

MEETING OF SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2025 AT 7:30PM in Shalden Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllr Whitcher, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Jones

Also in attendance: K Horton (Clerk) and 4 residents

- 1) **Welcome.** Meeting opened. In Cllr Orme's absence, Cllr Jones was proposed as Chair by Cllr Whitcher and Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in agreement.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Orme who is on vacation.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** None made.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes.** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2025. No queries and duly signed as a record of the meeting.
- 5) **Public forum.** *Adjournment of the meeting for 10 mins to allow the public to raise questions or speak on an agenda item.*
 - a) Resident query about paving by noticeboard on Old Odiham Road.
 - b) Resident advised that another car has joined the one already abandoned on BOAT. Clerk requested photo be forwarded.
 - c) Resident would like to know how many houses are in the village of Shalden.
 - d) Devolution. Resident asked what involvement the Parish Council have in the proposal. Further requested that the Public Consultation period in July be highlighted to residents.
- 6) **Parish Council Finances/Administration**
 - a) **Clerk's report inc**
 - i) Updates post May meeting
 - **Website.** Clerk has been in touch with Village Hall, Village Fete and Garden Club to offer them space on the website. The Village Hall's information has been updated.
 - **Email.** New accounts using .gov.uk are now active. Cllrs were comfortable to work to transfer date of 10th September. Clerk will check in end of July to clarify all Cllrs have been able to access the new account.
 - **Use of Village Hall.** 12 month Hirer's Contract has been completed and £12 payment made.
 - **Defibrillator.** Clerk has contacted both Village Hall and Golf Club to offer financial reimbursment (up to £150) for maintainance of publicly accessible defib. Both groups have been asked to provide

documentation confirming maintainance has been completed and reimbursement will then be arranged.

- **Rights of Way. Footpath.** Separate agenda item

ii) Correspondence

- Briefing on Devolution will be held online by HCC on Tuesday. Details circulated to Cllrs
- Rec Hires
 - (a) Request to hire Rec from Beehive. Paperwork and payment completed
 - (b) 2025/26 Alton FC contract has been signed. £800 payment will be made before start of season.
- Transfer of licence to Shalden Village Hall CIO. Paperwork has been circulated to Village Hall CIO and resident confirming licence is now between those two parties and Shalden PC are not involved.
- Golden Pot petition – Farnham Herald query on what PC has done in relation to concerns about junction. Response was sent. No further contact.

b) Financial summary for May and June 2025 and in addition:

- i) Notification of Payments made under Item 6.8 of the Financial Regulations since the last meeting
- ii) Notification/authorisation of other payments. No questions raised and signed

7) **Co-Option.** To receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy.

- Chair confirmed that three residents initially expressed an interest in being co-opted. All met criteria in relation to standing. One resident has withdrawn. Two written statements received and all Cllrs have spoken to both these residents.
- It was noted how fortunate Shalden PC has been to have three residents interested in being a Cllr.
- Cllr Jones proposed Mark Green to Co-option. Cllr Whitcher seconded. No other proposals made. The vote for Mark Green was all in favour to Co-opt.
- Cllr Jones again noted thanks to all the interested residents and hoped they would remain engaged with the work of the PC. There was only one vacancy on this occasion but circumstances change and there are elections coming up.

8) **Affordable Housing.** To receive a verbal update from Cllr Taylor on the meeting led by Action Hampshire about Affordable Housing in Rural Areas and to agree whether any action is required.

- Cllr Taylor explained that he had attended meeting on Affordable Housing in rural areas, led by Action Hampshire (a local infrastructure group supporting the voluntary and social enterprise sectors). DEFRA fund them to help deliver affordable housing to in Hampshire region.
- Affordable housing is mainly provided by Housing Associations and Community Housing Organisations and are often Shared Ownership or Social housing for rent (60% of open market rent).
- Local Connection criteria applies to eligible participants. So tenants need a link to the parish. Rural Affordability is an issue in Hampshire with median prices 10 times median wages. Need to keep housing stock mixed affordability to support local services; schools, shops, pubs and post offices.
- Rural Exception Model: outside of settlement boundary, small scale, outside normal planning rules. Allows these sites to get built.



Cllr Taylor asked the other Cllrs to consider whether Shalden Parish Council wants to have a Housing Survey completed: the current Local Plan allocates 69 houses to the parish. Cllrs will review the report from the meeting and decide whether an agenda item at a future meeting is appropriate.

9) Rights of Way. Footpaths. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on the replacement of stiles with kissing gates in the Parish and to agree any next steps.

a) Landowner on Southwood Road. Emails sent and phone conversation.

b) Landowner on Shalden Lane. Have emailed and writted to Agent.

No response from either Landowner yet.

Cllr Taylor will follow up with contact at Ropley PC to get guidance on how they have made progress on similar project. Clerk to check in with Landowner every few weeks

Footpath Warden and Lengthsman are working on schedule of work for local rights of way

10) Next Meeting - Wednesday 10th September at 7:30pm

Meeting Closed 8:23pm

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Signed: D Orme, Chair of SPC

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Dated