



Great Shefford Parish Council

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GREAT SHEFFORD MINUTES MEETING HELD ON 7th JANUARY 2021. THIS WAS A REMOTE MEETING.

Cllr's Present:

Cllr. S. Ackrill (Chair)

Cllr. B. Williams

Cllr. S. McCarthy

Cllr. R. Hale-Power

Cllr. P. Storey

Parish Clerk: K. Lloyd

Attendance: 3 Members of the Public.

The Clerk announced this meeting will be recorded for minute purposes and the recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved.

1 APOLOGIES

The Parish Council received Liz Bell's resignation following the last meeting. The Councillors all thanked Liz for her time, efforts, and hard work, while on the Parish Council.

The Clerk will advertise the vacancy once the West Berkshire Council (WBC) Monitoring Officer is notified.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. McCarthy raised a declaration of interest regarding item 6, the allocation of Land West of Spring Meadows.

3 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Councillors agreed to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd December 2020, Cllr. Storey proposed and Cllr. Hale-Power seconded.

4 OPEN FORUM

Nothing raised.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

No Planning Applications received.

Just for Information.

20/02819/AGRIC - Land to the north of East Shefford Farm

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Agricultural barn for the storage of hay. <http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=20/02819/AGRIC>

Decision Notices

20/02431/HOUSE - Harwood Cottage, Church Street.

WBC granted permission for a conversion of existing garage into new study and utility room, new front porch, replacement of external staircase and small infill extension to rear elevation.

6 **EMERGING DRAFT OF THE WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW TO 2037**

(Consultation deadline 05/02/2021 – allocation of Land West of Spring Meadows for 15 dwellings)

The Parish Council agreed to get this message out to the village through a public notice and using Facebook. It will be asked if the public could copy in the Parish Council (if they wish to), by emailing the Clerk, when submitting comments to WBC.

The Parish Council can then take these comments into consideration when drafting a response in their next meeting.

The Parish Council agreed some of the concerns that WBC need to consider are the height of the field, as the dwellings will overlook the current properties. Also, flooding and sewage issues were discussed.

ACTION: Clerk.

7 **TRAFFIC CALMING /PARKING ISSUES**

The Parish Council received the following email from the Senior Engineer (Traffic) in WBC.

.....With regard the parking issues in the village, these will be considered separately from the area of the bend and will form part of a future parking scheme that will investigate numerous parking problems across the district. My colleague who deals with parking proposals is aware of the concerns that were raised over the summer in relation to the parking outside the pub and the PC was copied into email exchanges. Parking restrictions can be considered at the Church Street junction and other internal junctions to address local concerns and a bus stop Clearway marking can also be provided outside the pub to prevent parking close to the entrance, but we will contact the PC and Ward Member to discuss this further when we get to that stage.

As the PC will be aware from when parking restrictions were proposed at the junction of The Mead in 2016, there can be a lengthy legal process involved with parking proposals and if objections are received this can significantly delay implementation.

With this in mind please direct any parking concerns the PC has at other sites around the village to my colleague Alex Drysdale so that they can be included when the issues outside the pub are addressed in a scheme later this year.

The Parish Council agreed to add this item to an agenda once they have heard more from WBC, however in the current lockdown nothing will be happening anytime soon.

8 **FENCE AT BOTTOM OF HUNGERFORD HILL**

The Clerk reported she had contacted the vehicle driver's insurance company that damaged the fence and had forwarded the quote to repair the fence. They have confirmed they are processing the claim.

The Parish Council received the following email from the Senior Engineer (Traffic) in WBC.

A338 – Bottom of Hungerford Hill

.....Given the recent damage to the fence line at this location a review of the current traffic signs will be undertaken. This will entail a detailed analysis of the existing direction signs and explore the possibility of introduced additional chevron type signs or combining the signs as a whole unit in accordance with current sign design regulations.

As the existing fence line at this location is not on highway land and is not a highway structure, I have to inform you that we are unable to take any further action with this item. Whilst the Parish have clearly spent a considerable amount of effort and resources to introduce this feature it is nevertheless not within the bounds of the Public Highway. Should the Parish wish to consider installing some form of barrier or bollards as an alternative careful consideration needs to be given as to how the items are installed, maintained and any claims arising from it.

As a general rule highway authorities do not introduce physical restraint features for the purpose of protecting private property and particularly not on low speed roads.

A338 / Newbury Road Junction

Whilst the vehicle overrun to the south east of this location is clearly unsightly and an inconvenience for pedestrians this is an inevitable and common occurrence in the more rural of locations within the district and we do not have the resources to remedy it, particularly at this time of the year.....

An email was received from a resident saying the mess had not been cleared up at the bottom of Hungerford Hill. Cllr. Ackrill was kind enough to clear the area.

