

SHALDEN Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Minutes

Attending: Cllr Orme (SPC Chair), Cllr Kemp-Gee, Cllr Costigan (left 8:08PM) and 21 residents (inc 4 Parish Cllrs). Also present K Horton (Clerk)

- 1. Chair's welcome and introduction – Cllr. Dave Orme.** Meeting opened, explained the format of the meeting and who would be speaking.
- 2. Apologies.** Received from 4 residents.
- 3. Confirmation of minutes of last APM, Wednesday 29th March 2023.** Signed as record of the meeting.
- 4. Shalden Parish Council annual report – Cllr. Dave Orme (attached as Appendix 1)**
- 5. Shalden Village Hall Charity report – Mark Ommanney**
 - May - Coronation party and barn dance was enjoyed by over 100 residents. Annual fireworks in November had good attendance despite rain and reschedule. Jubilee book on village history was produced in 2023 and sales have covered publication costs.
 - Nursery school thrives, providing a continuous source of income that is vital to the Village Hall.
 - Also hires for parties and elections provide an income stream.
 - Hall does need a lot of upkeep. Oven has had to be replaced and microwave. Utility costs have gone up. Drive needed more gravel. Sound and structural improvements ongoing and thanks to Cllr Costigan for grant
 - £6,271 at start of financial year and close with £7,070.
- a. Election of Village Hall Charity Trustees.** Thanks to Ben Jones, Cathy Boyes, Steve Blake and Bernard Stewart and Debbie Todd for their work in the last year and confirmed to continue as Trustees for 2024.25

Q. Has anyone expressed any guidance on how long the hall will last?

A. Noone who has been involved with the works to date has suggested it will only last for a certain number of years. There is asbestos in building and so a rebuild would be a significant undertaking. The Hall is not falling down and there shouldn't be a problem for the foreseeable future.

6. Report on Church of St Peter and St Paul – Ian Champness

- Reorganisation and pastoral changes of the parish outlined. Bentworth, Shalden and Lasham are now a parish sitting under oversight of Alton. Three representatives from each parish on the PCC and look after fabric of church, fundraising and maintenance.

Q. Why is Alton involved in management of church. What do we have to do with them?

A. Discussed in huge detail at a number of meetings. Difficult decision and no alternative. Church Commissioners gave it their blessing and best solution to provide some continuity.

7. Village fête report – Ian Champness

- Campbells are hosting again and plans gearing up for the event
- Sunday 16th June is the date for 2024

8. District Councillor report – Cllr. Tony Costigan

- Speed camera scheme. Variable cameras (sets of two or three) check MOT, tax and insurance and speed. Volunteers logging these details on to DVLA and informing local police. Believes that they are having impact on speed.
- PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) has been designated to area where cameras are installed and means the DC can issue fines to the speeders themselves. Infrastructure not in place with DC to carry this out yet and so Cllr Costigan working with other councils to apply their process and allow EHDC to roll this out.

Q. Explanation of cameras that Cllr Costigan is describing

A. Details provided and fines will be possible in due course.

Q. Junction of Golden Pot. Campaigned to get some system for reducing traffic accidents but it still seems bad there.

A. Cllr Kemp-Gee was involved in the restructure of the junction. Modifications have helped with flow but no magic answer.

9. County Councillor report – Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee

- 1.4 million people in Hampshire: important to consider how the parish fits into the wider area.
- Potholes 2 years ago 70,000 and this last financial year up to 140,000. Appreciate the repair method is not great but it is a pothole emergency and this is how the repairs have to be dealt with. Investment in infrastructure, increase in traffic and weather have had an impact. Significant capital investment required for a long-term solution but not allocated at this time.
- Managing household waste: 600,000 tonnes of waste has to be disposed of. Froyle – original plan was incinerator and now Anaerobic waste disposal. Currently HCC are 40% recycling and need to get this up to 60% - plant in Eastleigh being created and they will be able to process Tetra packs
- Social care. Over 10,000 in social care and 2,300 children in direct care. 18,000 adults looked after in some form. Converting all care and nursing homes to dementia care as not available in private sector.
- Money. Over 20 yrs ago 1/3 revenue provided by central government. Not the case anymore £1.1billion for social care out of £1.6billion (only £100 million from government). Since 2010 government started reducing grants to county councils and also capped council tax. Unless funding stream for social care is established there will have to be 18% increase in council tax and then increases above inflation to pay for all statutory requirements.
- Morale in CC remains good and keeping show on road has been significant achievement.
- Shalden: has been in touch with PC in relation to toads, Humbly Grove (extension to activities) and Lengthsman scheme. Golden Pot junction – KSI stats have improved significantly since adjustments made to junction. Traffic lights and roundabout requested over three times and aims for improvements to be maintained – cut back foliage and manage sightlines.

