



Shalden Parish Council

Minutes of Virtual Shalden Parish Council meeting held using Zoom on Wednesday 29th July 2020 at 8.00 pm.

Present: Andrew Shirvell, Rosemary Hartgill, David Orme, Bernard Stewart and Peter Wilson.

Also in attendance: Rob Wood (Clerk)

1. Apologies: None.

2. Open Session: No residents in attendance.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 were reviewed, agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising:

- i. BOAT12: Clerk replied to footpath warden, Helen Dudley who had reported that 4x4's were damaging this track, to say that the Parish Council felt it out of their remit to ask the landowner of woodland that the 4x4's were using to erect a fence around their boundary which runs along the side of this BOAT.
- ii. A new bin has been installed at the Recreation Ground, and a contract in place for its emptying on a fortnightly basis with Idverde. The cost is £46.41 per quarter. The bin was purchased using funds from an EHDC Councillor Grant, from Cllr Costigan.
- iii. Cllr Orme to contact EHDC regarding car park floodlights which were causing an issue dazzling drivers approaching the Golden Pot crossroads.
- iv. The Clerk returned comments objecting as agreed to planning application number 28652/022.
- v. Change of mandate Natwest: attempt to add Cllrs Stewart and Wilson as signatories onto the Parish Council account were unsuccessful, as it was reported that the Chairman was not currently a signatory. The Clerk formally complained, resulting in compensation of £200 being paid. The Chairman has been added back onto the account and Clerk has resubmitted the original application.
- vi. The Clerk has continued to receive a number of complaints regarding ground works being carried out at Sunacres Cottage, Shalden Green Road. The Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council has now explored every available avenue with the District and County Councils as well as the Environment Agency (EA). The appropriate planning applications are now in place and Hampshire Hay and Straw have registered a U1 exemption for the import of material onto the site. The EA will carry out a site visit when they are able to investigate the make up of material that has been imported.

5a. Correspondence:

- i. Much has been Covid-19 related from other branches of local and central government – see later point.
- ii. Hampshire Highways: informed that Golden Pot crossroads stop sign has been erected and extensive vegetation clearance has taken place.

- iii. EHDC: Local Government Association are currently consulting on a new draft model code of conduct for local councillors. This was shared with the Parish Council and no comments are to be returned from discussion at this meeting.
- iv. Clerk and Chairman were contacted by Sir Charles Cockburn (Beech resident) who had written a letter to the Chief Constable of Hampshire essentially requesting a greater commitment of police resources to rural policing in our area. The request was that the Parish Council along with all other Parish Councils in the Alton rural area sign and support this request. The letter was shared electronically with the Parish Council and it was agreed that the letter should be supported and signed by the Chairman.

5b. Planning: Three planning applications are currently active 24400/12, 58797 and 57504/003) the Parish Council had no comments to return for applications 24400/12 and 58797.

Application number 57504/003 (Development of an Energy Recovery Facility and Associated Infrastructure at Alton Materials Recovery Facility) was discussed in depth and the Parish Council agreed to submit the following objection to this application:

‘Shalden Parish Council would like to object to the planning application for the development of an Energy Recovery Facility and associated infrastructure at the existing Alton Materials Recovery Facility site.

Our objection is based locally upon concerns regarding the potential for increased traffic and HGV movements due to waste being brought to site using the A339, which is a well known accident hotspot. More widely, we are concerned that the new incinerator may both be an eyesore and bring a risk of increased pollution to a rural area’.

6. Local Councils Emergency Legislation Review: A summary of legislation introduced and decisions made by the Parish Council regarding these are outlined here. The Government produced emergency legislation covering a number of aspects of the operation of local government during the Covid-19 pandemic. This legislation came into force on the 4th April 2020, a summary of the new powers are given below:

Meetings

Regular Parish Council Meetings: Legislation has been passed allowing Parish Council meetings to be held virtually, for example using a video conferencing app such as Zoom. Essentially, online meetings are now legal so long as effort has been made to allow residents to dial in, view, stream online or record or made available to the public in some other way. Parish Councils can do this via any suitable route. Face to face meetings should not be held. The legislation also allows the Parish Council to alter the frequency, move or cancel meetings without requirement for further notice.

