

SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APM

Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 8pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Andrew Shirvell (Parish Council Chairman), Katherine Horton (Parish Council Clerk) and 13 members of the public

Minutes

1. Chairman's welcome and introduction – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell

Cllr Shirvell welcomed everyone to the first APM since 2019. Attendees were advised that the meeting would include reports from local organisations as well as the local PC team and Cllr Kemp-Gee who were expected. Cllr Shirvell clarified the format of the meeting, informing attendees that questions could be asked, via the Chair, of each speaker when they conclude their presentation. Cllr Shirvell explained that any questions that could not be answered at the meeting would be noted by the Clerk and an update would be provided to the resident once the subject had been looked into.

2. Apologies received from Cllr Peter Wilson, Ms Dudley (Footpath Warden), Cllr Costigan and 3 residents.

3. Confirmation of minutes of last APM, Wednesday 27th March 2019. Cllr Shirvell confirmed that the minutes had been posted after the last meeting. No questions were raised by the attendees and so the minutes were duly signed.

4. Shalden Parish Council annual report – Cllr. Andrew Shirvell

- Since the last APM, Rob Wood stood down as Clerk. However, SPC were lucky to recruit Katherine Horton to the role in April 2021. Katherine has continued to modernise the PC and ensure that SPC meet all relevant standards of local governance.
- As is so often the case at this lower end of local government SPC continue to look after the mundane, smaller issues. Many of which SPC just act as a conduit to EHDC or HCC. SPC are custodians of the playing field and the village hall and in the case of the latter are grateful to the Village Hall committee for its management.
- On traffic which is an HCC matter, SPC have worked with Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee to improve safety at the Golden Pot crossroads. Potholes, verge cutting and road signs also fall to the HCC and can be reported online or to the Clerk. SPC have worked with residents, walkers and the landowner to resolve problems on BOAT 12 between the OOR and OR. Currently new legislation is being discussed to regulate traffic on BOATS, SPC are monitoring this.
- During the Covid lockdown meetings were moved online. Fortunately, this has now eased although numbers are very high. After some residents asked for more accessibility to the council, a review of communications took place. As a result:
 - Councillors can now be contacted by email
 - The website and EHDC website can be accessed through published QR codes
 - The PC website contains relevant information
 - Notices are posted on both parish noticeboards
 - The Villager contains articles where appropriate.

The Council feels it meets the standard required of local government.

- Planning also occupies SPC's time. Shalden Parish Council is a consultee and EHDC is the Planning Authority. Anybody can lodge a comment about a planning application, details are on the EHDC website. During 2021/22, Shalden Parish Council have received 31 applications to comment on. Any comments have to be considered at an open meeting which residents can attend. Should an application go to the EHDC Planning Committee, Shalden Parish Council

can also provide a speaker and we are lucky to have Cllr Dave Orme, who knows his way around the planning system, to represent us.

- SPC also has an active footpath warden, Helen Dudley who works with us to make sure footpaths are kept open. She is always keen to hear from volunteers who would like to help with the maintenance of paths.
- The playing field is used by villagers and rented by a local football team. Unfortunately, running this facility has become increasingly expensive; the rent from the football team does not cover the mowing charges, utilities are getting dearer and the pavilion (bought second hand, 20 years ago) will not last forever. SPC feel that in the near future, thought should be given to the use of this site. It may be that a landscaped park with trees and grass areas would be more appreciated in the future and Councillors would appreciate feedback on this over the next year from residents.
- The Council finances have been reviewed and the SPC precept has been increased from £7,000 to £8,500. This increase was agreed after considering the budget and commitments from 2022/23 and paperwork is available on the parish website for reference. The uplift at 21% compares with other parishes who have raised precepts from 23-29%. SPC have been guilty of not raising the precept regularly and dropped it by 0.5% last year.
- Cllr Shirvell closed by thanking Councillors, Rosemary Hartgill, Dave Orme, Bernard Stewart and Peter Wilson for all their hard work and time given freely on council matters. Thanks also to Katherine Horton for her hard work as our Clerk.

Questions for Cllr Shirvell

No questions raised but residents offered their thanks to the Chair and Councillors for their work for the community.

5. Shalden Village Hall Committee report – Cllr. Rosemary Hartgill

- The Committee were confirmed as Rosemary Hartgill (Chair), Ian Holiday (Secretary), Mark Ommanney (Treasurer), Cathy Taylor, Nora Nash, Debbie Todd, Bernard Stewart and Stephen Blake
- Committee members were thanked for their work in keeping everything going during the Covid lockdowns. It was observed that the day to day matters that need attention are many.
- Ian Holiday is stepping down from the Committee but will continue to organise the Jubilee events. Ian was thanked for his hard work in keeping the hall running smoothly.
- The good condition of the hall was noted: the floor has been resealed, the hall painted and external timber cladding has been replaced as well as fascia boards.
- Beehive Nursery is still using the hall and going strong.
- The next highlight in the social calendar is the Jubilee celebrations with a barn dance and other delights. Details are being shared in The Villager along with details of how the hall can be hired for private events.
- The Committee to be re-elected is Rosemary Hartgill (Chair), Mark Ommanney (Treasurer), Cathy Taylor, Nora Nash, Debbie Todd, Bernard Stewart and Stephen Blake. This was proposed and seconded by Mr and Mrs Floyd.

