

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Held at St Michael's Church, Shirley,

Monday 2nd March 2020

Attending

Councillors: Tony Taylor (Chair), Hugh Tyler & Ian Crabtree

Also: Sian Bacon (Parish Clerk), Cllr S Bull (DCC) and 5 Parishioners.

20/01 CCTV Notice

The Chair opened the meeting by reading the legal notice relating to the CCTV cameras within the Church premises, including community space, which had been installed for safeguarding purposes.

20/02 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Alvin Baker (Vice Chair) & Sue Walker (Coronavirus shielding), Mr B Leeney (SS&SA), Cllr A Shirley (DDDC)

20/03 Public Participation

Members of the Public commented that:

1. There were problems with the drains in the village and the over hanging tree on Derby Lane. The drain cleaners had been observed around the village but instead of the drains being cleared properly the machines are only sucking up the water leaving the drains still blocked. Some drains in the village have been reported as having collapsed and have been that way, in some cases, for 5 years with nothing happening to fix them. Cllr Bull noted that what he thought was happening is that the silt and top layer is being removed and so the drains immediately fill back up with water given the unprecedented volumes of water that have come down recently. Another resident noted that the water has nowhere to go due to the underground drains having collapsed. Cllr Bull queried whether the drain was Severn Trent or DCC's as some of the pipes are owned and maintained by Severn Trent. It was noted that the standing water freezes on the roads or becomes deep enough to cause a danger to vehicles coming around the corner. Cllr Taylor reported that it had taken nearly a year to even get people out and they are only doing some of the drains while others get left for years. Some of the drains seem to have been damaged in other works by utility companies around the village. Potholes were raised as having been poorly done in places with the potholes reopening very soon after being filled. Cllr Bull reported that the County Council had not taken back the management of roads, drains and verges in their entirety from the District Council's as work was not being completed to a high enough standard or quickly enough. The flooding and financial cuts have caused further problems with maintaining the roads in the County. It was raised by a resident that although they are sympathetic regarding the extraordinary weather recently and the challenges that it has caused, residents are still paying their taxes for the roads, drains and verges to be

maintained with very little evidence of the jobs being done or kept on top of over long periods of time. Cllr Bull noted the poor response given to the Council when they requested a meeting and it was agreed that it was not a good response at all given the issues the Council is raising. Cllr Bull will continue to push for a resolution. Cllr Tyler pointed out that the council has a map of the drains but none of the other authorities use the map which results in a patchy approach to drain cleaning. The Council have tried to send this to the Highways department multiple times with it never being used and causing serious inefficiencies with the service. The Clerk reported that she had requested a meeting with the cabinet member for the highways department at the County Council and this has been rejected and she had repeatedly sent the maps and details of the problems to multiple officers and received no response. Cllr Bull will take the drain map and try to get it uploaded to the County systems. The Clerk will look at getting the drain map up on the website so it allows residents to report them.

2. The Clerk requested that Cllr Bull try to get Wormsley Lane on the County maps so that it is possible to report problems down there and contractors can find it. Cllr Bull agreed to look at getting it on the map.
3. Cllr Crabtree will report the new potholes to Cllr Bull for repair.
4. A resident expressed thanks to the Council for doing the bulb planting as they are all coming through now and look lovely.
5. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Cllr Walker regarding a query about charging points in the village but she didn't have all the details and thought it would be some way off.

20/04 Declarations of Member's Interests

There were no declarations made.

20/05 Approval of Minutes for the Meeting held Monday 9th December 2019

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 as a true record and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

20/06 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

20/07 Approval of Auditor for 2019/20 Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Mr J Marriott of J S Marriott Accounting for the Internal Audit of the 2019/20 accounts.

20/08 Ground Maintenance Tender for the Church Yard for 2020

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the tender from D J Baker for the year as his was the only tender.

