

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Present:** Ian Cannock (Chair), Tricia Wastvedt, Fiona Crockett, David Cradock, Mary Bon, Lisa Coles and Jean Fossaceco (Clerk)

**Also Present:** Fiona Gourley (Ward Councillor), John Davey, Derek Withers and members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies:** Fred Chaytors
2. **Declaration of Interests for this meeting:** David Cradock – Item 7 Financial Matters – grass cutting quotes
3. **10 Minutes public participation:** Two members of the public spoke about issues regarding the installation of logs on the grass area and problems with parking in Applecroft. It was pointed out that the land around the houses, including the central grass area, verges and the garages all belong to Curo. Attempts that have made by some of the residents to contact Curo regarding potentially purchasing land from them have not been responded to. Due to a lack of space, some residents are parking on the pavement which is not against the law but does cause some access issues. The clerk will contact Curo to express concerns regarding the unsightly look of the logs together with how wobbly/unstable they are. This could be a Health and Safety issue when children are playing on the green and climbing on the logs.
4. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** All in order.

5. Clerk's Report	ACTION	TIMELINE
As distributed. Distribution of the village Welcome Pack -TW has suggested this could be reinstated. IC reported he has a box he inherited which he will check. The Clerk will ask residents in the newsletter to let the Council know when someone new moves into the village. DC will speak to the resident who has expressed an interest in possibly becoming a Flood Warden. All Councillors are, currently, available for all forthcoming meeting dates other than TW for the September one. The Clerk will ask that these are added to the Village Hall calendar.	IC  JF  JF	By the next meeting In newsletter  ASAP
6. Ward Councillor Report		
FG, our Ward Councillor, has offered to assist with information regarding becoming a Flood Warden to the resident who has expressed an interest. She also mentioned the re-zoning of Westlink services which could make this service more efficiently run. EV charging points could potentially be installed at or near the Circle Hospital up at the business park.		
7. Financial Matters		
<b>Burial Board Precept</b> – no precept required at this time. <b>Finger Post Working Group application to the Community Fund</b> - The Council agreed to the application for £500 towards costs for the refurbishments of 4 village finger posts. This was proposed – TW and seconded – FCr. All in favour. They will also consider a top up in the next financial year should this be required. It was also noted that a total of £1000 has so far been received from residents towards these costs. <b>Grass Cutting 2023/24</b> – £1,920.00 – this was approved. The clerk will settle this invoice. <b>Dunkley's Payroll</b> - £38.40 (already paid)	JF  JF	Transfer from deposit to current account  Pay invoice

