



Shalden Parish Council

Minutes of the Shalden Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 8pm.

Present:

Cllr Andrew Shirvell (Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Hartgill
Cllr Tony Jenkins
Cllr Martin Nonhebel
Cllr David Orme
PCSO Katy Morning (Alton rural police)
Rob Wood (Clerk Shalden PC)
Thirty Shalden residents

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell: The Chairman welcomed everyone attending the Shalden Annual Parish Meeting. At the Chairman's discretion, item 7 was moved up the agenda ahead of the Village Hall Committee report.

2. Apologies: HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee, Bernard Dunk, Jenny Dunk, Ivan Aleksic, Lorraine Champness, Michelle Rankin and Janet Nonhebel.

3. Confirmation of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 23rd March 2018: The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

4. Shalden Parish Council annual report – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell: The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his work during a busy first year in post. There have been two major projects this year, the first being making the running of the parish council completely digital, including building a parish council website (www.shaldenpc.org). This contains everything about the council, from finance to meeting dates and minutes. The parish council now comply with the government's 2015 transparency legislation. This transformation was funded by the National Association of Local Councils Transparency Fund.

This year a considerable amount of work has been completed at the playing field. The main jobs have been installing a new septic tank and repairing the plumbing at the pavilion. This was largely funded by a number of grants which were applied for by the Clerk. The parish council would like to thank all of those who made a donation towards this, particularly the Village Hal committee for their generous donation, further improvement works are planned for this year. Alton FC under 12's (three teams) have been using the playing field this year, the rent from this has helped with maintenance costs including mowing the field. The football club are keen to volunteer to help with maintenance work and this coming year they hope to paint the pavilion.

Other matters include commenting on planning applications and pothole reporting using the HCC website. The issue of traffic speed on the Old Odiham Road has been revisited in

conjunction with Mark Kemp-Gee. The Clerk has been coordinating concerns from the Old Odiham Road residents about various issues and has pointed them to the correct procedure to deal with local authority matters. The Chairman thanked residents who took part in the recent litter pick, especially the Gardening Club and Rosalind Ommanney who organised it this year.

The precept has been maintained at £7000 for the 2019/20 year, which includes a contribution towards election costs if one is held.

The Chairman encouraged residents to stand for District or Parish Council as this is election year, and that this is your chance to have a say in local matters. The Chairman thanked our District Councillor, Glynis Watts, who is retiring this year for her input over many years, in particular a long campaign over the Fiddlers Field sewage treatment plant. Cllr Tony Jenkins and Cllr Martin Nonhebel who are standing down from the parish council this year were thanked for serving our community so well for many years. The Chair closed by thanking his fellow Councillors, Clerk and our County and District Councillors for their help and input this year.

5. Report from Alton Rural Policing Team - PCSO Katy Morning: PCSO Morning had checked what crimes had been reported in the Shalden area over the last 30 days, and there had been no reported crime – Shalden is a very safe parish, which is very good. The local police team do patrol the area in their cars, but have a large rural area containing a number of villages to attend to. PCSO Morning then moved on to discuss recent issues in Alton itself. There have been eight non-dwelling burglaries in the area in the last few weeks, which is rather high. Crime prevention such as checking locks on outbuildings, lighting and perhaps CCTV might be measures to think about that might help act as a preventative. There have been a number of reports of purse thefts, residents were advised against withdrawing large quantities of cash and spending this in supermarkets, as this will draw attention to you. So perhaps using card payment or small amounts of cash may help prevent this. Zip up handbags were recommended and it was suggested that you not leave your bag in the trolley. Another suggestion to help secure your purse was to buy a purse lanyard, which can be purchased online, which attaches your purse to your bag and has a bell on it, which will alert you to your purse being interfered with (here is an example, others are available https://www.amazon.co.uk/Purse-Alarm-Handbag-Device-Silver/dp/B0061N5L90/ref=pd_sim_60_1/258-1900744-3280722?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B0061N5L90&pd_rd_r=b7db58b0-5a06-11e9-afc1-6daec49bb716&pd_rd_w=msJif&pd_rd_wg=47rqE&pf_rd_p=1b8636ae-4f21-4403-a813-e8849dd46de4&pf_rd_r=T8YXJNBW9HRP3TFPZHEG&psc=1&refRID=T8YXJNBW9HRP3TFPZHEG).

