

Shillingford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 May 2018

Present: Cllrs Carr (Chairman), Turner, Stamp, Howard, Parrott, Miller, Clerk Sarah Sharpe & 24 members of the public present.

Open Forum.

1. **Apologies for absence & Declarations of Interest** – None
2. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors held on 15th May 2017** - Were accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting
Proposed Cllr Carr, **Seconded** Cllr Howard. **All Agreed**
3. **Chairman's report for the year 2017/18** – Cllr Carr gave a summary of the past year. (Appendix a).

4 **Officer's reports for the year:**

Cllr Carr – Village Hall & Snow Warden – Cllr Carr said as Snow warden he could report that during the 3 – 4 days of snow the roads remained passable most of the time. He had salted the parish roads half a dozen times. Highways did also go through the villages to treat the roads.

He reported from the Village Hall that there was a joint event planned with the church on 21st July with cream teas and stalls in the VH. Peter Barwell had been co opted onto the VH committee and has volunteered to run film nights once the appropriate licence is in place. The VH handed the Parish Council a cheque for £500 towards the PC Clerk costs incurred in work for the parish in relation to the fence.

Cllr Howard – Planning - The parish council had considered a number of planning applications through the year. There are currently no outstanding planning matters. All applications had been subject of a site visit and commented on. There were no areas of contention other than the breach of planning on the fence.

Cllr Parrot – Cllr Parrot explained that TALC was a gathering of parish councils within Teignbridge, held at their council office site. Usually there were topical guest speakers. A relatively small proportion of PCs attend. It is a useful forum and the minutes are circulated to councillors. He requested of the Clerk that the minutes are uploaded onto parish website in future.

5. **Open Discussion for Parishioners** – On behalf of the church, one of the church wardens thanked the parishioners for the funds raised and the personal efforts to raise funds for the church through the annual hedge trimming.

A member of the public raised the issue of the fence. The Clerk stated that the Teignbridge solicitor had advised her that he expected the Breach of Condition Notice to be served on Trustees later this week. Extensive discussion took place regarding the actions and possible intentions of the Trustees. There was concern expressed that the Village Green Trust was not being run lawfully and that the Trustees were not acting in the best interests of the Trust or the parish. It was felt that the Trustees could not and should not deny access to a facility held in trust for the enjoyment of the people of the parish. A number of proposals were suggested and discussed regarding the best way forward in relation to this ongoing divisive and contentious issue. It was felt that there were possibly underlying personal agendas on behalf of some Trustees that had not been disclosed to the parish and repeated requests to meet to seek reconciliation had been refused by them. They had not responded to a request to take part in a mediation session run by Devon Mediation Service and had sent a series of letters to the Parish Council, some

of which were menacing in their tone. Parishioners felt that the recent public posting of a letter to the Clerk was inappropriate and the wording of the letter and accusations enclosed were outrageous.

No other matters were raised.

6. **Chairman's Remarks** – Cllr Carr said that he hoped there would be a satisfactory resolution to the use of the Village Green this year and that peace would be restored to the village. He thanked the public for their support and invited them to join the Parish Council in refreshments.
7. Close - The meeting closed at 9.10pm following which there was a social event with cheese and wine

_____ Chairman

Shillingford St George Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

It has been a challenging year for the parish, the Village Hall committee and the Parish Council. I would like to start by thanking our parishioners for the fantastic support that they have shown to the Parish Council. We are fortunate to have excellent attendance at our meetings, something not enjoyed by many parish councils and your enthusiasm and involvement in our activities has been much appreciated.

In August we organised the free Hog Roast event on the Village Green. I think you will all agree that it was a successful afternoon. You gave us a number of ideas for projects, which we have reported back on through our meetings and your generosity raised £350 for the Exeter Hospice as well as many of you going away with prizes from our free draw.

We had an excellent turn out for our annual litter pick in February and it is good to see people taking a pride in our lovely villages.

The fence that was erected across the village hall carpark has upset our parishioners and, on your behalf, we have been representing you as a single voice to try to get it removed. We will continue to do this until the Village green is restored to the parish as an open space for you all to enjoy.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work through the year and the fantastic support we have had from our District Councillors, John Goodey and Kevin Lake and our County Councillor, Alan Connett who have worked hard in relation to a number of planning issues including the fence and have made significant financial contributions in grant funding to support our projects.
