



## Shalden Parish Council

**Minutes** of Shalden Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 8.00 pm.

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

**Also in attendance:** Rob Wood (Clerk)

**1. Apologies:** David Orme and EHDC Cllr Tony Costigan.

**2. Open Session:** No comments.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 were reviewed, agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising:**

- i. Finance: an agreement has been come to with Alton FC for season long hire of the Recreation Ground for £780.
- ii. HGV usage of the 6'6" restricted section of the Old Odiham Road: Clerk contacted EHDC to enquire what progress had been made removing this route from HGV TomTom routes and adding a 'no HGVs' sign to the existing signage. Clerk awaiting response.
- iii. 'Court, Southwood Rd' licence for access over the Village Hall car park: agreement finalised waiting for solicitor to send copies for signing.
- iv. Pavilion kitchen heater: Clerk checked back to installation of new heater in 2018, advice was that the existing heater was of the correct type and wattage for its use and so will not be replaced.

**5. Correspondence:**

- i. Fly tipping of a large amount of garden machinery in woodland bordering Fiddlers Field was reported to EHDC, who quickly responded, visited the site and wrote to residents in the area asking for any information they might have.
- ii. Clerk contacted our County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee about recent relining of the central markings the whole length of the Old Odiham Road. Cllr Wilson alerted the Clerk to this and the Clerk asked for the lining to be returned to that of the 2012 Hampshire Highways plan, Clerk is awaiting a response.
- iii. EHDC planning: continuing with investigation into a breach of planning regarding the signage on the Kapadokya Restaurant at the Golden Pot crossroads.

**6. Planning:** Four planning applications were currently active (28652/019, 28652/020, 28652/021 and 56316/001), the Parish Council had no comments to return.

**7. Finance:** The Clerk reported that there had been a break in attempt at the Recreation Ground Pavilion, which resulted in significant damage to the main door and frame, protective grid and locks. Work to repair this and make the Pavilion usable was quickly done by DC

Andrews at a cost of £1015. A claim for the work was put into the Parish Council's insurance company (Ecclesiastical) and a payment of £592 from them is expected shortly.

The current financial position is that there is £2718.15 in the current account and £2065.80 in the business reserve account. The second Precept payment of £3500 from EHDC is expected by the end of September. The current prediction is for the final income and expenditure to be on budget. The Clerk has worked 128 hours between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and the Parish Council agreed a payment of £1408 for this period.

Cllr Wilson asked what the different bank accounts were for and whether there was any benefit in having monies split between the two, also whether the reserves held by the Parish Council were appropriate. The Clerk explained that the current account was used for regular spending and had been running in surplus recently. The Reserve account was separate to be earmarked for funding in an emergency. Also that a reasonably large reserve was necessary to allow working capital to be available to fund larger unexpected projects upfront (such as the new septic tank at the Recreation Ground), as whilst funding was available to help it can take time for that money to reach the Parish Council.

Previous Parish Council Donations were discussed. The Clerk explained that due to changes in legislation (Section 137, Local Government Act), the Parish Council would no longer be able to make donations in the manner it had done previously. Clerk to contact HALC for guidance.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that Cllr Stewart and Cllr Wilson be added as signatories to the Council's bank accounts. Clerk to circulate electronic application.

**8. EHDC Local Plan 2017-36:** The section of the Local Plan currently under consultation is the 'Large Developments' section (over 600 houses each). Cllr Stewart gave a summary of the information gathered from the drop in event held at Forest Community Centre, Bordon which he attended. Ten sites are currently being considered of which two will be chosen and two are in the Alton area. Speaking to representatives for the Chawton Park site, the development was well designed and would provide very good community facilities. However the representatives (Redrow and Savills) felt that this site was unlikely to be approved due to the recent large developments in Alton. This site if not approved in this round may be considered at a later date. The Neatham Down site had a different approach and was driven by the landowner. The plans again were well thought out and had been prepared by an urban designer. There was provision for a new school and footpaths linking into Alton. Cllr Stewart's feeling was that it was unlikely that either site would be included in the large developments selected at this stage. The Chairman thanked Cllr Stewart for attending the drop in event and for giving such a helpful summary.