6. Shalden Village Hall Committee report – Cllr Rosemary Hartgill: Cllr Hartgill began by saying that the Village Hall is still looking in good order, but there are a number of things that need attention on a day to day basis to keep it running as it is. One of the current issues is the drainage ditch becoming silted up causing the entrance to the car park to flood in heavy rain. The Beehive Nursery are still using it as their Shalden base and are still going strong. If anybody would like to hire the Village Hall, the details of how to do this are in the Villager.

The Mike Trapaud bench had now been installed and makes a good focal point in the village, thanks were given to all who had contributed towards this. The telephone box has now been refurbished and converted into a mini library.

The committee again put on a wonderful firework display in the playing field, there was a good turnout and the fireworks and food were enjoyed by all. Thanks were given to all who helped to make it such a success. Thanks were given to Cathy Boyes, who organised the children's Christmas party this year.

During the year, the Village Hall Committee made a generous donation to help with a problem with the drainage system in the playing field pavilion.

6a. Election of Village Hall Committee: the new committee are; Rosemary Hartgill (chairman), Mark Ommanney, Tim Gordon-Jones, Ian Holliday, Cathy Boyes, Nora Nash, Gary Rice-Martin and Debbie Todd. Bernard Dunk has resigned recently and thanks go to him for all he has done, Martin Nonhebel is also standing down, and his input will be missed. Proposer for the Village Hall Committee was Rosemary Hartgill and this was seconded by Sarah Floyd.

7. Village fête report – Peter Rankin: The fête this year was held at Shalden Park House on Sunday 24th June 2018, thank you to Michael and Linda Campbell. The traditional stalls and events proved as popular as ever, and in fact this year there were over 24 of these. There were new additions such as plate smashing and a teddy bear shy, which were firm favourites. A big thank you was given to the 60 volunteers from the parish who helped the fête in any way. The generous support of everybody who attended last year enabled £4000 to be raised for local causes. Please let Peter know if there is a local charity or good cause that you would like to add to the list. One of ten donated to was £400 towards a defibrillator for the village.

Luke and Jess Taylor have kindly offered to host the fête next year at Manor Farm, on Sunday 23rd June. Some investment has been made to help with future fêtes, with ten new tables and five gazebos bought.

8. Report from the Beehive Montessori (by the Chairman on behalf of Jan Driver): Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the Beehive at Shalden and we plan to mark this with a celebration, hoping that ex-children, parents and staff will be able to attend. It will also be the 15th year under the management of Jan and Annette.

This has been another busy year at the Beehive, with 16 children leaving to local reception classes. We held our annual sports day at the recreation ground, thanks to Rob for organising last minute repairs to allow this. We are exceptionally fortunate to have local fields and footpaths to explore and to be able to make regular use of our rural environment.

As with many local authority funded organisations, we face a significant challenge covering increasing staff costs under pressure from stagnating funding. This coming year this has meant that for the first time we have had to ask for a voluntary contribution towards food and consumables to help cover the shortfall in the coming year.

We have an active Facebook page and invite local people to follow us, liking and sharing our page helps to promote our setting to friends and family locally. We currently have 22 families on our books, with eight to start in September. Three of the families live in Shalden as well as two staff. Being in such a rural location, we rely on goodwill and positive word of mouth to make our nursery a success, thank you to the people of Shalden Parish in helping us to achieve this.

9. County Councillor report – Tom Floyd on behalf of Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee

a. County Matters:

This time last year I talked briefly about finance. As we now know County Council Tax is up 3% for the municipal year, EHDC's share is unchanged but the police share has gone up by 13%, making 20% over the last 2 years and we are promised 130 more front line police!