Another resident had then approached Cllr. Ackrill, who donated the land for that end of the path, and suggested a fence, as it was donated for a footpath and not an extension to the road. Cllr. Ackrill said this is a valid point and we need to consider replacing the fence along this section to keep the traffic away, as the path is getting narrower and the road is getting wider.

The Parish Council agreed the whole section needs to be considered when obtaining further quotes, in preparation for the area to be done all at once to reduce costs.

Cllr. Ackrill said he would try and obtain some quotes before the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr. Ackrill/All

9 SPEEDING – WANTAGE END OF VILLAGE

The Senior Road Safety Officer at WBC said no Community Speed Watch (CSW) is available due to the current COVID-19 situation. but will let the Parish Council know when it can be deployed. As reported in the last meeting due to no resources in WBC, a Councillor will be invited to the WBC offices to help put the data into a format to forward onto the Police. The Police will send letters to the registered keeper of the vehicle that exceeds the speed limit.

The VAS along the A338 was now reported to be repaired.

10 FOOTBRIDGE DAMAGE

The Senior Engineer (Highway Structures) WBC confirmed that they have carried out an inspection and considered the footbridge to be in a safe and usable condition at the present time. The impact had slightly moved the footbridge, but it is still firmly sitting on the abutments with all the deck boards and handrails intact with only minor damage to one of the handrail rails, however they can

confirm that they are progressing through their programme of works and will endeavour to prioritise the relocation of the footbridge as soon as resources are available.

11 **FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Cllr. Ackrill said there is nothing further to report, especially during the Christmas period. The Business Case has been submitted and Cllr. Ackrill had provided an article about the scheme to keep everyone up to date in the December Parish Newsletter. Cllr. Storey said, if needed he would be able to attend and support Cllr. Ackrill at the Environmental Agency meetings.

12 **FINANCE**

Members **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm the payments for January as shown in Appendix 1. The Cashflow 2020/21 for January was noted.

(All finance documents emailed to members of the Parish Council before the meeting)

13 **TO CONFIRM THE PRECEPT**

The budget was set in the last meeting. It was agreed to set the precept at £16,000 but it was also agreed to wait for the Tax Base Figure to ratify this. The Tax Base Figure was provided, and this is equivalent to £38.25 per annual for the Parish Council contribution in a Band D household. Cllr. Storey proposed and Cllr. Hale-Power seconded, and all Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm the Precept of £16,000.

(A copy of the budget is available from the Clerk)

14 **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS / CAROLS**

The Parish Council thanked Charles Parry at Templars Farm who kindly donated the tree again this year. Cllr. Ackrill will take the concrete slab away in due course where the tree was erected. New Christmas lights were purchased from the £100 that was donated from WBC members bid.

Cllr. Ackrill said, he, Cllr. Williams and George Fry all helped put the new Christmas lights up with the gazebo in the Recreation Ground for the social distanced carol service led by Revd. Miri.

The Parish Council thanked Revd. Miri, and all who helped set up and attend the carol service.

The Clerk and Cllr. Ackrill will look at purchasing a luminated Star for the top of the tree for next year, as there are leftover funds left from the WBC donation.

ACTION: Cllr. Ackrill / Clerk

15 **COUNCILLORS /CLERK REPORTS**

Cllr. McCarthy said the Great Shefford Isolation Line is still activated and being used by a few and would like to remind villagers to use the number if they need help. There is a group of villagers ready to help with medication pickups and shopping if needed.

For prescription pickups please give notice as the group learnt from last year it was best to save a few to collect all at once rather than multiple trips.

Please call 01488 860148 anytime.

Cllr. Ackrill raised the question, in mind of the latest email communication, to the Councillors if the Parish Council use the Village Facebook page to advertise meetings. After a discussion, and further establishing that the author of a post can 'turn off' comments, it was then agreed to post the agendas to Facebook.

16 **MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.**

No items raised.

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The date of the next REMOTE meeting is Thursday 4TH February 2021 at 7.30pm.

APPENDIX 1

Statement of Accounts
Accounts for Payment JANUARY 2020Expenditure brought forward 20-21 £16,266.11**Payments**

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount	
BACS	PCC	Donation towards Churchyard Maintenance	£	750.00
<i>(Already Paid)</i>				
SO	Kim Lloyd	Clerk Salary - Oct		
BACS	WBC	Donaton to Newbury library	£	200.00
BACS	Autela Payroll Services Ltd	Oct, Nov, Dec Clerk Payroll	£	51.25
BACS	Kim Lloyd	Postage - 2nd Class stamps	£	7.80
DD	SSE Southern Electric	Quarter 3	£	144.86
			£	<u>1,784.41</u>

ReceiptsTotal Receipts £ -**Financial Position to date**

Balance carried forward 31/03/19 (incl S106 contributions)	£	22,955.26
Income for year 20-21 to date.	£	16,807.95
Less payments for year 20-21 to date		<u>£18,050.52</u>
Total including S106 Funding, Funds and Reserves	£	<u>21,712.69</u>