Q. Golden Pot. Who owns it?

A. No planning happening. Cllr Costigan offered to get an update.

Further discussion about Planning. Cllr Kemp-Gee flagged the impact the Local Plan could have on Alton and need for consultation from residents. Query about infrastructure to support this

Q. So many roadworks in Alton and not replaced in good condition. Will developers be asked to finance repairs?

A. Paying quite a lot of CIL. Often well aware of planning requirements and meet them. Limits to what can be done.

Q. What has happened to Bus stop at Golden Pot?

A. Was raised at last PC meeting and Clerk will be following up with Cllr Kemp-Gee. Stagecoach have advised the location is not safe for the buses to stop and have withdrawn the stop from service. Lisa Crooke at HCC is contact.

Q. Veolia incinerator. Is there risk of appeal?

A. No all over and have switched to Anaerobic processor.

10. Questions from Shalden Parish residents

Q. Fly tipping on BOAT.

A. Request reference details be shared with Cllrs Kemp-Gee and Costigan

Q. BOAT damage.

A. PC are engaged with other local PCs on management of the BOAT – closure is being pursued.

11. Meeting closed at 8:15pm

Appendix One

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024, SPC CHAIR'S REPORT

· Thanks to those residents who have joined us this evening.

· Shalden Parish The Parish extends from the A339, up towards and over the Avenue, around the Golden Pot and down the Upper Anstey Lane and along the border with Alton. Approximately 370 residents are on the electoral roll for this parish.

· It has been a year since the local elections and the five Parish Councillor roles were, bar one, all filled by new local residents. It's been enjoyable getting to know each other, what interests and concerns we all have and a challenge to learn how a PC operates.

· As such, this APM is particularly important for the Parish Council as it provides an opportunity for residents to share feedback and highlight any concerns that the Councillors were not ware of/validates the work done to date

This year's work:

Planning

During 2023/24 the Cllrs have reviewed over 16 Planning applications relating to the parish. A review of the applications has been carried out in all cases with Comments being made on 3 plans. Those applications requiring comment were discussed in Parish Council meetings. The time given to considering these applications should not be underestimated. Clarify the PC's role in relation to planning??

Roads and Speeding

Potholes remain a significant concern and much has been done to highlight the process residents should follow to raise issues – website, during PC meetings and FB

Speeding. PC have considered a number of schemes to engage with. Currently working with HCC and Wield PC to install speed warning devices on Old Odiham Road (and potentially other sites in the parish).

Maintenance of the Recreation ground, verges and footpaths

- We routinely ensure that the parish roads, signage, salt bins, verges, ditches and drains are kept clear and tidy. When work is needed, we encourage HCC to take action or, if they cannot prioritise it, we try to deal with it ourselves.

- Verges. While HCC will trim dangerous 'sightlines' on request, it has substantially reduced the maintenance of the verges more generally to a single biannual cut as a result of budget pressure.

- With the help of our Footpath warden, Helen Dudley, we ensure the byways remain accessible and in good condition. Working with Helen, Cllr Luke Taylor has taken on the role of point person for the PC in relation to Rights of Way and I thank them both for their work. In the past year, Shalden PC has engaged with EHDC, Countryside Access and regional PC meetings on the subject of BOATS (Byways Open to All Traffic). Cuts in funding with both HCC and EHDC mean the maintenance of rights of way have fallen to local communities. Aware that the past couple of years a handful of volunteers have endeavoured to ensure access but it is a big job requiring time and the right tools.

- Taking into account, feedback from residents on the maintenance of the Parish's green spaces for aesthetic and safety reasons, the PC has built a small pot to finance some works over the year. Further the Clerk is in negotiations for the PC to join an Lengthsman scheme with Itchen Valley with £1,000 financing.

- The parish council also oversees the maintenance of the Rec ground and Pavilion. Alton Football Club have requested a renewal of their contract for another year and this will be considered at next PC meeting. This past year, AFC have taken on responsibility for the majority of the mowing of the pitch reducing costs to the PC but ensuring the pitch is maintained to the AFC require.

- Note thanks to residents who took part in the two recent Litter Picks. PC disappointed to learn that EHDC's Community Litter pick scheme has been closed and have written to request its reinstatement.

Donations and Grants

We do have the capacity to make small grants and donations to activities with a local impact. This year we supported Alton Counselling Service, East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau and grounds maintenance at St Peter & St Paul.

Finances

- All of this has been achieved on our very low annual precept of £8,750 (collected through your Council Taxes). For 2024/25 it was agreed that the precept should be increased to £13,000.

- Cllrs aware that this is an increase on previous years but the cost of utilities, insurance and the need to finance projects identified through discussion with residents justifies this increase. Detailed Budget and Precept information was shared at the January meeting and remains available on the website.

Final thanks

So that's the year that was 2023/24. None of this would have been achieved without our committed team of councillors whose contributions and efforts often go unremarked and even un-thanked. So I specifically thank Katie Whitcher, Rob Wood, Ben Jones and Luke Taylor for their considerable contribution and their commitment to serving our community.

Dave Orme

Chair: Shalden Parish