As we know, 2019/20 marks the end of Hampshire's RSG from central government – it was some £400 million in 2010. So apart from odd specific grants engendered to do the government's bidding or help where we are most severely stretched like adult and children's social care and roads, of course, Hampshire is becoming mostly self-financing. Approximately 5% of our total tax is raised and spent locally compared to 50% in the USA, Canada and France. So we send 95% of taxes up to London and get virtually nothing back except from the annual £1 billion Schools Budget which we administer and manage on behalf of central government. No wonder, with Central Government in a state of total sclerosis on all matters apart from, or should I say, including Brexit, the demand for massively increased devolution for Hampshire becomes stronger by the day. Our GDP is greater than Wales, which is now collecting all central and local taxes from this April onwards, like Scotland. Also, interestingly, IHT collected from the GU postcode is now greater than Wales and Northern Ireland combined! As it is, our schools are some of the best in England, with 92% of school children getting first choice placements despite numbers going up by around 8% per annum. Meanwhile we have the second lowest council tax in England. Our mantra at County is efficiency and pragmatism and I think without being complacent, we continue in that vein despite immense financial pressures.

Also we are substantial investors in infrastructure such as new roads, broadband and new and expanded schools in particular. We are also now taking responsibility for certain substantial housebuilding projects such as Manydown in Basingstoke. Our capital projects programme currently stands at over £800 million.

b. Shalden Matters:

It's been quite a busy year as far as my inter-relationship with the village is concerned. Working with the new and excellent Parish Clerk, County was able, through my devolved budget, to help facilitate the rebuilding of the septic tank at the sports pavilion, not the most glamorous of causes but incredibly useful, unlocking revenue opportunities at the sports ground. My work continued to assist hard-working and talented villagers in bringing fast broadband to the village and Odiham Road residents.

Traffic calming, the Golden Pot crossroads, the Avenue and comprehensive repairs to the Old Odiham Road are ongoing issues and I remain indefatigably supportive of the Parish on these issues. Going forward, I shall be looking at a Community Funded Traffic Calming Initiative for the whole parish in conjunction with your Parish Council and full details have recently been sent to the Clerk – more on that anon. I'm pleased, also, that we triumphed on the satnav front with regard to Upper Anstey Lane. I have a copy of the permanent TRO closing it to motorised traffic which I will let the Parish Clerk have in due course for the parish records.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Chairman and Parish Councilors as their four year term comes to an end with a new one beginning in May. They work hard on your behalf and I want to thank them for engendering the friendly and supportive spirit in which we work together thus making it considerably easier to do my job. Have a good evening and I hope to see you all soon.

10. Questions from Shalden Parish residents

a. For the Chairman

Q. Mrs Lee commented that the Butts Road Bridge works in Alton have increased traffic on the Old Odiham Road and expressed a concern about the safety of cyclists here as it is narrow and drivers try to squeeze past, which has resulted in a number of near misses. She asked whether there is a way to report these incidents?

A. The Chairman suggested that this type of incident could be reported if a registration number is captured to the police using 101.

Q. Mrs Sue Bottomley reported that there had been an incident of part of a large overhanging branch falling into a residents property narrowly missing a resident. She asked what can be done to maximise resident and road user safety in circumstances where tree branches significantly overhang the highway?

A. (Chairman) If a landowner has roadside trees they have a duty of care for those using the road. Landowners should inspect these trees once a year, any dead or diseased trees removed and a record kept of this. However outside authorities cannot force landowners to cut down branches if there is nothing wrong with the tree. The Chairman added that the rule on keeping the highway itself clear is that landowners must keep 4.5m above the highway clear of branches to allow large vehicles to pass safely.

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel said that he had observed that since the change of management, the 'Golden Pot' pub sign has been changed, so the pub no longer has this link to the area marked on an O/S map. He asked whether the Clerk could ask the new management if this could be restored?

A. This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 17th April. The parish council decided that they had no power to ask for this to be done and also felt that the name on the OS map refers to an area (Hamlet) rather than the pub specifically.

