

Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of Shillingford St George & Shillingford Abbot

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May 2021 following the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Present: Cllr P Barwell (Chair), Cllr J Parrott (Vice Chairman), Cllr W Turner, Cllr C Carr, Cllr B Stamp
Cllr A Swain (TDC), Juliette Thompson (Clerk), Ten members of the public

049/21 Welcome and apologies for absence:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8:04pm

Apologies were received from Cllr A Connett, Cllr L Howard and Mr N Mansell

050/21 Declaration of Interests/Dispensations:

None

051/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting: It was proposed by Cllr P Barwell, seconded by Cllr B Stamp and agreed by all that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

052/21 Chairman's Report for the year 2020 – 2021

This has been a weird year – in fact two years as we were unable to hold the Annual Parish Meetings last year. We have had to hold meetings on Zoom and this has been challenging. The first challenge was overcome when Juliette took over the organising of the meetings from me because each time I did it, something seemed to go wrong! Juliette, however, managed well. Other Zoom problems resulted from the very poor Wi-Fi in the district with councillors dropping out or even not getting into the meeting in the first place. However, we coped and the work Councillor Carr and his grandson have put in is going to result in much faster broadband speeds for those who have opted for it.

During the year we have had a number of planning applications which Les would have been reporting on. Unfortunately, he is unable to be here and so I will say something about them. The application which has been the cause of some difficulty has been the application for some temporary shelters in the Forrest School. The Parish Council was minded to contest this but it was found that the application was unnecessary. Owing to the earlier granting of planning for the school, they were allowed to erect these shelters. The on-going problem with the school is that the noise is disruptive to the local area. The wood is also being damaged. A number of objections have been submitted to the planning department but we have yet to hear about any decision. But I would like to add something about the planning department. It seems to us that the planning department occasionally fails us. We have made objections to applications and these have been ignored and when we approved others, Teignbridge sometimes refuses them. As well as this, there have been two or three recent examples of the planning department giving incorrect information which has resulted in financial loss to the applicants. On one occasion, the applicant was directed to the planning website. However the information obtained there was wrong and this led to a loss of £150. Another example led to a loss of over £200. No compensation was offered and no responsibility was taken. This is something I would like the Parish Council to continue to address.

The on-going conflict over the village green has to some extent been resolved by the Village Hall Committee erecting a fence which obscures the unpleasant mound of rubble that the Green

trustees caused to be built. The only difficulty the village is left with is the trouble with vandals who are breaking into the shed on the green. They have lit fires in it and on one occasion, set the shed alight. The trustees of the green are left with the problem as they claim ownership of the shed. I do not know if they are aware of the fact that villagers close to the Green have been responsible for preventing the shed becoming a total loss.

During the year two local farmers, Martyn and Andy Bragg, offered Shillingford Wood to the village at a very good price. One way to take advantage of this was for the Parish to buy the wood for the village but the council decided against it. Instead, a group of villagers calling themselves The Friends of Shillingford Wood, got together and have set about raising the money. A great deal of money has already been raised and they hope that one or even two grants will soon enable them to purchase the wood. This wood will be an on-going source of leisure activity for the village. It is planned to make the wood an area where wildlife can flourish and the whole village can enjoy it. It will have to be maintained but I foresee there being popular working parties.

There are some people who I want to thank. Both villages have defibrillators and they have been regularly maintained. Without the two volunteers, Louise Selby Heard and Tam Mucklow, who do this work, the defibrillators would not be maintained in working order and they deserve our gratitude. The other person who has been maintaining our Neighbourhood Watch for some time also deserves our thanks. So thank you, Gina Saunders.

There are various projects we are pursuing. Trying to get a grant to repair the war memorial at Peamore was unsuccessful but we are going to try other means to repair it.

Two years ago, in his Annual Report, our then Chair, Chris Carr reported on the plan to print a booklet to capture the memories of World War I. However this has not yet happened as so many things have suffered owing to the pandemic. The project will be pursued.

This year we are planning to do something about the cars which travel through the area too fast. This is yet to develop into a definite plan but we are working on it.

As a very new councillor, let alone a new chair, I have been very grateful for the support I have received from colleagues. Andy Swain, our District Councillor has been hugely supportive and helpful. Chris Carr, our previous Chair and Nick Bradley, the Chair of Ide Parish Council have both been very kind and helpful.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their support during the year and particularly to thank Juliette for doing such a good job, running things at a distance.

A special mention too for our three colleagues who have decided to resign from the Parish Council. I have no idea how long they have been members but both Wilf Turner and Bernard Stamp have been stalwarts of the parish and given up their spare time for years. Les Howard has not been on the council as long but has served us well. Very many thanks to all of you.

053/21 Officer's Reports for the year 2020 - 2021

Snow Warden – Cllr C Carr

During the last year Cllr C Carr only needed to salt the roads on one occasion.

Planning – Cllr L Howard

No report.

TALC – Cllr J Parrott

Cllr J Parrott reported that there had been no TALC meetings during this last year.

Highways - Cllr Stamp

Cllr Stamp reported on the ongoing flooding issues at Shillingford Lane.

054/21 Open Discussion for Parishioners:

Residents voiced their concerns about the services offered by TDC Planning Dept, with numerous complaints discussed.

Cllr A Swain asked for residents to contact him with their concerns and the parish council asked the Clerk to write to TDC listing them.

A public meeting was proposed to discuss Platinum Jubilee celebration plans, speed limits and village signs, with a provisional date of 9th June (since the meeting, this has changed to 22nd June).

After a recent incident, when a bough and branches from an oak tree dropped onto the road, blocking it for a short time, a resident had expressed concern that the tree was in a poor condition and has asked the parish council to arrange an inspection of the tree. The owner of the tree confirmed that their insurance company, along with Mr M Waddhams, the TDC Tree Officer, had said that the tree was in good condition and no further action was needed.

055/21 Chairman's Remarks:

The Chairman thanked all residents and councillors for attending the meeting.

056/21 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 8th June.

The meeting closed at 8:51pm

_____ Chairman

_____ Dated