

MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Councillors: Dr A MacWhannell (Chairman); N Pulker, K Turley and A Edwards.
In attendance Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jennifer Neal.

64/20. To receive apologies for Absence.

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Councillors N Edwards (Vice Chairman); J Horne; Miss S Barrat and G Tonkinson who were unable to attend due to previous commitments. These apologies were noted and accepted.

65/20. To receive members Declaration of Councillors' Pecuniary Interests.

Councillor K Turley declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Shropshire Council's new Local Plan and took no part in the discussion on this matter.

66/20. To agree the previously circulated Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 30th July 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor MacWhannell, seconded by Councillor Horne, that these minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of both proceedings with the following exceptions:-

Councillor Turley was not in attendance and his name should be removed from the attendance, and Councillor A Edwards only participated in the meeting for a few minutes due to technical issues.

67/20. To agree any further actions required after receipt of the Clerks Report (appendix 1) on the agenda papers: -

Update on the complaint to Ombudsman;

It was noted that a reply from the Ombudsman had been received stating that an organisation can not make a complaint to the ombudsman only individuals.

Based on this information it was proposed by Councillor A MacWhannell and seconded by Councillor N Pulker that the Chairman write to the Chief Executive detailing our dissatisfaction with the service levels provided to the Parishioners of Sheriffhales. On a vote this was agreed.

Action: Chairman to write to Chief Executive

Layby infilling at Lillishall;

Councillor N Pulker has taken up this issue directly with the Officer concerned at Shropshire Council, the fly tipping is increasing in the area and will progress this matter as a matter of urgency.

Action: Councillor N Pulker – progress with Shropshire Council

Layby Hales Court;

Emails have been received from Star Housing asking if the Parish Council owns the lay by on the B4379. The Clerk has responded stating that this is owned by Shropshire Council. It was proposed by Councillor N Pulker and seconded by Councillor A Edwards that the Parish Council remit any further action on this matter and ask Star Housing to keep them informed of developments as a courtesy. On a vote this was carried.

Action: Clerk to write to Star Housing

Traffic light review;

The traffic light review has taken place and the report circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor N Pulker and seconded by Councillor A Edwards that the Chairman contact Shropshire Highways and express the concern of the Parish Council over the lack of improvement to the turning off the A5 signals and request that these signals are amended to make it clearer for vehicles to turn across the traffic with a red or green arrow.

Action:- Chairman to write to Highways.

Draft Local Plan / other policies included;

Councillor K Turley took no part in the discussion on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor A MacWhannell and seconded by Councillor A Edwards that the Chairman prepare a draft response on this policy document, and the other policies i.e Sustainability and Resilience, then circulate it to all members before the end date of the consultation, then send in the response when agreed. On a vote this was carried.

Action: Chairman to prepare a response

Speeding in the Parish;

A letter has been received from a resident with regard to speeding in Sherrifhales along the B4379. It was agreed that Councillor A Edwards would look into the possible options through the Safer Roads Partnership and talking to the Neighbourhood Watch officer Dusty Donavon for the Council and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Councillor A Edwards to investigate further

Update on new path installed.

The path has now settled and remedial works have been undertaken to level the sides to the soil, and Shropshire Highways have confirmed the path is not a trip hazard and they have also filled in the gap with tarmac from the path to the road. They have agreed that bollards can be located at the base of the path, they would provide FOC standard bollards, however members agreed that other options should be looked at as this is in the Conservation area and brought back to the next meeting, such as rocks or wooden bollards.

Action: Clerk to price alternatives

Allotment requests

Two requests have been made for allotments, the map below shows areas owned by Shropshire Council. The Parish Council does not own any land for this purpose. It was proposed by Councillor N Pulker and seconded by Councillor A Edwards that the Clerk write back to the parishioners that have requested allotments and state that the request does not satisfy the requirement for the Parish to investigate further the request for allotments as the minimum number of requests has not been met, therefore at this time we will not take the matter further. On a vote this was carried.

