

Shillingford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held online on Monday 8th June 2020 at 3:30pm

Present: Cllr Barwell (Chairman), Cllr Carr, Cllr Parrott, Cllr Howard, Juliette Thompson (Clerk) and 10 members of the public present.

34/20 Welcome and apologies for absence:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 3:34pm.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Turner (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Stamp, Cllr Connett and Cllr Swain.

35/20 Declaration of Interests/Dispensations: None

36/20 Open Forum:

36.1 Following an e-mail from a resident saying that the footpath from the Church to the main road was overgrown, Cllr Barwell agreed to clear.

36.2 Following a request for an update on the village green, Cllr Barwell said that he had contacted the owner to ask if they were interested in selling the green to the PC, but they said “no.”

36.3 A group called “The Friends of Shillingford Wood” has been formed to look into purchasing the wood, with the Parish Council being the legal land owner. Their proposal was that they would be able to raise the money needed to purchase and maintain it through paid membership, grants and funding.

37/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting: It was agreed by all that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2020 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman to sign the minutes.

38/20 Police, County and District Cllrs Reports: None

39/20 Matters Arising:

39.1 Highways were aware of the flooding issues at Shillingford Lane, but as they did not know who closed the road, they re-opened it. It was then noted that despite this, the road closed signs were still there: since then, Cllr Barwell has laid them face down.

40/20 Parish Matters:

40.1 Sale of Shillingford Wood – The Friends of Shillingford Wood asked the Parish Council to give their approval to proceed with the initial work to investigate grants, finances and preparatory work. Cllr Carr reported that there was another interested party and that their proposal was to purchase the wood and lease it to the Parish Council on a 99.9 year basis. It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Carr and agreed by all to investigate both offers further.

40.2 Standing Orders – It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Carr and agreed by all to adopt the revised Standing Orders. The revision – Item 27 Remote Meetings Protocol & Procedures, was recommended by DALC to cover remote meetings.

40.3 Defibrillator Battery & Pads Renewal – It was proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Parrott and agreed by all to purchase a new battery and pads for the defibrillator as the present ones were coming to their use-by date.

40.4 Reallocation of road space for active travel – briefing from DCC – Clerk to contact DCC and Cllr Connett to suggest a combined pedestrian and cycle path between the two villages via land at Shillingford Organics.

40.5 Local bus service consultation Clerk to contact DCC to ask if the present once daily bus route through Kennford/Shillingford St George/Exeter could be increased.

40.6 4G signal The Clerk explained the Governments proposal of the shared rural network – four networks sharing masts and new masts where there was a poor signal - and if this could help with the poor signal in Shillingford Abbot. Cllrs also suggested that a BT Fibre Optic box in Shillingford Abbot would improve the poor broadband speed. Clerk to investigate.

40.7 Damage to War Memorial Clerk to ask the resident responsible to contact their insurers to begin proceedings for repairs.

41/20 Audit Arrangements:

41.1 It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed by all that as a token of the Parish Council's appreciation a £50 gift card should be given to Tracy Gould for completing the 2019-20 annual internal audit.

41.2 It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Parrott and agreed by all to accept the Receipts & Payments Summary for the year ended 31st March 2020 as presented by the Clerk.

41.3 It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Carr and agreed by all to accept the Fixed Asset Register for the year ended 31st March 2020, as presented by the Clerk, with a note to remove the Memorial Beech Tree for Group Capt. Walker from the Register.

41.4 It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Parrott and agreed by all to receive and note Internal Audit Report for 2019-20, as presented by the Clerk.

41.5 It was proposed by Cllr Parrott, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed by all, that after consideration, the Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 should be agreed and signed.

41.6 It was proposed by Cllr Barwell, seconded by Cllr Parrott and agreed by all to accept and approve the Accounting Statement for 2019-20, as presented by the Clerk/RFO

42/20 Finance:

42.1 Balance of account as at 31st May 2020 £4956.52

42.2 It was agreed by all for Cllr Parrott to sign the monthly bank reconciliations for March & April.

42.3 Internet Banking – this was still being investigated by the Clerk who informed all that progress was slow due to HSBC only having just changed the address details (but still not the name) of the Parish Clerk.

43/20 Clerk's Correspondence

43.1 It was proposed by Cllr Parrott, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed by all to give a £50 gift card to the each of the two volunteers who maintained the defibrillators in the villages.

44/20 Public Discussion

There was general debate about Shillingford Wood: there were differing views on its management and preservation; there was discussion with regard to the two parties interested in purchasing the wood (and whether their purchase proposals could be merged); and there was discussion on the legal agreement that would be needed to protect all parties that may be involved.

45/20 Chairman's Remarks - None

46/20 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 10th August 2020 – time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 4:45pm

_____ Chairman

_____ Dated