



## Great Shefford Parish Council

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### Minutes from Thursday 10 January 2019

**Present: Cllr S Ackrill (Chairman), Cllr P Storey, Cllr G Knass, Cllr B Williams, Cllr E Bell and Clerk K Lloyd. 4 members of the public present.**

- 1) **Apologies** - Cllr S Laws.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** – on agenda items - None
- 3) **Open Forum** (time limit at Chairman’s discretion)  
**Shooting complaint (see item 13)**

4) **Planning-**

**18/03221/HOUSE**

Northfield Farm. Single storey timber orangery (following demolition of existing building) and a replacement window.

<http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=18/03221/HOUSE>

Councillors agreed to ‘Support’ this application.

**18/03099/HOUSE - South Hidden Farm, Ermin Street, Shefford Woodlands**

Creation of a natural swimming pond in the garden area east of the house. The pond will be naturalistic in appearance and will be designed to look like an established (but clean) wildlife pond.

<http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=18/03099/HOUSE>

Councillors agreed to ‘No Objections’ on this application.

Decision notice – Lewis Industrial Court - Demolish existing industrial units and erect 3 detached dwellings with new access and off-road parking was ‘Granted’ by WB

- 5) **Minutes** 6 December 2018- were proposed for adoption by Cllr Storey and Cllr Williams seconded, Cllr Ackrill signed the minutes as a true and correct record.

6) **Finance**

a) **Bank Accounts on 12 December 2018**

Great Shefford Parish Council	£14,035.17
Recreation Ground Account	£10,221.59

**b) Cheques to be approved in this meeting.**

S/O	K.Lloyd –Clerk	£570.82
100410	K.Lloyd (for payment of M&S Gift to Mr J Liddiard £33.99 & backpayment £121.68 ref.item 7)	£155.67
100411	Clere Group Limited	£552.00
100412	SSE Contracting Ltd (fixing light O/S 13 The Mead)	£176.00

DD	SSE (to be collected 10 Jan) Qtr 3.	£118.47
100413	FCC Recycling	£25.40
100414	Autela Group Limited (Oct, Nov, Dec)	£46.80

## 7 Clerks payments

The Clerk was recently notified via BALC of a salary increase from April 2018 to the 'NALC Clerk Salary Scale' the clerk has been underpaid from April 2018 to date following the new SCP scale point.

The Clerk read out the figures to Council. Councillors agreed to pay the backdated salary for the financial year (31.3.19) totalling £121.68.

The Clerk also reported she had taken on extra employment and warned council of NI implications; a member of the public highlighted there should not be any NI payable by Council. The Clerk said she would go back to being paid by cheque from the new financial year (April Meeting) to allow for any alterations to monthly payment if applicable.

## 8 Newsletter Funding

Following the last meeting the newsletter team started a survey from the Councils request to gain feedback from the residents on their thoughts of the newsletter following the request for financial help from Parish Council due to the increasing costs of funding the newsletter.

The Treasurer of the Parish News reported 80% said they would be happy to increase the cost of the newsletter to £1.00. The feedback so far was the newsletter keeps people in touch with what is going on in the village and it is a great method for communication. The Treasurer had not yet had time to obtain further quotes for printing costs/format options. The Treasurer said a survey will be done via social media to gain more feedback; payments also needed chasing for local advertisements before a full account summary could be given to Council. Cllr Ackrill said he did not think £1.00 was unreasonable for the newsletter and confirmed with the newsletter team that the cost had not been increased from 40p for the last 10-15 years. Cllr Bell said it was a great magazine.

Once the Council receives more information, they can give a financial decision to the request.

## 9 Damaged Fence

The Cllrs discussed the fence damage along the Swan footpath. The Clerk confirmed it was covered by the insurance with a £250 excess. It was agreed the fence cannot be replaced like for like as the damage keeps reoccurring from vehicles mounting the footpath and hitting the fence. This is becoming a financial liability; Cllr Ackrill said we have a duty care to the pedestrians and something different needs to be done as the fence cannot be removed. A member of the public raised the option of perhaps putting boulders in front of the fence which might prevent vehicles from hitting the fence. The Council will give the matter some thought.

On-going.

## 10 Flood Alleviation Scheme update

Cllr Ackrill said there is now £63,405. We need to raise £10,000 which would then be match funded to reach our target of £80,000.

The Environmental Agency are actively working on it, the Great Shefford Alleviation Scheme is the second highest priority in Berkshire.

If you would like to donate- Please click on the link.

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/12191/great-sheffield-flood-alleviation-association/great-sheffield-flood-alleviation-scheme>

Or go to [www.thegoodexchange.com](http://www.thegoodexchange.com) and find the project by number 12191.

**If any volunteers would be interested in coming forward to run the Country Fayre this year, this could be a great fundraiser for the scheme.**

**11 Cllr Questions and reports**

Cllr Storey reported the 30mph speed sign was down on the Mead Junction, the Clerk will report to WB. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill thanked everyone who showed up to help take the Christmas tree down, the slab of concrete left on the green will be removed by Cllr Ackrill in due course. Council thanked Cllr Ackrill. **Cllr Ackrill**

**12 Clerk Correspondence**

The Clerk reported WB had looked at the Alleyway leading to the Swan and said the footpath is reasonably safe with no immediate hazard; no further action will be taken. It will however go onto the list for consideration for improvement in the new financial year.

The Clerk asked SSE (street Lights) for a revised quote as we have come off the current tariff, the cost has risen by £6.00 a month.

The Clerk received an email from a resident concerning the shooting and footpaths which was also raised in this meetings open forum (see item 13)

**13 Matters for future consideration following the Open Forum**

A resident asked Council to clarify the legal position of a track (from the church to the black barn) as the resident was told he was trespassing when a shoot was on.

The Council clarified It is a private track and as long as we don't get complaints from other residents the Council agreed things are best left as they are, but the situation will be monitored. The Council felt this was a personal matter between the resident and the shoot. This item was discussed not so long ago and it was agreed in this meeting there is nothing more to discuss. The matter is closed.

**Next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Close**