

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL Held in the Village Hall on 10th September at 7pm in the year 2024	
	<p>Present: Val Jones Chairwoman, Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Carole Warren, Jean Hammond, Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates and David Belfield.</p>
	<p>In attendance: District Councillors Mrs Pam Cumming, Mr Paul Cumming, one member of the public and the Clerk.</p>
3.1	<p>Apologies: Laura Taylor (vacation) accepted.</p>
3.2	<p>Declaration of Interest: None.</p>
	<p>Public Question Time: There was one question relating to the planning application at Shelsley Grange. This was discussed at 3.8 below.</p>
3.3	<p>Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on July 9th 2024 were amended to include Carole Warren as being present. The minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairwoman.</p>
3.4	<p>District and County Councillors' Reports: A written report from the County Councillor David Chambers was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. District Councillors Cummings gave verbal reports on Environmental and Planning issues and explained the Enforcement and Planning Committee procedures (see 3.8 below). There is also a scheme for District Councillors to give talks on democracy in schools. Councillor Cumming explained that he is always available to be contacted by telephone, email or Zoom.</p>
3.5	<p>Midland Automobile Club: Councillor Hutton had liaised with MAC but there were no issues to report from either side. The Parish Clerk had received an email regarding Hill Climb traffic on Fetterlocks Lane, but it was deemed to not require further action, as preventative action is already being taken with road signage.</p>
3.6	<p>Highways and Footpaths: Lengthsman: No time sheets, invoices or reports have been received. A copy of the lengthsman's contract for services was circulated before the meeting. Following discussion on this the lengthsman will be asked to take on a more proactive role with regular inspections particularly of drains in the parish. The Parish Paths Warden arranged for a fallen oak tree to be removed from blocking a path. The County Council did this as it was too precarious for the Warden and her helpers to tackle. Councillor Metcalfe also provided advice on the Public Right of Way which goes through Shelsley Grange.</p>
3.7	<p>Urgent Decisions: M/24/00979/FUL Shelsley Grange use of land as an events venue. The Clerk in</p>

	<p>consultation with the councillors submitted to Malvern Hills District Council that the Parish Council strongly objected to the proposal.</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p>Planning: MHDC Planning Decisions. M/24/00694/HP and M/24/00695/LB Post Office Shelsley Walsh. Single storey extension. Approved. Shelsley Grange Enforcement report. The Parish Council informed the Enforcement Department at MHDC of possible unauthorised works taking place at Shelsley Grange. District Councillor Cumming reported that to his knowledge MHDC Enforcement Department had received three complaints. These include: Works on the listed barn. The pathway being constructed on the bridleway. Building works to the main house.</p> <p>It is likely retrospective planning will be sought for building works already undertaken.</p> <p>There is currently a desist notice on the path to the manège. As part of the planning application a noise assessment has now been requested by MHDC.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Cumming outlined the procedure when a statutory consultee objects, as has the Parish Council. The application will go to a full Planning Committee when the Parish Council can make a representation. This procedure also allows for one person to speak as an objector and one who is in favour.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p>Correspondence for Information and Circulation: All correspondence for information delivered via email has been circulated including an email received about dog barking scaring horses. Members gave the matter consideration but as it was not deemed a Parish Council matter the correspondent will be advised if the matter cannot be resolved amicably then Worcester Regulatory Services should be contacted for advice.</p>
<p>3.10</p>	<p>Village Hall:</p> <p>There followed an acrimonious discussion.</p> <p>The Parish Council has on numerous occasions asked to view the Village Hall Management Accounts for 2022 2023. It was informed that the accounts would be available at the Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting. The date of which was never conveyed to the Parish Council in spite of many requests from the Chairwoman, the Liaison Councillor and the Clerk. Consequently, none of the six Parish Councillors who are not on the VHMC attended.</p> <p>The Chairman of the VHMC Councillor Stinton was invited to explain. He stated that the Parish Councillors were not satisfied with the summary of accounts previously submitted for the 2022 2023. The full accounts for 2022 2023 were not ready until the AGM where they were available to view. The meeting was advertised nine days in advance by a notice at the Village Hall. No parish councillors attended other than those who also sit on the VH committee, Councillors Stinton, Bates and Belfield. 12 members of the public attended. This was the opportunity to see the accounts. When asked if the</p>

