

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL Held in the Village Hall on 12th November at 7pm in the year 2024	
	Present: Val Jones Chairwoman, Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Laura Taylor, Carole Warren, Jean Hammond, Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates and David Belfield.
	In attendance: The Clerk Mrs J Speyer.
4.1	Apologies: District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming.
4.2	Declaration of Interest: No Declarations of Interest. There were no Dispensation requests. Dispensation forms would be required by Village Hall Management Committee members who are also Councillors should they wish to be included in any discussion relating to Village Hall matters. This would be decided upon by those Councillors not members of the VHMC. It should be made clear who can and cannot vote on any decisions to do with the VHMC if it appears on future Agenda. There was a discussion on the request to update the Register of Interests forms issued to VHMC members to reflect any voluntary positions. There was some opposition to the need for this. The matter remains unresolved, further advice from MHDC will be taken on the exact nature of what needs to be registered. The distinction between grants versus donations was discussed. The Chairman of the VHMC took the opportunity to explain that he has been in contact with the Charity Commission to clarify the position of both PC appointed representatives on the VHMC and the role of the PC as Custodian Trustee. The VHMC wish to remove the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees and have taken advice that no representative from the Parish Council is required to sit on the VHMC. The Chairman of the VHMC told the meeting that the accounts are now available on the Charity Commission website. The abbreviated minutes published in the Teme Triangle in October were objected to by those members referred to the Monitoring Officer.
	Public Question Time: No questions.
4.3	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on September 10 th 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairwoman.
4.4	Village Hall Management Committee: There was a discussion after the Chairwoman explained the outcome of the Code of Conduct referral at the September meeting. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2023 when individual officers were decided upon the three councillors who were also members of the Village Hall Management Committee said they would act as representatives. However, there was no vote and in addition according to the deeds only one representative can be elected. Due to this, the advice from Matthew Davies (Senior Lawyer General) at MHDC is that there has been no breach of the Code by those Councillors referred to the Monitoring Officer. The Councillors were not representing the Parish Council in any capacity at meetings and were free to speak as members of the public.

	Therefore, there was no case for the Councillors to answer. Councillor Warren left the meeting and offered apologies for the January Meeting.
4.5	District and County Councillors' Reports: A written report from the County Councillor David Chambers was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
4.6	Midland Automobile Club: Councillor Hutton had liaised with MAC. The dates for next year's events are on their website. They are largely the same as last year, there were no other issues to report.
4.7	Highways and Footpaths: Lengthsman: A time sheet and invoice for October have been received. Councillor Bates expressed his wish that the Lengthsman should take photographs before and after his tasks. Councillor Belfield reminded the meeting this had previously been discussed at length when photography was decided against. The matter would be reconsidered in future if there was a change in Lengthsman. The Clerk reported the request to WCC for the need of speed and warning signs to be placed in the villages particularly where no footpath or safe verge exists. The Clerk reported a request to WCC that flood warning and depth information be placed between All Saint's and New Mill Bridge. There was no update on either of these requests. Highways, the County Councillor and MP Harriett Baldwin will be contacted to assist. A deadline will be given when if no satisfactory response has been received a personal visit to WCC offices will be made. Councillor Metcalfe reported that fallen boughs have been cleared from the footpath on Southwood Common. She also warned of a broken drain affecting Pudford Lane. Whilst not in this parish it is used by Shelsley parishioners.
4.8	Urgent Decisions: None.
4.9	Planning: M/24/01290/HP at 7 The Bungalows Shelsley Beauchamp. Erection of single storey side and rear extension and new entrance porch. Council approved the application. Shelsley Grange Enforcement: This is ongoing. MHDC is aware of the rubbish collection issues at this site. Planning Enforcement Plan sent to Cllrs 24/10. The clerk was made aware that the Parish Council's preferences require amendment.
4.10	Correspondence for Information and Circulation: All correspondence for information delivered via email has been circulated. Health & Wellbeing Lucy CALC circulated 11 th October Polling District, place and station review by Monday December 2 PC Molly-Ann Smith is the new Safer Neighbourhood Officer who will work alongside PCSO Abigail Partridge.
4.11	Progress Reports: Chairman/Chairwoman Board. The completion of the updated wording on this has been requested from the calligrapher by the end of November. Broadband: Stanford Bridge/Pardhouse Lane Broadband, an email from Robert Stepniewski was read out about current and future funding but there was no progress to report.

	<p>Biodiversity: A member of the public has expressed a desire to help with the Biodiversity Plan in the parish after reading the article written for the Teme Triangle. NALC National Network. An update was unavailable.</p>
4.12	<p>Speeding Issues: Councillor Belfield has undertaken a review of speeding in the parish. It appears that much speeding is done by local inhabitants some of whom have politely been requested to slow down. There is concern that without speeding signs, speeding will continue.</p>
4.13	<p>Speeding & Signs: See also 4.7 above. It was reported that several cars were written off as a result of driving through the flood water at New Mill Bridge when no signs were apparent and the depth of water was unknown. Other signage requested from WCC – no update to report (see 4.7).</p>
4.14	<p>Budget: Budget figures were circulated before the meeting as an aide to determining the Precept for 2025 2026. It was agreed to raise the precept by £1,000 a formal request to MHDC will be made in January.</p>
4.15	<p>Finance: The Lengthsman’s invoice of £180.00 was agreed. The £35 charge to the Information Commissioner should be paid by Direct Debit again. Lloyds Bank will be changing the name of The Treasurer’s Account to Community Account.</p>
4.16	<p>County Association of Local Councils: Forthcoming training events and information received will be forwarded to Councillors. Those expressing an interest to attend any training courses should contact the clerk who will forward their details. Councillors Jones and Hammond attended the CALC AGM on the 26TH September at the Pershore Civic Centre. Councillor Jones reported there had been information on AI. A new officer at CALC made a presentation on Health & Wellbeing. Verge cutting and wildflower banks were discussed. There are few wide verges in the parish and verges are cut regularly to enable visibility on narrow lanes. Healthy Worcester (information available on the WCC website). The Repair Café at Bewdley.</p>
4.17	<p>Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda A Shelsley Nature Walk was discussed and arranged for December 8th at 11am. Details to be placed in the Teme Triangle. Overhanging brambles at the Camp Lane/Fetterlocks junction will be reported to the landowner for attention.</p>
4.18	<p>Date of next meeting: The date of the next meeting January 14th 2025 7pm Village Hall Future confirmed date is: March 11th 2025</p>
	<p>The meeting concluded at 21.10 J Speyer November 14th 2024</p>