20/09 Payment Authorisations

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following payments:

- I. D J Baker – Tree Pollarding - £72.00
- II. Miss S Bacon - Clerk's Wages Jan – March 2020– £190.26
- III. Shirley PCC – Community Space Rent for April & May - £641.67

20/10 Income Received

- I. DDDC – Reimbursable Expenditure - £974.00

20/11 Community Space Rental Agreement

Cllr Tyler reported that he had sent a copy of the agreement to the other councillors. The agreement has raised the hours of use by 6 hours due to the original figure of 250 hours allowed no room for anything extra to take place beyond what the space is already being used for so any new clubs or groups would be unable to use the space without charge to the Council. Any new group will require the approval of the Parish Council to start using the space so that hours can be monitored. The contract is a 3-year contract that increases by rate of inflation. The Government indexation table is being used to work out the rates of inflation year on year. If cost of fuel is more or less than the figure of 1 or 2% the table will be used to work out the increase. This year the electricity increase is 4.9% then everything else is 1.7%. Cllr Tyler thanked Lucy Denith for all her work on the contract. It was noted that the Parish Council would not want to pay for unused time in the space but also won't want to be turning groups away which means a balance was needed. Any increase in hours can be discussed with the Church. The Council are happy with the contract and will sign it once it is signed by the Church and Community Space Committee. It was reported that Paul Taylor was happy with the contract but he still needs to sign it. Lucy Denith will also sign the contract.

20/12 Community Space Lack of Rental Invoices for Audit

The Clerk requested invoices she could use for the audit that corresponded with the payments made. It was agreed that one of the Community Space Committee members will draft the invoices for the Parish Council.

20/13 Great British Spring Clean 2020 Village Litter Pick

Cllr Tyler reported that the flyer for the litter pick is now completed and the litter pick will take place on Sunday 29th March meeting at the Community Space and with a 9.30am start. The Clerk will register with District Council and ask to borrow their equipment. The Clerk will also organise for the flyer to go on the website and the facebook page and complete the risk assessment and health and safety briefing.

20/14 Parish Clerk's Report of Ongoing Matters

1. **Drains** – This was covered in the Public section with Cllr Bull (DCC)
2. **Verge Cutting** – The Clerk reported that some verges were in an overgrown state around the village and had been reported to the County Council. Cllr Tyler reported that on Mill Lane a bank on left had side is slipping with some tree roots dislodge. The landowner put in concrete panel fence and cut down the trees which may be under TPO. It is of concern that the bank can slip into road. The Clerk will contact the county and the landowner about the land ownership and report both sides of the road as the opposite side of the road requires attention as well. Photos will be sent to the Clerk.
3. **Hedges around the Village** – It was noted that along with the verges some hedges were overgrown. Cllr Taylor reported that most of the road side ones had been done now. Cllr Bull noted that the Parish Council can approach the County Council who will let the landowners know and if it is not done in a timely manner will cut the hedge and charge the landowner. The Parish Council can approach the landowners first if they wish to. A hedge on Mill Lane is growing out into the road. It was suggested that the property be reported to Andrew Shirley as it is property owned by the local housing association and the District Council.
4. **Wormsley Lane** – Cllr Tyler reported that the centre of the lane had become over grown. Mr Van Ousten had very kindly had the Lane cleaned but in a week the tractors and muck spreaders, that are using the Lane and eroding the banks into the road, had left it once again covered in mud. It was noted by Cllr Bull that the responsibility lies with the users of heavy machinery on the lane and the Council would need photos to prove exactly who was causing the problems so they could be held responsible for the costs. Cllr Tyler ask if Wormsley Lane could be done with the other roads when the road cleaners come. Cllr Bull noted that the County Council will only clean up to the original size of the lane and not the sides. The Clerk requested the Cllr Bull request that the County Council officers add the Lane to the map they use for reporting so that it can be reported when it requires cleaning as at present it does not appear on their maps.

Cllr Bull departed the meeting at this point.

5. **Tree Branch at Shirley Hall Farm on Derby Road** – The Clerk reported that Mr Shirley won't remove the branch until BT removes the entangled cables. BT has put a cable in under the tree. Residents have complained to Open Source but nothing being done. The speed is not good with resident's broadband at times. Cllr Crabtree has also reported the issue to Mr Shirley

but nothing has been done. The bough has been reported as moving and dangerous to the County Council by Cllr Baker. To cut the bough may be dangerous without the proper equipment and the field is difficult to access. The Clerk will write to Mr Shirley again and contact Open reach as Open reach are currently denying responsibility and denying that residents have contacted them about the issue.