	<p>Parish Councillors could now see those accounts the answer was that the VHMC is not willing to provide them.</p> <p>The 2023 2024 accounts are with Fairway accountants being independently audited and awaiting bank statements. The VHMC expects to have them returned in November.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the Conveyance Document of 1960 states that the Parish Council are the Custodian Trustees and as such the annual accounts should be made available to the Parish Council. The Chairman of the VHMC replied it was not known whether the document is still relevant.</p> <p>The non VHMC members spoke to register their dismay at the appalling behaviour of the VHMC who on a number of occasions had been asked when the AGM was to take place, no reply was received from any of the Village Hall Management Committee members to this question. The Chairman of the VHMC maintained their only duty was to place the notice of the meeting 7 days in advance and their single notice was placed nine days in advance. As a result of the poor advertising of the AGM 99% of the parish residents were excluded from attending the meeting. Village Hall Trustee meetings are held in private with no public notice.</p> <p>A motion was put forward (by the Chairwoman). Motion: This Parish Council will refer the three Parish Councillors on the VHMC for non-compliance of the Code of Conduct with regard to the lack of transparency, honesty, respect and the interests of the local community in relation to the communications for the VHMC AGM Support 5 Abstain 3 Object 1</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer can be asked to enact The Code of Conduct</p> <p>A second motion was proposed: Motion: The PC would like to be in a position to support financially the VHMC but will not until such time that the VHMC provides the PC with their annual accounts. Support 7 Abstain 1 Object 1</p> <p>The Chairman of the VHMC stated at a subsequent meeting to the AGM the Parish Council representative did not attend or send apologies. The VHMC did not want to co-opt her and do not want any involvement from anyone on the Parish Council.</p>
<p>3.11</p>	<p>Progress Reports: Broadband: Stanford Bridge/Pardhouse Lane Broadband, still no progress to report. Biodiversity: Councillor Hammond has written an article for the Teme Triangle outlining and explaining the Biodiversity Plan. NALC National Network. The Clerk to send the link to Councillor Warren. Parish Website. Clerk to ascertain whether WCC will continue to support the website.</p>
<p>3.12</p>	<p>Finance: To adopt the National Association of Local Councils Model Financial Regulations (previously circulated, reminder will be sent before the meeting). Confirmation Certificate of Exemption received by External Auditor</p>

	Bank Balance as at September 10 th £4543.14
3.13	<p>Speeding Issues: Councillor Belfield is currently undertaking a review of speeding in the parish. He will report at the next meeting. He reported that Pard House Lane is of concern and that electric vehicles are so quiet that pedestrians and riders do not hear them approaching.</p>
3.14	<p>Speeding Signs: It was agreed that additional signage would be beneficial and the purchase and positioning of signs was discussed. The Clerk advised that insurance may be an issue, it was decided to approach WCC for pictorial warning signs of pedestrians, tractors and horses. Worcestershire County Council will be requested to position flood warning signs and poles to mark the depth of flood water between All Saints' and New Mill Bridge.</p>
3.15	<p>Parish Council Chairman/Chairwoman Board: The historical importance of this board was highlighted. It is currently with the calligrapher for additional names and to alter the heading.</p>
3.16	<p>Point of Order: The election of the MAC liaison Councillor was raised. A Councillor was concerned due procedure had not been observed. He was assured that it had.</p>
3.17	<p>County Association of Local Councils: To consider attendance at forthcoming training events (previously emailed) and information received. The National Network for micro councils (Precept under £10,000) was discussed. This may be of interest and councillors can register to attend the first meeting on July 25th (online). CALC AGM 26TH September at the Pershore Civic Centre 5.30 for the Market Place & 7pm Meeting. Councillors Jones and Hammond to attend. Area Meeting 12th September zoom details were forwarded. Training for councillors, information forwarded to Councillors.</p>
3.18	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: Speeding Signage Enforcement Broadband</p>
3.19	<p>Date of next meeting: The date of the next meeting November 12th 2024 7pm Village Hall Future confirmed dates are: January 14th 2025 March 11th 2025</p>
	<p>The meeting concluded at 21.10 J Speyer September 11th 2024</p>