

**MEETING OF SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 AT 7:30pm in Shalden Village Hall**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Cllr D Orme (Chair), Cllr K Whitcher, Cllr B Jones, Cllr R Wood and Cllr L Taylor

**Also in attendance:** K Horton (Clerk) and 6 residents

- 1) **Welcome.** Meeting opened
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** None received.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Taylor excused himself from agenda item 9 due to a personal interest in the organisation and item 14 due to a professional relationship with a company submitting a tender. Cllr Wood excused himself from agenda item 7 due to a personal interest in the organisation.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes.** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. No questions raised and signed as record.
- 5) **Public forum.** Adjournment of the meeting for 10 minutes to allow the public to raise questions or speak on an agenda item.
  - Resident spoke on their annoyance about the Golden Pot bus stop being removed from service. The resident has attended the Basingstoke bus station and Stagecoach have advised the stop has been removed following a risk assessment. Hampshire Highways do not appear to be maintaining the junction: the warning doesn't flash for vehicles and is dirty and obscured. Hatchings on the road have been worn out and just repainted following his request for attention to this. The resident highlighted that there is no paved walkway between the junction and the next nearest stop and it is not a safe alternative for residents.
  - Resident has met with members of Golf Club in relation to the overhanging trees. Some work has been carried out and a tree surveyor attended last week.
  - Resident highlighted that the recent road repairs at the junction of Old Odiham Road and Upper Anstey Road are already disintegrating.
  - Resident advised that Fly tipping along the ROW lane to Froyle has yet to be cleared – it does include a burnt out vehicle. A representative from HCC has been on site resumably carrying out assessment but likely the weather has halted progress.
- 6) **Parish Council Finances/Administration**
  - a) **Clerk's report**
    - i) Insurance. Joint policy has been set up with the Village Hall Charity (VHC) in line with request from VHC. Clerk has advised Chair of the VHC that the arrangement will continue for at most another 12 months.
    - ii) Pavilion maintenance work. Heaters have been installed. Plumber is yet to attend. Clerk noted that a date will be confirmed for the Cllrs to meet at the site.
    - iii) Community litter picks. Thanks noted to Residents who participated in the two events. Cllr Jones proposed that the Clerk write to EHDC expressing support for the Community Litter Pick Scheme to be reinstated. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and all Cllr in agreement. Clerk noted thanks to East Hampshire Norse team who collected rubbish from Village Hall.
    - iv) 2024.25 Meetings. Dates have been circulated to Cllrs and published on the PC website.

**b) Financial summary** for January to March 2024 and in addition:

- i) To note payments made under Section 5 of the Financial Regulations
- ii) Closure of NatWest accounts
- iii) Notification/authorisation of payments

No questions raised. Summary signed and payments approved

**c) Correspondence. To note items received since the last PC meeting and confirm what action will be taken:**

- i) Calendar received from St Mary's Bentworth CofE School and displayed in the Village Hall.
- ii) EHDC. Opportunity to apply for a portrait of King Charles III (National scheme). Clerk has confirmed with Village Hall Charity that they would like a portrait and has completed the application process. Likely to receive before May.
- iii) Reponse from resident to PC's request that they attend to hedging bordering Footpath 2. Cllr Taylor confirmed that he had received positive verbal responses in relation to the letter. It was noted that some vegetation was cut back and further work can be carried out by the Lengthsman team.
- iv) Resident has provided an update re tree works at Alton Golf Course and raised concern about potholes on Old Odiham Road. Also noted under Public Forum. Cllr Orme proposed that the Clerk write to Cllr Kemp-Gee expressing disappointment that further to the road closure for remedial works, the efforts are now already failing. Seconded by Cllr Wood and all Cllr in agreement.
- v) Humbly Grove. Advance notice from management team of application to extend licence and works. Details received to date suggests that external physical impact won't change. Extension to licence to carry out work. Clerk to note receipt of letter and be kept informed.
- vi) Query from resident on budget for Lengthsman work which was provided and subsequent offer of help which has been noted.
- vii) Query with Itchen Valley PC re their lengthsman service and the possibility of SPC joining a cluster with them. Clerk outlined the details of a possible funded service and in response to this, Cllr Taylor proposed opening tender documents but holding off decision until PC knows whether it can join the cluster. Cllr Jones seconded the proposal and all Cllrs were in agreement.
- viii) Communication with EHDC Planning Department and Cllr Costigan re Land South of Mile End. No details on EHDC Planning portal. Cllr Costigan has been able to get the following update: "The application unfortunately cannot be supported and the Case Officer has made the Agent aware of this. They can either withdraw the application or elect to receive a refusal, which they could then appeal." Thanks noted to Cllr Costigan for sourcing the update.
- ix) Email from East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils with details of next meeting. Clerk highlighted the importance of Shalden being represented and suggested that the Cllrs take turns to attend. Next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Teams.

