

MEETING OF SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH 2025 AT 7:30PM in Shalden Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllr Witcher, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Wood and Cllr Orme (Chair)

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

- 1) **Welcome.** Meeting opened by Cllr Orme
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr Costigan sent apologies in advance of the meeting due to family commitments.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** None made
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** - Parish Council Meeting held on 10th February 2025. Approved as record of the meeting and duly signed.

5) Public Participation

- Resident noted Hampshire CC's speedy response to getting a traffic sign resecured.
- Resident would like hardstanding placed under noticeboard on Old Odiham Road. Matter will be raised under Correspondence.
- Resident is concerned about potholes and doesn't think quick repairs are cost efficient. PC reminded residents of their responsibility in logging issues that they spot so that matters can then be escalated by the PC if no action is taken by the District or County Council.
- Devolution. Resident asked if there was any information that could be shared on what the impact of Devolution will be. Residents were advised that PC will be receiving briefing on the progress of the matter in due course. Clerk confirmed that both County Cllr Kemp-Gee and District Councillor Costigan have been invited to the APM and will be able to answer questions.

6) Parish Council Finances/Administration

a) Clerk's Report inc

- i) Updates post January meeting
 - Highways:
 - (a) SLR installation.
 - (i) Section 72 licence has been secured from HCC: allows for provision of traffic signs on a highway. Runs for 5 years
 - (ii) Hampshire Highways have confirmed 10th March is scheduled for installing posts. Wield PC have been kept informed of date re loan of SLR
 - (b) Community speedwatch. Clerk has been informed that due to a lack of police engagement Alton Community Speed Watch has been terminated. Previous member would be willing to offer advice to Old Odiham Road residents if they wish to pursue establishing a group.
 - Parish events:
 - (a) Annual Parish Meeting. Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd April at 7pm.
 - (b) Litter Picks. Sunday 16th March – Old Odiham Road and Sunday 23rd March - Village
 - Other matters:
 - (a) Golden Pot. Response to planning application was submitted following February meeting
 - (b) SSEN update re Storm Darragh. Customer Relationship Manager has advised the full survey was completed 4 weeks ago and they have a clear view of the work to be completed. Contractor is now working to obtain necessary consents from LOs to carry out tree cutting. Delivery remains a priority.
 - (c) Abandoned car. Proving hard to retrieve. HCC area aware of matter and working with contractor to agree a way to remove it. Hoping that dry weather will allow them to proceed.
 - (d) VAT reclaim has been submitted for 2024/25

- (e) £350 Grant from Cllr Costigan has been received and is for the replacement of stairs into the Rec's Pavilion.

ii) Correspondence

- (a) Traffic monitor on Shalden Lane. It was not possible to confirm who had placed the device and Hampshire Highways confirmed no licence was required. Device has since been removed.
- (b) Mud on Southwood Road. Requested update 26th Feb from Savills (LO Agents). None received in time for meeting. Clerk confirmed road clearer as of today and signs in place warning of logging trucks. Felling has taken place alongside Southwood Road (descent in Basingstoke Road) which looks to address the next item.
- (c) Dead tree overhanging Southwood Road. Was logged with HCC as danger to highway
- (d) Request for hardstanding at Old Odiham Road noticeboard. Councillors confirmed they would be supportive of improving the standing in front of the notice board on Old Odiham Road. Clerk will confirm whether permission is required from Highways and whether they will carry out works.

b) Financial summary for January and February 2025 and in addition:

- i) Notification of Payments made under Item 5.5 of the Financial Regulations since the last meeting
- ii) Notification/authorisation of other payments

No questions raised and summary signed for the records.

7) Insurance. *Having considered a report from the Clerk and following review of the insurance quotes obtained by the Clerk, to authorise the Clerk in engaging in a policy.*

Cllr Orme proposed that the Gallagher's joint agreement with the Village Hall Committee is entered into and then cancelled so that both parties can progress with their own policies. Seconded by Cllr Wood and all in agreement.

Cllr Jones proposed that the Parish Council enter a policy with Zurich as of 1 April 2025, Seconded by Cllr Taylor and all in agreement.

