

MINUTES OF THE SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held in the Village Hall on 7th November at 7pm in the year 2023	
	Present: Val Jones (Chair), Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates, David Belfield, Laura Taylor and Jean Hammond.
	In attendance: District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming, two members of the public and the clerk.
4.1	Apologies: Carole Warren (accepted).
4.2	<p>Declaration of Interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. 3. To declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. <p>Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or another Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4)b of the code of conduct must leave the room for the relevant items. <i>Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.</i></p> <p>None declared.</p>
4.3	Minutes: The minutes of September 5 th 2023 were proposed and seconded and were agreed as a true record after the clerk inserted by hand two amendments. The minutes were then signed by the Chairwoman.
	Public Question Time: None but interest in item 4.5 below.
4.4	District and County Councillor Reports: County Councillor Chambers sent a written report. District Councillor Paul Cumming said that due to the low number of meetings held by MHDC there was little to report. Planning and Enforcement issues however were up to date as was the financial situation.
4.5	Apple Orchard at Shelsley Walsh: The current landscaping and tree removal at land leased by the Midland Automobile Club at Shelsley Walsh was discussed. MHDC had been asked by the Parish Council to attend the site to ascertain whether planning permission was required for the tree removal and track laying by heavy machinery. The Enforcement Officer after visiting has concluded that retrospective permission will be required for the works. The Tree Warden reported the removal of one dead tree and nine live apple trees. The Landscape Officer at MHDC Chris Lewis-Farley and the Green Space Officer at WCC Wade Muggleton both confirmed that there was no preservation order on the trees which have been grubbed up. The Parish Council heard concerns that the old established trees are home to a specific beetle and when the new orchard was planted in 2012 it was

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	<p>hoped that the species would be rehomed in the new trees. This has not been confirmed.</p> <p>A fruit tree expert who also works as a volunteer at the water mill grafted some of the old trees in order to perpetuate the varieties. He was not consulted before the trees were removed.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to the MAC expressing concern at the tree removal with the hope and expectation that some reparation will be made and that the MAC will replant with similar old tree species.</p>
4.6	<p>Highways Footpaths and Lengthsman:</p> <p>Lengthsman's no report, invoice or worksheets were received.</p> <p>Pard House Lane. The work has been completed.</p> <p>Road sweeping. A request for mud clearance between New Mill Bridge and All Saints has been submitted to MHDC</p> <p>New Mill Bridge. The debris against the bridge has been reported. The road flooding by the bridge caused by a stream flowing on to the Shelsley Walsh road and blocking a culvert and drains will be reported with some urgency to WCC. The District Councillor will also report the problem.</p> <p>Flooding due to surface water and blocked gullies at Pard House bungalows has been reported.</p> <p>B4203 Bromyard Road The road surfacing works on the highway have been completed.</p> <p>Councillors were urged to report all highways problems to the clerk.</p>
4.7	<p>Biodiversity:</p> <p>Councillors Metcalfe and Hammond will produce an outline for an action plan with regard to the draft Policy at the next meeting.</p> <p>The District Councillor commented that The Shelsleys are already surrounded by biodiversity here in the Teme Valley.</p>
4.8	<p>Abigail Partridge: The new PCSO. Contact details to be circulated to councillors.</p>
4.9	<p>Urgent Decisions:</p> <p>£300 VHMC for help towards Fire Safety installation has been paid (as previously agreed at the September meeting).</p>
4.10	<p>Village Hall Management Committee:</p> <p>The balance sheet for the Village Hall accounts was submitted. The Parish Council was expecting to be supplied with audited accounts and members were concerned regarding the incomplete submission. The perilous state of the finances was a concern to all.</p> <p>The Village Hall like many others is suffering from a lack of use and so revenue is affected. There was discussion on the reasons for the limited use, which included aging population, the wide spread of homes within the parishes, the increased trend of home entertainment and little interest in planned events. In spite of many attempts to involve the local community there has been little or no support for recent events in the Village Hall.</p>

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	No conclusion was made as to how to improve the situation at this point but Councillor Belfield is arranging a number of events for December which he hoped would be supported.
4.11	Planning: MHDC result: M/23/00616/FUL Cockshot Cottage WR6 6RE. Approved.
4.12	Correspondence and Consultations: All items circulated via email or available at the meeting.
4.13	Village Fete: Discussion deferred until the January meeting.
4.14	Parish Council website: Deferred until the January meeting.
4.15	Progress Reports: Big Help Out: No replies to the article in the Teme Triangle. Superfast Broadband: No update. Chairman Board: The board is now with Pigsty Studios with an estimated cost of £50 for the new lettering. Bleed out Kit and Defibrillator: The bleed out kit had now been registered and this and the defibrillator details are now held by Councillor Belfield.
4.16	Budget: The budget figures were circulated prior to the meeting as an aid to determining the Precept request in January. There will be a full discussion of the budget at the next meeting.
4.17	Finance: The following payment was agreed. Information Commissioner £40.00 Bank balance as at November 6 th £6011.10 Councillor Hutton is now a signatory to the bank account.
4.18	County Association of Local Councils (CALC): Training course details are available on the CALC website.
4.19	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: Village Fete. Parish Website Precept and budget. Flooding at New Mill Bridge. Biodiversity. Village Hall.
4.20	Date of the next meeting: January 9th at 7pm in the Village Hall. The meeting concluded at 20.40 Jan Speyer Clerk and RFO November 8th 2023

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