Annual Parish Council Meeting: With regards to the Annual Council Meeting, the Council is not required to hold an Annual Council Meeting in May 2020, but it may choose to, and this can be a virtual meeting. If an Annual Parish Council Meeting is not held during May 2020, the current Chairman would continue in post without a vote required until the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2021.

Annual Parish Meeting: The same applies here as above - as this is not a meeting of the Parish Council and not a legal requirement, the Parish Council are not required to hold one this year.

Shalden Parish Council agreed electronically where regular Parish Council Meetings were concerned, that they should resume using a video conferencing app, and Zoom was chosen and kindly organised by Cllr Orme. Parish Council meetings would be held from July following the original timetable, which from now will be:

Wednesday 30th September at 8 pm

Wednesday 25th November at 8 pm

Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 8 pm

It was agreed today that face to face Parish Council meetings will only restart once the National Association of Local Councils and Society for Local Council Clerks are advised by central Government and agree that it is safe for these to commence. This poses a problem currently in that one of our Councillors does not currently have access to the internet, Cllr Hartgill is getting connected shortly and hopefully we will be able to help her to get ready to join remotely for the next meeting. Otherwise we can continue as today (Cllr Orme hosted Cllr Hartgill in his garden with a separate laptop, enabling all to join today's meeting.)

Annual Return: The new regulations which were live from 30th April 2020 have extended the audit deadlines, and also removed the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of July. Instead, the public inspection period must begin on or before 1 September 2020. Therefore, the AGAR (annual return) must be approved and published by 31 August 2020 at the latest. The date by which the completion of the final accounts and AGAR, together with any certificate or opinion issued by the local auditor, must be published has changed from 30 September 2020 to 30 November 2020. The SAAA advise that local authorities should inform the public where their dates may have significantly changed, by publishing the dates of their public inspection period.

7. Finance Update

7a. Final Accounts and Annual Return for the 2019/20 financial year: The Clerk shared copies of the final accounts and Annual return (AGAR) from the 2019/20 year. These were agreed as a true record and were signed off by the Chairman.

7b. Current Finance Update and Bank Reconciliation: the current years accounting was shared with the Parish Council, the current position is very healthy. The current bank balances were reconciled with the running account income and expenditure, an actual total balance of £6618.60 was reconciled with a balance of £6618.60 in the accounts by the Chairman.

7c. Alton FC Recreation Hire Cost 2020/21: Alton Football Club have approached the Parish Council and would like to start to use the recreation ground for training on a Saturday starting in August. They are currently unsure what the return to 'normal' football might look like or how long it might take – as with other recreational sports they are following a return pathway set out by their governing body.

The Clerk proposed a number of options to the Parish Council:

Option 1

Given the current uncertainty, the club are charged a fee for the season as last year but this year it's reduced to cost plus a little leeway. Suggest £500 split into four payments.

Option 2

Give maximum flexibility, but charge as per normal. Charges are per game or session but must be booked in a total block of ten to ensure that the income is VAT exempt.

Evening training session £15

Weekend training session £30

Match fee £30

Option 3

Charge a weekly hire fee of between £30 - 45 per week – again in ten week blocks, charge an approximate average.

Option 4

As per option 2, but don't use block bookings and don't claim back any VAT on charges related to the recreation ground this year.

These options were discussed and the first option unanimously decided upon to be proposed to Alton FC. Clerk to also amend the hire agreement for the 2020/21 season to include a paragraph asking that Alton FC take appropriate steps to follow Government and FA guidelines with respect to the current COVID pandemic and follow them whilst using our facility.

8. AOB:

- i. Cllr Wilson commented on the extensive work that has been done by Hampshire Highways filling in potholes on the Old Odiham Road and reported that residents are very pleased with the work that has been done.
- ii. Cllr Wilson asked that it be recorded that our Parish owes a lot to Loraine and Ian Champness for all of their hard work organising the 'Coronavirus Times' during the lockdown period. The Parish Council would like to thank Loraine and Ian.
- iii. The Chairman thanked Cllr Orme for facilitating today's virtual Parish Council Meeting.