Q. Mr Luke Taylor asked whether there were any objections if he arranged for the fingerpost sign at the junction of Shalden Lane and Southwood Road to be painted.

A. There were no objections, the Clerk thanked Mr Taylor for undertaking this.

b. For PCSO Katy Morning

Q. A resident asked whether tackling hare coursing was a priority and how to best respond when intruders with dogs carrying weapons trespass onto your land?

A. Officers from Countrywatch are made aware and the local police will patrol the areas using information built up from the public to focus patrols on trouble areas to try and catch the people doing this. PCSO morning said that if the trespassers are not endangering you then phone 101 to report.

Q. Mrs Sue Bottomley asked are residents doing the right thing phoning 101 to report 'Nottingham Knockers'?

A. Yes that is the right thing to do, but if they become threatening or you are in fear of violence please ring 999. There is also online crime reporting that can be used (<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>) in this type of instance.

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel asked what role police have in council generated traffic problems in the area? In terms of organising diversion routes etc.

A. PCSO Morning's Sargent attends meetings discussing these diversions and the issues that they cause.

Q. The Chairman commented that as a user tip from personal experience reporting a crime using the website was a faster and easier route than using 101.

A. PCSO backed up that online reporting of crime for something that can be followed up at a later date is the most effective route.

c. For Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee; questions that were not able to be answered by the Chairman or Clerk on the night have been passed to Mark Kemp-Gee who has kindly offered to respond. Answers will be added to the minutes when received by the Clerk.

Q. Mr Peter Wilson (referring to recent parish council discussion regarding historical traffic calming measures) commented on the short sections of white lines that have recently been painted along the road edge of the Old Odiham Road to narrow the carriageway which he felt were poorly done and of no effect and asked how many potholes could have been repaired using this money?

A. (Clerk) This topic is one that has a long history and was discussed at the last parish council meeting. Briefly, the traffic calming measures that were discussed were a result of collaboration between the parish council and our County Councillor, Mark Kemp-Gee in 2012, in an attempt to improve traffic speed. HCC Highways carried out a detailed traffic speed and safety inspection of the Old Odiham Road through Shalden and their Highways department engineers put together a plan of traffic calming measures that were appropriate to the road at the time (a photograph of this and measures under discussion with Mark Kemp-Gee will shortly be available on the parish council website at <http://www.shaldenpc.org/community/shalden-parish-council-14940/news-and-whats-on/>). The measures included new signage and various changes to the road markings. These works were carried out in 2013, and were completed except for sections of carriageway edge markings. The recent markings were an additional measure actioned by Mark Kemp-Gee. The parish council wrote to Mark Kemp-Gee requesting that the original works be completed (the originally planned edge of carriageway markings were not completed), but due to the state of the road edges, this will not be possible. The parish council have been informed that no further expenditure will be made on traffic calming on the Old Odiham Road of any kind by HCC after advice from Hampshire Highways that their policy is that these works will now only

be undertaken in areas where there is sustained evidence of accidents where people are injured in the police database. Their drive to carry out traffic calming is evidence based road user safety. An alternative option of a Community Funded Initiative may be an option in this case, this has only just been passed to the parish council by Mark Kemp-Gee and will be discussed at the next parish council meeting on the 17th of April. Details can be found at the same web address given above.

In terms of pothole repair, if a resident reports a pothole using the HCC website it will be inspected and repaired regardless of any other spending in the area. Hampshire Highways reported that on the Old Odiham Road alone in the 2017/18 year (excluding any 'find and fix' or jet patching work) 15 specific pothole tasks were raised in the Old Odiham Road and 20 repairs completed, at a total cost of £4700.

Q. Cllr Martin Nonhebel said that road edge markings had been added to the edge of the roads in Shalden village some time ago and that he felt these did not make any significant difference. He asked whether the potholes that had recently been marked on Southwood Road would be completed as the end of the financial year was approaching? Will these be repaired if not done this financial year?