There was then a good discussion between the Councillors about the potential impact on our Parish from an additional large development in either of these areas. The main concern as agreed by all was the potential increased demand on GP surgeries used by our residents in Alton. Cllr Stewart had visited his GP surgery for some feedback on how much this would impact upon them. They said that they ideally aim for 1500 patients per full time GP plus support staff, and had some concerns over space available to be able to achieve this. Cllr Stewart volunteered to return feedback on behalf of the Parish Council on this point.

**9. Select an additional Parish Councillor to sit on Village Hall Committee:** There is currently a position vacant for a Parish Councillor on the Village Hall Committee (there are usually two representatives from the Parish Council). Cllr Stewart volunteered to join the Village Hall Committee, this was unanimously agreed.

**10. AOB:**

- i. The Clerk asked if a hire agreement should be prepared for the Fireworks display. It was agreed that this should be done and checked by Ian Holliday. The reason for the agreement is to make clear what insurance liability the Parish Council is responsible and has cover for itself.
- ii. The Chairman asked the Clerk to have the fingerpost sign on the A339 repaired.
- iii. The Clerk raised an email that he had just received as part of a community email group raising the idea of installing a community CCTV system after the recent run of crime in our area. The Clerk thought that it was important for the Parish Council to be aware of residents concerns and to discuss this idea. The Parish Council's thoughts were summarised and returned to the group by email, a copy of this can be found below in Appendix A.
- iv. Our District Councillor, Tony Costigan was invited to our September Parish Council meeting but was unable to attend, the Chairman asked that the Clerk invite him to the next meeting.
- v. The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**APPENDIX A**

'The Parish Council would like to thank you for your interest in the safety of those living in the Parish and had a good debate about the idea of putting up some type of community CCTV camera system, please find some thoughts from them that they thought might help below.

They felt that this would not be practicable in our scattered rural environment. The crime that has taken place has been scattered around a large area - out the back of the Lodge a long way from the road, the recreation ground and some scattered throughout the Village. The result of this was that even if it might be possible to cover a wide enough area with the cameras, to do so the cost would be prohibitively high.

They wondered who would monitor the system? A remotely operated system works well for an individual property as there is little footfall, but would not be practical here. Would someone be paid to watch the cameras all night? Who would download and manage all of the data?

It is worth noting that some of the Parish Councillors use CCTV themselves at home, which they felt was a reassuring security precaution personally. However a discussion was had as to how useful the data itself might be in achieving your goal of essentially catching the responsible party. There were a number of examples given of CCTV data being of no use even when good quality images had been provided to the police, and none of this in any case helping even identify a suspect let alone securing a conviction. Luke Taylor's recent images

are a good example of this. It was also suggested that most of these cases happened in the evening or overnight, we have no road lighting in any part of the Parish, so the chances of getting any good quality images must be reduced.

Data protection is also an issue here - the data itself would need to be very carefully managed and if a member of the Village did not want their image kept, you would need to be able to go through all of the images and delete those. Also there may be legal issues relating to cameras recording parts of peoples land who do not want to have cameras pointing at them. How would you manage that?

The conclusion was that in the Parish Council's opinion, the use of a community wide CCTV system would not be suitable for the reasons above. They did encourage you and other residents to install CCTV at your own properties, but cautioned that if you do you are legally required to advertise that you are capturing peoples images where you are doing so and to be careful to take others into consideration where a camera might be capturing images of their property or of public land.

I encourage residents to use the Parish Council website. I keep all up to date with topics such as security issues in the Parish and post relevant help and advice. The Parish Council have been in touch with Alton Rural Police about this to do what they can to seek their help. All residents do need to make sure that they keep reporting any issues to our local Police force'.