20/15 Shirley Sports and Social Association Committee Update

Mr B Leeney gave the following update to the Clerk:

As this is the off-season for our footballers, and the field is very wet (thanks to the weather) we have kept field maintenance to an absolute minimum.

However, we have achieved the following since the last meeting:

- 1) Moles have been eliminated from the field (thanks to Jim Willis)
- 2) The portaloos have been cleaned
- 3) We have sold (so far) 56 tickets for the 100 Club. The first draw will be held at 6.15pm on Friday 20th March in the Saracen's Head.

No further ticket sales will be allowed after that until the final draw of the year has been held in December, and we start a new season.

- 4) Film Nights have been taken over by the Church fund raising team, as planned.
- 5) Our next event is the Pumpkin Growing competition which will start in March or April
- 6) The possibility of holding Walking Football games at the field has been raised. Anyone interested should please contact Dougal Bulger.

20/16 Pot Holes Update

Cllr Crabtree will report all new potholes.

20/17 Planning

20/00144/FUL - Single storey rear extension to existing outbuilding and new window to front elevation. Single storey rear garden room extension - Church Lane Cottages Church Lane Shirley Derbyshire DE6 3AS – The Council had no objection.

20/18 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Tyler reported that it had been quiet recently. On Monday 8th June at 7.15pm there will be a meeting in the Community Space and a Cyber Security Officer will be coming to give a talk on cyber security, the SNT will be present as well.

Cllr Tyler also reported that the Derby Lane sign has gone and the post has been knocked over. A new sign has been sourced and moved nearer to the village. The

post belongs to the Neighbourhood watch so it is permitted to move it. It is now residing opposite the Shirley Hall Gates.

20/19 Churchyard Maintenance

Wall Repairs Update – Future Repairs and Costs

The Clerk reported that her contact at the District Council had still not emailed her regarding the wall but had confirmed on the phone that he believed the Parish Council had not handed over the churchyard to the District Council, in the required 90 days upon closure of the churchyard, particularly since the Council is receiving reimbursable expenditure, a grant, from the District Council for the mowing of the churchyard. The Clerk also reported that she had discovered, as requested at the last meeting, that Muggington Parish Council had repaired their churchyard wall at their own cost as it was found to be their responsibility. The Church information is that all maintenance is the provision of the District Council and the Parish Council. The Council will wait for the written confirmation from the District Council to approve works by the college.

Purchase of Storage Box for College Equipment

It was agreed to look at the purchase of a storage box for the college repair equipment in May. The Clerk will look at costs and Cllr Tyler will ask how large a container is needed.

20/20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the following:

1. **DCC** – The Parish & Town Council Liaison Meeting will be taking place on the 30th March 2020 – the Clerk will check if there is a liaison meeting scheduled for Ashbourne instead of Matlock or Bakewell.
2. **Citizens Advice** – they are offering support with anyone suffering from fuel poverty.
3. **Meal for VE Day** – This will take place on the 8th May which is a Friday evening at the Saracens Head.
4. **DCC** – Recycling of household electrical goods at local recycling centres is being encouraged with cash prizes to be won for those who recycle their household electrical goods between 2nd March to 5th April.
5. **Police liaison** – A police and Crime Commissioner liaison meeting will be taking place on the 16th March at police headquarters - Cllr Tyler will be attending.
6. **Stronger for longer** – Information on ageing well and staying stronger for longer at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/stronger.

20/21 Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 19th May 2020 followed by an ordinary meeting in the Community Space at St. Michael's Church, Shirley at 19:30hrs

The suggested meeting dates for 20/21 are Monday 14th September 2020, Monday 7th December 2020, Monday 8th March 2020 and the Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by an Ordinary meeting on Monday 10th May 2021

The meeting closed at 8.57pm