



**Great Shefford Parish Council**

Clerk to The Parish Council: Mrs Kim Lloyd

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**GREAT SHEFFORD MINUTES**

**MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.40PM.**

**Present:** Cllr. Ackrill (Chair), Cllr. Bell (Vice), Cllr. Knass, Cllr. Williams, Cllr. Piers.

**Clerk:** Mrs K Lloyd.

**Attendance:** District Cllr Hooker and 2 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED.**

Apologies received from Cllr. McCarthy.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS.**

No Declarations of interest.

**3. OPEN FORUM- un minuted**

A member of the public spoke about an offer of free trees for schools and communities from the Woodland Trust. (See item 16)

A request to Parish Council to help regarding the trees behind Blakeney Fields which are blocking light in one resident's house. The Clerk will investigate ownership of the trees.

**4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

None received.

**Decision Notice**

**19/01606/HOUSE -Foremans House, Wickfield Farm. Ermin Street, Shefford Woodlands.** Section 73. Removal of Condition 3 (Garage or storage use only) and 5 (no cooking facilities or equipment) of previously approved application 03/01353/HOUSE (approved on appeal) Proposed two storey garage and ancillary accommodation over Foremans House, Wickfield Farm.  
WBC **Refuses** the application.

**5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm and adopt the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 4 JULY 2019.

**6. FINANCE**

a) Bank Accounts - Balances on 12 August 2019

Parish Council	£15,178.35
Recreation Ground Account	£10,221.59

b) Payments made in between meetings

100437	IJ Agricultural and Equestrian Fencing (Rec Fence)	£1201,92
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c) Cheques approved in this meeting

S/O	Kim Lloyd (Parish Clerk) August	£612.17
S/O	Kim Lloyd (Parish Clerk) September	£612.17
DD	SSE -(Street Lights Electricity) QTR 1	£126.23
100438	Willis and Ainsworth (Rock Salt)	£187.00

100439	S & S Management Ltd (July & Aug)	£876.00
100440	West Berkshire District Council (Library donation)	£200.00
100441	Steve Ackrill (payment for gate Latch for Rec Field)	£9.61
100442	FCC Recycling (UK)Ltd (2 x Invoices)	£63.50
100443	Great Shefford Village Hall - Rent	£60.00
100444	Autela Payroll Services –QTR 1 & QTR 2	£86.31
100445	Came and Co Insurance	£1,304.69
100446	Postage – 2 <sup>nd</sup> class Stamps	£7.32
100447	Connecting Communities in Berkshire – (Subs item 7)	£32.00

#### **7. CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire)**

Members of the Parish Council agreed to renew the subscription for membership of £32 for 2019.

#### **8. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE.**

In 2017 the Parish Council signed a 3 year agreement, it is not something the Council can opt out of, it is a legally binding agreement, and this expires in September 2020. The Parish Clerk will obtain 3 quotes in 2020.

#### **9. SPEEDING -A338.**

The Parish Council was copied into correspondence from yet another concerned resident over the speeding along the A338. WBC Highways had replied to the resident saying enforcement of the speed limit is of course a police responsibility. In addition to police enforcement there are other speed intervention initiatives in place which the Parish Council has signed up to, such as the Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme. A request to change this length of road to a 30mph limit was considered by their Speed Limit Task Group in October 2016. After reviewing the necessary data, such as accident history, speed and traffic volume survey results and the level of roadside development it was decided that a change was not justified. In this location of linear housing development on one side of the road there is no reason for pedestrians to cross the road in numbers and road safety risk to that group of road users is low. Forward visibility is also good on this long straight length of A338 and drivers should be able to anticipate and react to traffic entering the road from side entrances and adjust their speed accordingly.

The Parish Council once again debated the speeding issues but is at a loss on what more they can do, without permission from the local authorities for a Speed Camera to be installed, they simple have no other resources!

District Cllr. Hooker present in the meeting said there is a Speeding Issue in most villages and trying to find a solution is difficult, it was also found that most offenders were the ones that ironically lived in the village.

The Clerk said she had read an article regarding a village (not local) where Children made notices which were staked in the ground to slow drivers, this grabbed the attention of drivers and the Clerk read reports of successful results from this, with the help of social media!