8) Digital Presence. *To consider a report from the Clerk on the rollout of .gov domain and email addresses for use by Parish Councils and to agree what action Shalden PC will take in response.*

The reasons for the rollout were discussed and while the PC are comfortable with the security of their current arrangement, recognise the professionalism and system management that adoption of .gov.uk would allow. Cllr Orme proposed that the Parish Council adopt .gov.uk for email and domain, Seconded by Cllr Taylor and all in agreement.

Cllr Taylor proposed ShaldenPC.gov.uk for domain and Cllr surname@ShaldenPC.gov.uk for email, seconded by Cllr Jones and all in agreement

9) Grants

a) *To note correspondence received from Shalden Village Hall Charity Committee.* Note of thanks from Village Hall Committee was received and Cllr Jones was able to confirm the progress made in setting up CIO.

b) **Requests.** *To consider grant requests received*

- i) **Alton Golf Club.** Cllrs were all in agreement that PC would not be able to help financially on this occasion but the organisation were wished well with their fundraising endeavours.
- ii) **Hampshire Citizens' Advice Bureau** Having reviewed the grant request and the details of the PC's finance report and budget for 2024/25, Cllr Taylor proposed a grant of £200, Seconded by Cllr Orme and all Cllrs in agreement.

10) Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

a) *To receive a report from the Clerk on proposed ground works at the Recreation ground to improve parking and hardstanding and to confirm whether a quote will be accepted.* Cllrs want to compare the quotes and

will hold an extraordinary meeting if necessary. Cllr Orme, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Jones will arrange for other quotes when the Clerk has shared the work spec.

- b) *To agree whether the Parish Council will make a CIL application in relation to works at the Recreation Ground or for another project in the parish.* CIL applications need to be submitted by 21st March and Cllrs are aware of this. A decision will be made when quotes received for the proposed works at the Rec.

11) Rights of Way

- a) *To consider a proposal to work with the Land Owner, Countryside Access and the Footpath Warden to arrange the replacement of the existing stile on Footpath One (Alton end) with a gate.* Cllr Taylor proposed that PC work with the listed parties to have the stile changed to a gate. All Cllrs were in agreement. Cllr Taylor proposed the PC write to the LO to make progress and all Cllrs were in agreement. Matter will return to Council if there are any financial implications. Changes to other footpaths in the parish will be discussed at another meeting.
- b) *To receive a verbal update from Cllr Taylor on the recent meeting with the Countryside Service Strategic Manager and its management of BOATS.* Cllr Taylor explained the expanded traffic light and scoring system that will be used to grade the BOATS and consequently the ability for PCs and HCC to arrange temporary TROs and permanent TROs. A survey of all BOATS will be completed by HCC this year and the PC will be able to review the rating given to the BOAT passing through the parish. It was agreed that Cllrs would take photos of the BOAT through the year to keep a log of it state.

12) Highways

- a) *To receive an update from Cllr Whitcher on residents concerns about the number of HGV movements on The Avenue and to confirm what action will be taken.* Residents on The Avenue have raised concerns about an increase in the number of HGV vehicles accessing The Avenue from the Golden Pot junction and causing damage to verge, infrastructure eg Internet hub and raising the risk of an RTA eg cars having to reverse back from the stop link to allow HGVs access with their wider turning points. Cllrs are aware that Humbly Grove and the garden centre use the other end of The Avenue for access and that Humbly Grove is also restricted on time and no of vehicle movements. The other sites along The Avenue don't appear to have the same restrictions and thus appear to be responsible for the extra traffic.
Cllr Whitcher proposed that Hampshire CC are asked for guidance on vehicle restrictions and reported damage to highways and private property. All Cllrs in agreement. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact The Avenue Residents group and Humbly Grove.

13) Date of next meetings – Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd April at 7pm and Wednesday 14th May 2025, 7:30pm for the Annual Meeting of the PC.

Meeting Closed 8:58 pm

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Signed: D Orme, Chair of SPC

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Dated