**7) Grants. To consider any grant requests that have been received and agree whether any contribution will be made.** Four requests have been received. Cllr Taylor proposed £200 to each of the local charities and nothing to Tyler's Trust as it had no links to the locality. Cllr Wood seconded the proposal in relation to Citizen's Advice, Cllr Orme seconded the proposal in relation to Shalden PCC (Clerk noted that the any grant to Church for grounds maintenance to be made under LGA1972, s214 to maintain open Churchyard rather than s137) Cllr Jones seconded the proposal in relation to Alton Counselling. Cllr Wood was not involved in the decision. All Cllrs in agreement and Clerk to action.

- 8) Annual Parish Meeting. To discuss plans for meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, including whether to source an external speaker, and to agree what action(s) are required ahead of the meeting.** Cllrs were happy with existing format but Clerk was instructed to see whether a representative from local police and Highways would attend. Cllrs were in agreement that some refreshments should be provided at the close of the meeting.
- 9) Hire of the Pavilion and Rec. To consider a request from Beehive Preschool to use the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for one morning and if accepted to confirm the terms of use.** It was proposed by Cllr Wood that the Preschool be allowed to hire the Recreation Ground for 2<sup>nd</sup> May for a sum of £10. Cllr Jones seconded the proposal and Cllr Whittcher and Orme were in agreement.
- 10) Shalden Village Hall. To receive a report from the Clerk on their meeting with Hampshire County Council and to then:**
- a) Agree whether further advice needs to be obtained.** Written report from Clerk's meeting with Hampshire Legal Services circulated. Councillors will review information and in the interim, Clerk instructed to share guidance with Chair of Village Hall Charity.
  - b) To approve the associated costs.** The meeting with Hampshire Legal Services was covered by HALC membership so no costs to approve at this time. Clerk will advise VHC that grant requests can be made to the Parish Council.
- 11) Toad/Frog Migration. To consider a verbal report from Cllr Taylor on a resident's query about the installation of a traffic hazard sign near the church for use during the migration season and decide whether any action will be taken by the Parish Council.** Background information to the request circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Taylor is aware that Lasham have a foldable hazard sign for use during the season and proposed that such a sign would help with traffic calming on the road bend by the church. Cllr Taylor proposed that a sign is requested from Highways, Cllr Orme seconded and all in agreement
- 12) BOATS (Byway Open to All Traffic). To receive verbal reports from Cllr Orme on the meeting he attended with HCC Countryside Service and other concerned PCs, and from Cllr Taylor on his discussion with the PC's Footpath Warden. Subsequently, to decide what action Shalden PC could take to improve the accessibility and security of the parish's BOAT.** Cllr Orme provided an overview of the meeting with other PCs and HCC: there is a proposal for PCs to manage the closure and opening of BOATS that have Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO). The first step to achieve this for the parish's BOAT would be an assessment by Countryside Service which has been requested. Cllr Taylor is meeting with an Engagement Officer and the Footpath Warden about the BOAT in two weeks and will clarify what is required to progress this. Cllr Taylor will return to the PC for any decisions that need to be made on this matter.
- 13) Speed Warning device. To consider the information received from Traffic Team, Hampshire County Council and to then:**
- a) Decide what action will be taken in relation to the installation of posts and fittings for any SLR/SIDs.** Guidance from HCC Traffic Team circulated ahead of meeting. Clerk has also received verbal indication from Wield PC that they would be prepared to loan the SID. Cllr Jones proposed that the Clerk set up an assessment meeting with HCC Traffic Team, this assessment would ideally include as many of the parish roads as possible but with priority to Old Odiham Road. Proposal seconded by Cllr Orme and all Cllrs in agreement.

**b) To approve the financing of the licence and any street furniture.** Cllr Wood proposed that the licence fee and costs for the installation of any required posts be met by the PC, Cllr Orme seconded and all Cllrs in agreement.

**14) Bus Stop. To note a report from the Clerk on the background to the bus stop at Golden Pot being taken out of service and to consider whether the PC will take any action in relation to this.** Cllr Wood was able to add some additional detail about the previous roadworks carried out at Golden Pot and believed there was discussion at that time about the possibility of widening the bus stop space. Cllr Orme proposed that the Clerk write to Hampshire Highways (cc Cllr Kemp-Gee) and confirm what responsibilities they have to maintain the site so that the bus can stop for residents. Seconded by Cllr Wood and all other Cllrs in agreement.

Cllr Orme proposed that meeting adjourned to allow residents to leave the meeting, seconded by Cllr Wood and all in agreement. (20:42)

Cllr Taylor excused himself from the remainder of the meeting per agenda item 3

Cllr Orme proposed that meeting resume and be extended for 15 mins. All Cllrs were in agreement (20:57)

**15) Exclusion of the Public and Press.** The Motion “In accordance with the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.” During the exempt session, the Clerk advised two bids had been received. As decided under agenda item 6Cvii, the Clerk will acknowledge receipt of the tenders and follow up on references. A decision will be made once it is known if the PC has secured a financed place with the Itchen Valley cluster.

**16) Meeting Closed 21:09**

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Signed: D Orme, Chair of SPC

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Dated