<p><b>Grass cutting contract 2024/25</b> – 3 quotes have been received and the Council unanimously (DC abstained) accepted the lowest of the 3 – Cradock and Son at £2,050.00 for the year 2024/25</p>		
<p><b>8. Planning</b></p>		
<p><b>Local Plan</b> – meetings regarding this consultation exercise have been attended by 2 Councillors –MB in Peasedown st John and both MB and IC in Camerton. Sites included for consultation in the HELAA are the area near the school in Shoscombe, two sites in Peasedown st John adjacent to Shoscombe Parish Boundary, one of which on the South side is being considered for renewable energy projects specifically wind. It should be noted this plan is only an initial draft and not set in stone but risks should be considered – including water/effluent, sound/noise, light, additional traffic, drainage and flooding. Comments can be submitted on an individual basis which the Clerk will make known in the newsletter and the Parish Council can also submit comments. IC will compile some comments for submission and send these to the Clerk. The link will again be published in the newsletter for residents to submit their comments. It was noted the Parish Plan Action Plan points should be discussed at the July PC meeting. <b>***Agenda Item July</b></p>	<p>IC JF JF</p>	<p>ASAP By newsletter deadline ***Agenda Item July</p>
<p><b>9. Update on parking and traffic issues in the Village- MB Report Distributed</b></p>		
<p>Report submitted by MB. It was noted some concerns were raised over the planting of two pear trees in on the verge in Montague Road but, as has been acknowledged with regard to Applecroft, this land is owned by Curo. MB has suggested the removal of parts of pavement along Rag Hill to allow for additional parking. It should be noted though that an issue with parking in that area has not been specifically highlighted by Parish residents as a problem. Parking on the corners has been raised though as this inhibits vision when pulling out. The Clerk will mention this in the newsletter – ‘Could people be more mindful about parking and not causing an obstruction’. Following discussions, it was agreed further suggestions in the detailed report can be considered on an ongoing basis as more feedback is received from residents.</p>	<p>JF</p>	<p>By newsletter deadline</p>
<p><b>10. Shoscombe School staff car-parking update - JF</b></p>		
<p>The school staff are now parking in the car park by the school following successful negotiations which is helpful for those in St Julian’s Road. The Parish Council would like to sincerely thank both the landowner and the school for all the time and effort dedicated to resolving this. It has been reported that people are walking from the Recreation Field, over a fence at the bottom and making their way across a privately owned piece of land towards the school and the Cinder Path. This includes both people from the village and surrounding areas and the school. The Clerk will refer to this in the newsletter.</p>	<p>JF</p>	<p>By newsletter deadline</p>
<p><b>11. Climate, Nature and Sustainability Working Group: Report distributed covering all items – Reports distributed – TW</b></p>		
<p><b>1.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EV Charging</b> – following a meeting with B&amp;NES EV Infrastructure Lead, it has been concluded the area in the Village Hall car-park is not feasible due to a lack of sufficient use of the Rec/VH carpark because:</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not visible to passing traffic.</li> <li>• No amenities nearby for waiting drivers.</li> </ul> <p>The situation will continue to be monitored regarding a viable locations and funding.</p> <p><b>2. Planting of the Oak Tree</b> – a site/location has been agreed, the date is still to be advised but is likely to be in the Autumn.</p> <p><b>3. NoMowMay</b> – as well as supportive comments some concerns were raised. Therefore, the plan is to leave less areas unmowed allowing more clear play areas for games such as football etc. There will be clear signage, as advised by B&amp;NES, and photographs to inform people of this Nature Recovery initiative together with information on what to look out for such as ticks which is a concern passed on from our Councillor - FCh. Maps were distributed including the proposed one by the Village Hall Management Committee. The Council agreed this one would be acceptable with a minor adjustment which TW will feedback to the Committee at their next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12. Councillors Reports</b></p> <p><b>A) Village Hall</b> – it has been suggested additional fencing in the play area/car park area will help with safety concerns for both children and dog owners. DC reported that the Village Hall Management Committee have proposed some chicane/staggered gates be installed near the bin (which will have to be relocated) and the fence by the cricket practice net be extended to the hedge. DC will report back to the VHMC that the Parish Council agrees in principle with this. The fencing would be installed ensuring accessibility for both pushchairs, prams and wheelchairs. The PC are in agreement that the VHMC adopt the forwarded Safeguarding Policy. The issue of whether the Trust, under which the Hall and Rec are governed, should be become incorporated or can remain unincorporated needs to be checked with the Charity Commission.</p> <p><b>B) HELAA/Local Plan</b> – Already discussed. See Item 8.</p> <p><b>C) Public Rights of Way</b> – Report from FCr says no issues raised in our parish.</p> <p><b>D) School</b> – Already covered. See Item 10.</p> <p><b>E) Highways</b> – It has been suggested a ‘SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING’ sign be installed at the entrance to Montague Road. The PC are mindful of additional signage in the Village not being welcomed by all. It was acknowledged the residents of Montague Road are aware of the need to exercise due care and attention and are careful. The Clerk will, however, mention this in the next newsletter to highlight and remind people of the need to be vigilant. The other request was a mirror be installed at the junction of Rag Hill and Green St as visibility can be compromised. B&amp;NES Highways do not, as policy, install mirrors as they can give a distorted view of approaching vehicles. While the PC could install one, this could possibly make us liable for any incidents that may occur. Additional hedge cutting will be considered. Therefore, a decision was taken not to install a mirror- all in favour. The Clerk will inform the resident who raised these issues of our decision.</p>	<p>DC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>JF</p> <p>JF</p>	<p>At the next VHMC Meeting</p> <p>By the next meeting</p> <p>In the next newsletter</p> <p>ASAP</p>

<p><b>F) Burial Board</b> – FCr reported that concerns have been received by the board that the area by the gate to the cemetery has become very muddy due to recent excessive rain. This will be discussed at the next BB meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.</p>		
<p><b>13. Proposal to install a 20 mph limit on Cycle Route 24 between Wellow and Shoscombe – Update from DC</b></p>		
<p>No further updates.</p>		
<p><b>14. Parish Council Policies – annual review - Standing Order/Risk Assessment/Community Fund/Managing PC Meetings Protocol</b></p>		
<p>All passed as fit for purpose with a small amendment to the Managing Meetings Protocol – reports should now be submitted a minimum of 3 days before the meeting rather than 2 weeks. The clerk will update the website.</p>	<p>JF</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>15. Restoration of Finger Posts-Report from John Davey-W/Party</b></p>		
<p>As well as the donations received from members of the Parish, the Parish Council has passed a Community Fund application of £500; our Ward Councillor has suggested John Davey apply to the Councillor Empowerment Fund and the Working Party are submitting grant applications together with approaching Sustrans and local businesses for sponsorship. The PC also confirmed it would consider a top up in the next financial year should funds still be short. <b>****May agenda Item.</b> MB will submit another piece in the newsletter regarding fund raising. Following completion, it has been suggested an afternoon tea be held in the Village Hall with displays and photographs to thank all sponsors of this project.</p>	<p>JF MB</p>	<p>***May Agenda Item By newsletter deadline</p>
<p><b>16. Wellow Brook Water Quality-FCr/JF</b></p>		
<p>There is a high level of activity being undertaken at this time and updates to alarms generated by the monitoring system continue to be regularly received by the Clerk. It was noted that discussions with, amongst others, water authorities about the implications of proposals in the Local Plan are taking place.</p>		
<p><b>17. Clerk’s Appraisal</b></p>		
<p>This took place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The Clerk’s contract has been amended and IC will contact Dunkley and Co, our payroll providers.</p>	<p>IC</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>
<p><b>DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS</b>  <b>20<sup>th</sup> March – Parish Liaison</b>  <b>9<sup>th</sup> May – Parish Council</b>  <b>19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Parish Liaison</b>  <b>11<sup>th</sup> July – Parish Council</b>  <b>12<sup>th</sup> September – Parish Council</b>  <b>18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Parish Liaison</b>  <b>7<sup>th</sup> November – Parish Council</b></p>		