summer of two volunteers from the village, who painted the outside of the telephone box that houses the defibrillator, they had kindly spent some time this summer painting the inside of the kiosk. The Clerk has thanked them behalf of the Parish Council for their time and effort to help preserve the kiosk and keep it in such good order.

9. Loan of Litter Pick Equipment to Dunchideock Parish Council – The Clerk said that Dunchideock Parish Council had a litter pick planned for 24th November. Both parishes had received 15 sets each of litter picking equipment and by loaning to each other there was sufficient equipment to run a litter pick event without the need for TDC to deliver and collect equipment to the parishes. The request was to borrow the Shillingford St George parish equipment for the event. Councillors agreed that this was an acceptable arrangement.

10. Remembrance Sunday – To agree acquisition of and laying of wreath – Cllr Carr agreed that he would be available to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that last years wreath had kindly been preserved by one of the church wardens and could be reused. In this circumstance it would be appropriate for a donation to the British Legion and this would be placed for approval on the next agenda.

11. National Tree Day – The Clerk said that as part of the Tree Charter, the Woodland Trust were encouraging the planting of trees as part of a national event on Saturday 30th November. There was the offer of a free cherry tree from the Woodland Trust. The tree would need to be planted somewhere in the parish where the community could see and appreciate it and she asked whether the Parish Council would wish to plant a tree and if so where. A discussion took place regarding suitable locations. It was agreed that rather than doing it on 30th November, the preference would be to find an event that is happening around that time and include the planting. Discussion would take place with the village hall committee to find a

suitable site and event. Resolved to plant a tree at a date to be confirmed.

Proposed: Cllr Carr **Seconded:** Cllr Parrott **All Agreed**

- 12. Parish Questionnaire** – Cllr Barwell gave an update on the work of the community group who had sent out 180 questionnaires and received back around 90. There will be a meeting at 7.30pm in the village hall on 22 November for the results to be shared with the rest of the village. The results have been very interesting with some innovative ideas and it is hoped for a large turnout from the village to support this event. Councillors were encouraged to attend.
- 13. New Community Led Wildlife Group** – Cllr Barwell reported that about 20 people attended a showing of photographs by a local resident of birds in this area. s planned to meet every 2 months. A dawn chorus, planting of wild flowers around the village and other local events are planned. A Shillingford Wildlife Facebook page has been launched. The Parish Council welcomed this new group and their efforts to make us all more aware of the countryside and what is going on.
- 14. Useful Numbers Page in Country News** – The Clerk said that the Chairman had some time ago, raised the value of a page in the parish magazine with useful contact numbers. Country News have agreed that they could include this in each monthly print. Dunchideock Parish Council are keen to progress this idea as well and Councillors were asked if they would like to work together on a page which would cover both parishes. It was agreed that a joint page with generic numbers would be helpful and informative to all our communities. The Clerk agreed to progress this and bring it back to the next meeting with a view to going live in the January edition of Country News.
- 15. Finance Update & Expenditure for Approval**
- 15.1 The Clerk reported the Bank Balance as £5,006.29 as of 30th September 2019. The second half of the precept (£1,895.50) had been received and there was £115.97 expenditure since the last report. Cllr Barwell signed the bank reconciliation document and Councillors resolved to accept the accounts.
- 15.2 Clerk Salary 1 July – 30 September – 40.5 hours @ 10.57/hr = £428.09 (£342.29 Net)
- 15.3 HMRC (PAYE) - £85.80
- 15.4 Clerks Expenses – 1 July – 30 September mileage 48 miles @ 45p/mile, broadband @ £5/month, working from home allowance £24.99 = £61.59
- 15.5 Subscription renewal for Society of Local Council Clerks - £63.00
- Proposed** Cllr Parrott **Seconded** Cllr Howard **All Agreed**
- 16. Highways Issues**
- a. Update on remedial work near A30 overbridge** – The Clerk stated that Simon Pearson of DCC Highways had reported that there was still no update on the ‘rolling straight edge test’. The Clerk has included DCC Connett into the communication with DCC Highways in the hope that he can bring some influence to resolve this matter.
- b. Scraping the centre of Markham Lane** – The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had emailed the Clerk in September stating that she thought this work had been done. The Clerk has reported back to her that not only has the road not been scraped, there are large potholes and the road is frequently flooded from hedge to hedge on the Dunchideock side of Markham farm. We await a resolution to this.
- 17. Village Hall Report**– It was reported that Gents toilets are currently undergoing refurbishment. There are numerous events planned and regular block bookings bringing in a really good income. The village hall is thriving with a lot of local support and bookings external to the parish.
- 18. TALC Update** – Cllr Parrott reported that the head of DCC Highways attended the last meeting. She said that although they have been given extra money by the government, it was for capital spend and their revenue budget had gone down. However, they are changing policy

and will try to do remedial work on potholes before they reach the safety limits. The TDC recycling officer also attended as a visiting speaker and explained where all the recycling items go to. Cllr Carr stated that he was concerned about plastic items such as flowerpots that are left in garden waste and end up being distributed as tiny fragments back into the soil. He asked the Clerk to raise this matter. Cllr Parrott said that following challenges regarding the last draft minutes in relation to disquiet in relation to the re-election of the Secretary, the Chairman of TALC had amended the wording to the satisfaction of those present. Cllr Parrott also reported that there had been an email from another Parish Clerk raising questions about the structure and effectiveness of TALC and highlighting the attendance which is not representative of Parish Councils across Teignbridge.

- 19. Clerks Correspondence** – The Clerk updated that following a request to look into interactive speed signs for the village, Kenn Parish Clerk had said that the two signs in Kennford were put in by the Parish Council working with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO). The cost was around £5k. She had emailed the NHO asking for further information which has just been received and would be circulated to councillors. In order to prove a need, speed assessments need to be completed. The Clerk understands that speeding is a matter raised by the respondents to the questionnaire and suggested that the questionnaire results are considered and understood before this is progressed. This was agreed.
- 20. Public Discussion** – A member of the public presented the Parish Council with a file relating to the procedure to follow should the District Council fail to enforce planning action.
- 21. Chairman's Remarks** – The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their ongoing support. He said that it was his intention to step down as Chairman and a councillor in April of next year and asked councillors to consider who would be prepared to take the lead as Chairman of the Parish Council going forward. Cllr Carr said that he had been the Chairman for over 8 years and felt it was time for him to focus on other demands on his time.
- 22. Date of Next Meeting** – The next Ordinary meeting will be on Monday 9th December 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

_____ Chairman