Action: Clerk to contact Parishioners.

Play area inspections.

The annual inspection has not taken place yet, however we have met with a contractor (that has previously undertook work at the Play Area) to ask them to quote for the items that need to be addressed on the grounds of safety. He is preparing a quote for the work. Further landscaping also needs to be considered where the trees causing shade and leaves have turned the ground to soil.

Action: Clerk to progress.

68/20. To discuss and agree the use of devolved powers during Covid outbreak.

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

69/20. To agree the bench designs for the playing field and any further actions required

The bench designs and quotation were attached as appendix 3 to the agenda papers.

Members agreed that the Clerk with Councillor J Horne, review the locations of the benches with a view to having picnic tables on the lower part of the field, and more traditional benches in the orchard area.

Action: Clerk and Councillor J Horne to bring forward amended costed proposal by the 8th October.

70/20. To update members on the casual vacancy

The casual vacancy has been advertised inline with the Govt regulations, and no election has been called and no-one has put their name forward for co-option. The seat can remain vacant as the correct procedures have been followed, and can be filled at the next election.

71/20. To discuss any planning applications received

There were no new planning applications , the decisions were noted that were detailed on the agenda paper under Appendix 4.

72/20 To receive the accounts up to 31st July 2020

The accounts presented under appendix 5 of the agenda papers were noted.

73/20. To agree areas of responsibility for Councillors

This item was agreed to be deferred until after the elections in May 2021.

74/20. To discuss correspondence relating to the Village Hall Boundary

The Village Hall approached the Parish Council to ask them to replace the boundary fence, unclear of what responsibilities lay with the Council, the Chairman asked for a copy of the lease from the Church. The lease shows that the Parish Council are responsible for the car parking spaces. At present there is damage to this area that needs to be repaired. It was proposed by Councillor N Pulker and seconded by Councillor A Edwards a maximum budget of £350 is set for the repair and the local contractor to be requested to do this work, and the Clerk add the asset to the Parish Council's insurance. On a vote this was carried.

Action: Clerk to add to insurance and arrange work for repair.

75/20. Update on the Parish Noticeboard

A quote was received for replacing the board, however members asked that a cost be sought to refurbish the existing board. The quote is awaited from a local contractor.

Action: Clerk to obtain price

76/20. Update on the refresh of the bus shelter.

A quote was received for repairing the shelter. The quote is awaited from a local contractor. Members asked that a panel is included in the shelter for local artwork etc from the school can be displayed.

Action: Clerk to obtain price

77/20. To discuss holding a Community Service

In light of Covid restrictions, it was agreed not to hold a Civic Service this year.

78/20. To formally discuss and agree any actions relating to improving the access and remedial works to the War Memorial

It was proposed by Councillor A MacWhannell and seconded by Councillor A Edwards to contact the local church to ask for recommendations of Stone Masons to undertake repairs to the War Memorial, as the grant applied for has not been successful. On a vote this was agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact Church

It was proposed by Councillor A MacWhannell and seconded by Councillor A Edwards to obtain a quote for installing a path to link from the War Memorial to the existing path. It was noted that this cannot be funded from Precepted money, but if agreed would be funded from Lightsource funds. On a vote this was agreed.

Action: Chairman to get quote.

79/20. Items for a future meeting

Benches on playing Field; quote for path to War Memorial and repair works; Delegated Powers; Traffic Light update; Lay by infilling; Speeding in the Parish; Local plan response; refurbishment of Bus Shelter; Replacement noticeboard.

80/20. Date of Next Meeting

Crime Commissioner to speak to the Parish – it was agreed in light of changes to meetings being allowed to defer this meeting until next year.

Action: Clerk to contact Commissioners PA and let her know.

8th October 2020 – Parish meeting 7.00pm

12th November 2020 – 7.00pm budget meeting – it was agreed that the Clerk liaise with Councillor N Edwards on preparing a draft budget for presenting at the November meeting.