
Shillingford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th December 2016

Present: Cllrs Carr (Chairman), Turner, Stamp, Howard, Durrans, DCC Cllr Connett & TDC Cllr Lake. 8 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Parrott

2. Declarations of Interest / Requests for dispensation – None

3. Guest Speakers Ryan Ware and Vanessa Fraser – Community First Responder Schemes. The Community Responder Scheme was outlined, consisting of volunteers recruited, trained and equipped by the ambulance service to carry out emergency care until the arrival of paramedics. Recruitment begins on 19 December, through January. If there are sufficient people interested in becoming a first responder, we could set up a scheme. Our area has enough calls to justify a responder scheme. Kenn currently only has 1 person trying to keep their scheme going so there is an option to combined teams with Kenn. This would reduce the cost. It was agreed that an item should be included in the next newsletter to see if there is sufficient interest.

4. County & District Councillors Reports. The Forrest School was raised and DCC Cllr Connett recapped on the current situation. The planning permission was granted by TDC with advice from Highways dept who did not object. The site is constrained and any application for extended parking is unlikely to be supported. There are no known plans for expansion but any future application would need to be considered in the light of current safety concerns and understanding the consequences of the impact on road users. Parking issues appear to be improved since Cllr Connett became involved. Any solution for safety lies with Forrest School to ensure the safety of children attending and road users.

A discussion took place with TDC Cllr Lake regarding the debris in Waybrook Lane which appears to be from unsecured cargo on passing lorries. It was confirmed that TDC will pursue any reports of littering and any offending vehicle numbers should be passed on to them.

5. Open Forum – Members of the public were invited to comment on any relevant issues. A member of the public raised concerns linked to item 13 and it was agreed an open discussion would be held for this item to allow views to be expressed. Also, concern was raised about the increase in rodents around the village. It was confirmed that the pest officer (who visits the fish farm on a regular basis and puts down bait) has reported a general increase in vermin across his area through the summer and autumn with greater quantities of poison being taken.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting (circulated) – Ordinary meeting of 3rd October 2016. Accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

7. Matters Arising

a) Defibrillator Project – The Clerk reported that of the original grant from the National Lottery, £122 remains unspent. Research into a fridge magnet with the cabinet code on came out as the same cost as key fobs. It was felt that having the code on your keys would be more practical. It was agreed that 300 key fobs should be ordered for issue to every household in the parish. The defibrillator awareness session had been attended by 28 people. An alternative to the Community First Responder scheme was the VET scheme run by the Community Heartbeat trust. This required a group of people who were happy to fetch the defibrillator and get it to the scene of an emergency. It was agreed that this should be included in the next newsletter to establish the appetite for First Responding or Vet scheme.

b) War Memorial Application– The Clerk updated that we had been unsuccessful in the application to fund the lifting of the Beech tree canopy.

c) Lighting and flooring for Marquee – Cllr Carr reported that there was a need to seek a decision from the village hall committee as to how they wish to use the marquee in the future before any decision to purchase flooring and lighting.

d) Bespoke Planning Training Course – The Clerk confirmed that this had been arranged jointly with Chudleigh Town Council and Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council on 19 January

with shared costs, making it considerably cheaper than sending individuals on the usual planning training.

8. Paperless Planning Update – The Clerk updated that the system would be entirely paperless by 1 April. Proposals regarding a projector for meetings had been circulated for consideration. A member of the public proposed that a ceiling mounted projector would be of more use to the whole community. It was agreed that purchase would be deferred to the next meeting to enable the Clerk to get further costings.

9. Planning Application – 16/02712/COU

Location – Manstree Cottage, Shillingford St George

Proposal – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage

Applicant – Mrs S LeBatteux

A site visit had been conducted by representatives of the Parish Council. This is a re application to include a small piece of land into the garden. The previous application had been supported by the Parish Council and this smaller inclusion of land is also supported.

Proposed Cllr Carr. **Seconded** Cllr Howard . **All Agreed.**

10. Planning Application – 16/02950/LCB

Location – The Cottage, Shillingford St George

Proposal – Replacement of existing window

Applicant – Mrs & Mrs Trout

A site visit had been conducted by representatives of the Parish Council. Most of the existing windows are in disrepair and need replacing. The proposed windows are a good match for the original and sympathetic with the listing. Later steel windows will be replaced to restore to those similar to the originals. It was felt that the proposal will improve the look of the cottage.