The Clerk mentioned this in the Chaddleworth Parish Council (CPC) meeting when a resident of Chaddleworth that works at the School was attending the CPC meeting, they said they would ask the Head of the School if this was something the School could support.

#### **10. BOLLARDS ON THE CORNER OF THE MEAD**

A request was received from a resident to ask the Members of Council to consider installing Bollards on the corner of The Mead. The Parish Clerk was asked to find out the exact location of where the Bollards were proposed to go. Item to be added to the October agenda.

**11. HEDGES ADJACENT TO FOOTPATHS.**

The Parish Council received reports of hedges overgrowing onto footpaths, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk on the path. The offending hedge has now been cut back.

**The Parish Council remind residents of hedges adjacent to footpaths that it is their responsibility to keep them from encroaching onto the public right of way.**

**12. RECREATION GROUND FENCE UDATE**

The fence is now complete and the Parish Council are very pleased with the result. Cllr. Ackrill had also repaired the gate latch.

**13. STREET LIGHT QUOTES – SOX REPLACEMENT TO LED.**

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact SSE for a quote following feedback from the Lamborne Parish Clerk who said they had a variety of different streetlights that SSE had always provided the correct LED replacement and would highly recommend them.

**Action Clerk** – obtain a quote from SSE.

**14. FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Cllr. Ackrill reported the Environmental Agency (EA) want £600,000 contingency fund before they start the work. Cllr. Ackrill challenged the EA on why so much? The EA said on projects the contingency fund is used most of the time. Cllr. Ackrill then provided figures to the EA to debate that a cheaper method could be reached. Following on-going communications, the EA has asked Steve Ackrill if he would Project Manage (PM) the work.

Cllr. Ackrill expressed to the Members of Parish Council the work will not start for a long time if this amount of funding is what EA believe they need. Cllr. Ackrill “in principle” agreed to PM. The offer is still to be made in writing and pending acceptance. Cllr. Ackrill has been talking with all departments at WBC regarding PM. The project would become ownership of the Parish Council with responsibility of the ongoing maintenance. West Berkshire Council (WBC) legal team said they would look at the offer and contract for the Parish Council, WBC appeared to be keen to help.

Cllr. Ackrill said Great Shefford have done an amazing amount of work to achieve their agreement of the £80,000 share of funding towards this scheme and he was very concerned that the work was not going to start anytime soon if left to the EA. This maybe the only way to get it done sooner and guarantee dry feet in people’s homes!

Members of Council gave their support to Cllr Ackrill.

Cllr. Ackrill’s proposed saving £1,000.00 a year into the Flood Alleviation Scheme for ongoing maintenance should the scheme be implemented at a local level. Cllr’s. Williams and Knass seconded this and all other members agreed. The Clerk will add this to the budget if the scheme goes ahead in this way.

Cllr. Ackrill reported another Metal Detection day was being planned soon to raise more funds. It would be good to raise more to enable to pay the fees to the Good Exchange.

**15. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS AND REPORTS.**

No further reports.

**16. CLERK CORRESPONDENCE.**

The Clerk reminded Members of Council of the following:

- Cllr Clive Hooker- District Councillor report for the Parish Council for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. (For a full report, please email the Clerk)

- West Berkshire Climate Conference –Monday 28 October, a free event will be held at Newbury College from 10-4pm. [West Berkshire Climate Conference - Tickets](#)
- The District Parish Conference -22<sup>nd</sup> October between 6pm till 8pm. (max 3 Members of Council can attend).

North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust – become a supporter/donation. The Parish Council agreed not to donate at this time.

Free trees for schools and communities – Woodland Trust. This offer was spoken about in the open forum by a resident keen to pursue, the next offer of delivery for free trees would be March 2020. Cllr. Storey said he would talk to the school about the offer.

More conversations would be needed on where to plant the trees.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Cllr Storey</b>	Speak to the School
	<b>All</b>	Thoughts on where to plant the trees.

**17. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.**

Free Trees – Woodland Trust.

Trees behind Blakeney Fields.

Street Lights quote.

Bollards on The Mead.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

To confirm the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

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