A. Repairs have been completed.

Q. Mr Gordon Anderson asked about the Golden Pot crossroads. He asked about why the speed limit at the Golden Pot crossroads is national speed limit when in surrounding areas the speed limit is 50 at local crossroads with better visibility. Also he wondered if the parish council could ask for a kerb to be put in round the hashed area (in the photo) at the Golden Pot corner to prevent drivers from swerving round the back of cars turning right from the B3349 from Odiham?

A. Please find the response to Cllr Kemp-Gee from Hampshire Highways below.

'We are progressing a scheme to provide a new Stop sign and associated road markings on the Lasham approach to the crossroads. Unfortunately, this has been complicated by the existing two lane approach to this arm which would not fit with the need to Stop rather than give way for left turning traffic. We have therefore decided to narrow this approach and remove part of the left hand lane with a temporary build out. We will consider the request made by your resident as part of this scheme. Effectively, the build out on the Lasham side will be the same scenario as the request but we are planning to use temporary kerbing to remove the left hand lane rather than a permanent scheme, at this stage. Therefore, we can also look at the other side at the same time. Once we have some drawings of the scheme I will forward them to you. The engineer looking after the scheme is away from the office this week but I shall ask for an update when she returns.

With regard to a reduction in the speed limit, surveys were completed at the approaches to the cross roads around a year ago and showed average speeds of 46.5 mph in one direction and 49.5 mph in the other. Whilst, these would be conducive to a 50 mph speed limit it is unlikely this would have the positive effect we'd be hoping for and may worsen the problem were drivers to assume they could safely negotiate the junction at speeds of 50mph . A lower limit of 40mph is unlikely to be adhered to without enforcement and would therefore not be supported by the police in the current financial climate. Unfortunately, given these results and the rural nature of the route on the B3349 a short section of reduced speed limit is not something we can currently pursue.

We did consider advisory Max Speed 40mph signs but these are limited by the Department of Transport to specific issues; sharp bends where the road layout is such that drivers may be misled or temporary situations either with 'loose chippings' signs or with the exclamation mark sign (other danger ahead).

Perhaps more positively our records suggest there have been no collisions involving injury at the junction in 2018 and so far in 2019 which may be due to the measures to upgrade the signage and road markings which we completed in October 2017'.

Q. Mrs Lee asked about whether the road could be re-marked at the junction between the Old Odiham Road and Froyle Road as they have worn away.

A. Clerk has reported to HCC.

Q. Mrs Sue Bottomley asked why do we have to have a national speed limit section between two 40 mph limit sections at the Froyle Road end of the Old Odiham Road as there are two sharp bends in this section and she feels that this limit is too fast? Is there any way that we can reduce it down to a 40 limit?

A. (Clerk) Referring back to my previous answer, HCC have informed the parish council that no further traffic calming works will be undertaken (including speed limit reduction) on the Old Odiham Road as this is not an area where there have been any reported accidents where people have been injured, which is where Hampshire Highways focus their spending under their policy. The Chairman added that there is also the option of a CFI which will be discussed at the next meeting, but we have only just received this information.

Q. Mrs Sarah Floyd asked whether there is any chance that a new salt box could be added on the corner of Shalden Lane next to the church sign, as the next salt box is some distance away and it is a dangerous corner in the winter.

A. The Clerk has requested a new salt bin at this location.

Q. Mrs Lisa Wilson asked about the effectiveness of signage at the top of the Old Odiham Road regarding restrictions on its use by HGV's.

A. The Clerk has asked Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee whether this signage might be improved in any way. The Clerk has also approached EHDC to enquire whether this route could be removed from the HGV suitable satnav route database. Cllr David Orme said that if the building site which a lorry is from can be identified, it is possible to approach the site foreman and ask that this route not be used into Alton. The Chairman also suggested that if a photograph could be taken of lorries committing an offence is taken, this can be reported to the police on 101, as the 6'6" width restriction is statutory legal requirement.

Q. Mr Gordon Anderson asked whether the surface in front of the post box could be tarmacked as it is very muddy?

A. The Clerk will enquire?

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everybody for coming to the meeting and let the residents know that the Clerk would forward any unanswered questions to Mark Kemp-Gee.