Proposed Cllr Carr. **Seconded** Cllr Stamp. **All Agreed.**

11. Planning Application – 16/02903/FUL

Location – The Cottage, Shillingford St George

Proposal – Erection of Barbecue Hut

Applicant – Mrs E Trout

A site visit had been conducted by representatives of the Parish Council. The site is in a corner spot at the bottom of the garden and screened from the house. Materials are green and will blend into the environment and will not be seen from the road. This application is supported.

Proposed Cllr Howard **Seconded** Cllr Carr. **All Agreed.**

12. Planning Application – 16/02360/CONSLT

Location – Shillingford St George

Proposal – To remove telephone kiosk

Applicant – BT

This relates to a modern telephone kiosk in Shillingford St George. No representations have been made to the Parish Council. It is felt that this kiosk is little used. It is an eyesore and is being vandalised. No representations are to be made for retention.

Proposed Cllr Stamp. **Seconded** Cllr Durrans. **All Agreed.**

13. Speed of Vehicles Passing Through Parish – The incident that instigated this agenda item related to a horse that was not on the road and driver who was allegedly drink driving and mounted the verge colliding with the animal. It was felt the incident is extreme, however there are wider concerns of the safe use of the roads through the village. This has been raised with Highways dept who confirmed that no engineering solution would be funded. The Parish Council could fund traffic signs but these would need to be sited with Highways approval. The related traffic order would cost £5k and needs to be signed off by Highways and the Police. The mix of users on the road has changed over the years. Vehicles, horses, cyclists etc. The Parish Council has previously tried to get signs placed without success. It was agreed that there was a need an imaginative solution which invites people to drive considerately through a cared for area. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

14. TALC Update – Cllr Parrott had been unable to attend this meeting however the draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated.

15. Highways Conference – Visiting speaker Victor Gough spoke about the community self-help schemes for road maintenance. Ongoing cut backs in capital and revenue grants in the County Council budgets mean that many activities are no longer carried out by the council. Parish lengthsman are less available and restricted to surface cleaning of drainage features twice a year. Grass cutting has now been reduced to visibility areas only. The community road warden scheme enables communities to take responsibility for highways in their area. 22 councils have signed up. If local councils feel able to take on more highways responsibility, the Highways dept will support them with free training to create a safe working area on the highway. Work done by volunteers will be covered by DCC public liability insurance. Potholes were discussed and the advice given is that if you suspect the pothole presents a safety issue, it should be reported to Highways dept who will be risk assess it. If it doesn't fit the criteria for filling, it is possible for the Parish Council to purchase a 20kg tub of: 'instama'; for £10 to fill potholes ourselves. The response to a website report is usually very prompt. It was agreed that an item would be included in the newsletter to see if there are any volunteers or the scheme. Cllr Durrans reported on the recent Highways Conference. From 1st April the Highways contract changes to a new contractor. Any Parish Council activity on the highway needs to be covered by their public liability insurance. The Clerk to check and confirm this.

16. Finance -

16.1 Report – The bank account balance was £7229.43 as of 28th November. The Clerk reported that the reclaimed VAT of £149.22 had been credited to the account by HMRC.

16.2 **Approval of expenditure** –

Village Hall Hire – £18 for 1 ordinary meeting. The recent use of the hall for the defibrillator awareness session had been free of charge as a community event.

Grant Thornton External Audit - £30

Gift cards - £30 each as a thank you to Louise Selby Herd and Tam Mucklow for the weekly defibrillator checks.

Proposed Cllr Carr. **Seconded** Cllr Durrans. **All Agreed**

16.3 **Budget proposal and Precept 2017/18** - The draft budget was presented on the basis of a 0% increase in the Council Tax precept. It was agreed that this was appropriate and the budget was approved for adoption. Clerk to respond to TDC regarding the precept.

Proposed Cllr Turner. **Seconded** Cllr Durrans. **All Agreed**

17. Village Hall Report– Lighting has been upgraded. The Dissenters music evening had been a successful event. There were 38 bookings for village hall in November, demonstrating a healthy upturn in bookings. A 3 month trial has been agreed every Tuesday for Taiko drummers. If neighbours are disturbed they should inform a member of the village hall committee. Grant applications for toilet refurbishment are ongoing.

18. Clerk's Correspondence - None

19. Chairman's Remarks – Cllr Carr thanked the members of the public for coming and the councillors for their participation.

20. Date of next meeting – Monday 6th February 2017

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

_____ Chairman .
