



SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft minutes from Full Council Meeting of Shenstone Parish Council held on 12th September 2017

Stonnall Youth & Community Centre at 7.15pm.

Members Present: Cllr. Rita Hancocks (Chair), Cllr. David Thompson, Cllr. Mick Cox, Cllr. John Branch, Cllr. Neil Perry, Cllr. Gale Nicholls, Cllr. Charles Fordham, Cllr. Jean Wilson, Cllr. David Salter, Cllr. Nick Smith, Cllr. Val Neale, Cllr. Tim Cox., Shirley O'Mara- Parish Clerk.

County Cllr. David Smith.

67. Apologies.

Received from Cllrs Sheila Beilby, Lynda Jones & Elizabeth Hassell.

68. Record declarations of interest:

None stated.

69: To receive and confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting Tues 11th July 2017.

Confirmed & signed.

70. Matters arising from minutes.

None stated.

71. Public participation.

No members of the public were present.

72. To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

Cllr. David Smith:

1. An appeal has been lodged re proposed gypsy site in Stonnall

2. J.P.E. Quarry- individual objections now with lawyers.

3. Crossing patrol in Stonnall started at the beginning of term.

Working towards 100 yard "no parking" road markings outside schools.

4. Improvements in disability access- looking at strategy with the involvement of a local Shenstone resident.

5. Problem with two "dangerous, unhealthy trees" in St.Peters Close which should be replaced at a shared cost.

SPC disagree that the trees are a danger or require attention & have decided that no action will be taken.

Cllr Smith- stated that this could be an ongoing problem & would like Council to respond formally so he can then pass the information to the resident who has raised the concern.

Cllr Salter - drew attention to point 65 of the last minutes & that there was no RFO present. Stated that intervention could set a precedent. Chairman reiterated that it is the decision of the Council to not take action.

6. Blake Street Crossing - a survey has been done but it is more of a snapshot. All lights due for renewal in 5/6 years' time but there is nothing imminent.
7. Discontinuation of speed indicators- new scheme to install permanent indicators. Cllr Thompson- asked if checks could be made as to whether permanent indicators are as effective as occasional ones. Also, can existing sockets be used? Cllr Smith responded that this is the hope.
8. Closure of Church Lane- quoted that 600 vehicles per day has been reduced by 20% since the closure. It is hoped that the reduction will help enforce the speed limit but Cllr Thompson & Cllr Salter said that there was nothing in the reasoning to do with volume.

Cllr: David Salter. No district council report.

73. Update on Shenstone Cemetery Maintenance Contract.

Clr Thompson - Despite advertising in the "The Mercury", the library, village notice boards & the website we have had only two volunteers. In fact we have had reverse feedback drawing attention to the need for full contract.

Whilst volunteers will be useful, because of the size of the area & the requirement for specialist equipment, the suggestion was to go back out to tender with revised specifications, inviting LDC, Ashcroft Gardening Services, Great Outdoors and Tonks Brothers Tree Services, who have expressed an interest.

At the NPP meeting earlier this month, Cllr Perry suggested a Community "Clear up your Cemetery" maintenance day: perhaps twice yearly the Parish Council & village groups, i.e. Scouts, & volunteers join together to upkeep & tidy the grounds. Cllr Hancock has tried to contact the Scouts Leader to establish interest. It was agreed that we are now in a competitive situation as we may have exhausted volunteer capacity in the village and that, under procurement in the private sector rules, requotes are now sought but with specifications of two years not four.

Cllr Thompson will consult Cllrs Branch & Smith as well as Cllr M.Cox re revised documentation and a deadline of Dec 1st for re-submission set.

74. Eastridge Croft & Lower Lawn Cemetery.

Cllr M.Cox briefed Council on the meeting with Eastridge Croft residents (full detail attached).

Cllr Thompson has requested from Mark Ridgeway (grave digger) his estimation on how many more remains the cemetery could take within the Eastridge Croft square footage. As the submitted figure of 400 is based on cremated remains only & is on the assumption that the spacing between plots is reduced, a revised, more detailed breakdown is required. **Action:** Clerk to pursue. **Done-** Clerk spoken with Mark Ridgeway & report due no later than 22nd Sept.

75. Planning applications: (i) Biomass Operation at Wall. Cllr Thompson has submitted an objection as there is no business plan to justify 27/7 opening hours. It is accepted that the plant needs to open every day but no measurable evidence that 24 hours opening is necessary. Cllr Salter confirmed we are in close working partnership with Cllr John Crow on this matter.

(ii) LDC Proposed sites for house building in Shenstone- no inspector has been appointed as yet.

(iii) All planning applications received as attached.

76. Closure of Church Lane. Stonnall.

As this matter was covered under Cllr David Smiths address to Council, Cllr Nicholls merely reiterated that it would be interesting to see the detailed figures on which the report was based.

77. Proposed changes to Local Council Tax Support.

Cllr Salter explained that there is regrettably nothing to be done on this matter as cutbacks are Country wide.

Clarification that the reduction for SPC would be £8,000 was sought by Cllr Thompson & the general understanding of Council is that the figure is correct. Cllr Thompson emphasised the importance of us needing to look at our opportunities for increasing income in-light of this.

78. Finance.

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| Current financial position. The Council finances as at August 31st are as follows: | |
| Co-op bank a/c 3276100: | £40,037.19 |
| Co-op bank a/c 77453: | £93,627.21 |
| Nat West a/c 2115: | £25,573.56 |
| Nat West a/c 1167: | £75,005.70 |
| Total | £234,243.66 |
| Less £40,000, ring fenced for cemetery = £194,243.66 available to spend. | |
| Co-op bank - Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan = £5,010.78 | |

- (i) Pinfold Island Charges: Cllr Salter - we are still in negotiation. County says we are liable unless we were given permission.
We need to prove that we had this. **Action:** Cllr Salter to liaise with Viv Evans.
- (ii) Shenstone Library Public liability claim.
Cllr Hancocks requested support of a £579.00 grant to cover the public liability insurance at Shenstone Library stressing that this is a one off. A £500 grant was approved by the majority of Council.
- (iii) Stonnall Playing Fields. A request by Stonnall Playing Fields for a replacement litterbin was unanimously approved.
- (iv) A quote of £875.00 for a new i3 custom built desktop from Boldmere Computers was approved in the majority for use in the Parish Council office.

79. Internal Auditor.

Request from Cllr Beilby in her absence to revert back to Alan Topliss as the SPC Internal Auditor.
Unanimously approved.

80. Shenstone Parish Magazine.

Cllr Thompson on behalf of Cllr Jones raised the issue of the Parish Magazine.

Cllr Jones does not wish to continue with the responsibility of the Parish Newsletter having volunteered to do one issue but completing four. She requested Full Council discuss what form they want the magazine to take, frequency and the importance of Councillors contributing articles whilst mindful of the production deadlines which exist.

Council agreed that the Parish Clerk will take production control but there must be timely input from all.
Agreed to meet thirty minutes earlier at next Council meeting to collate input.

Action: Clerk to distribute key production dates so Council are for warned of deadlines.

81. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th October 2017 Shenstone Library.

Addendum: Cllr Salter on behalf of the council expressed thanks to the new Clerk on a pleasing & positive start in her position.

Cllr Wilson expressed thanks on behalf of the rest of the Council to Cllrs Hancocks, Salter & Beilby for all their efforts & additional work in keeping the office running so well over the last months.