Questions for the Village Hall Committee

No questions raised

6. Report on Church of St Peter and St Paul – Peter Rankin

- Thanks were noted to Shalden Parish Council for the £200 grant towards the upkeep of the church yard.
- Attendees were advised that it had been over a year since the Diocese of Winchester announced a financial crisis and made 20 vicars redundant. Shalden along with 2 other

ecclesiastical parishes countered the proposal to merge with the Resurrection of Alton with the intent of maintaining their rural identity.

- Progress is slow and an update was provided in the last edition of The Villager. A further meeting with the Arch Deacon is due in the next couple of weeks.
- Thanks were noted to Andrew Micklefield for allocating clergy to carry out the two services a month at Shalden while the plans are finalised.
- It was confirmed that the Fabric Fund is protected so donations for the church are kept separate to those relating to running costs.
- Mr Rankin advised that the infrastructure of the Church is in good condition with a new bellcot, shiny weathervane and refurbishment work on the organ being completed. A Service of Thanks is scheduled for Sunday 29th May at 5pm which the Bishop of Basingstoke will attend.

Questions for the Church Warden

No questions raised

7. Platinum Jubilee events – Mark Ommanney

- Plans for both 4th and 5th June are taking shape and full details will be provided in the next edition of The Villager.
- A commemorative book will also be produced including photos of families outside their homes. This will provide a snapshot of the Shalden community in 2022. Mrs Champness has offered to help take photos if necessary and ideally pictures should be submitted by Easter.
- Thanks noted to Ian Holliday who has spearheaded planning for the event and to Cllr Tony Costigan for his grant of £1,000 from EHDC.

No questions raised by attendees

8. Village fête report – Peter Rankin.

- 2019 was last Fete and £4,250 and went to local causes.
- The fête will be hosted by Michael Campbell and will take place on 19th June.
- Volunteers from the community will be required to help make the event a success.

No questions raised by attendees

9. Questions from Shalden Parish residents

Q. In terms of the proposal for the Rec., would it help reduce costs?

A. Cllr Shirvell advised that there would likely be an initial capital cost but then lower maintenance costs. Cllr Shirvell clarified that the proposal he had shared was merely an idea or starting point for discussion and no real plans had yet been made. The subject has been brought up during budget planning and the Cllrs were keen to get residents thinking about the subject and sharing ideas.

Q. Has the PC thought about whether development could take place at the Rec?

A. No and not in a position to confirm this at the meeting. The paperwork would need to be referred to and covenants reviewed. Cllr Shirvell confirmed that the Rec is outside of the EHDC planning area and therefore new building would be unlikely to get approval.

Q. In previous years a litter pick has taken place. Is one planned for this year in the village?

A. No date confirmed but would propose Sunday 3rd April. Mr Ommanney will share the details at the next Gardeners Club meeting on 2nd April. Clerk will email previous helpers. Ms Bottomley confirmed picking equipment is available for use if Old Odiham Road wish to run a pick on another date.

Q. The concrete kerb at Golden Pot is not very visible. Could anything be done to improve this?

A. Clerk can follow up with Highways and Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee to see how visibility can be addressed.

Q. Queen's green canopy is being promoted for the Jubilee year and Shalden could dedicate a tree.

A. Cllr Stewart has been in touch with the Woodland Trust and can obtain 70 whips for planting in Shalden. Planting must take place on community owned land or open space. Whips will be delivered in November for planting so decisions will be needed in due course on where they will go.

Q. Has football team renewed its hire agreement for 2022?

A. Current seasons in progress and a renewal for 2022/23 will be discussed in June. The current arrangement brings in some monies towards the maintenance of the Rec but costs will increase: utilities and tractor diesel.

Q. Submitted ahead of the meeting "Has the Parish Council ever considered the option of having a Parish Meeting rather than a Parish Council, with the savings in administration that would accrue, and especially in the light of the very considerable increase in costs of the precept on the rates of 21% in this coming year?"

A. This is not something that has been considered and it is unclear what savings would be generated: a parish meeting still has to cover any expenses incurred in carrying out its responsibilities. Clerk can investigate this further and provide an update to the resident.

Cllr Shirvell thanked the residents for attending the meeting and closed the event

Meeting closed 20:41