



## **SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

Serving Little Aston, Shenstone, Stonnall, Shenstone Wood End, Lynn,  
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### **Draft minutes from Full Council Meeting of Shenstone Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017** **Shenstone Library at 7.15pm.**

**Members Present:** Cllr Rita Hancocks (Chair), Cllr David Thompson, Cllr Sheila Beilby, Cllr Lynda Jones, Cllr Mick Cox, Cllr John Branch, 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.

#### **82. Apologies.**

Received from Cllr Neil Perry.

#### **83. Record declarations of interest:**

Cllr Salter regarding item 94 & Cllr Nicholls regarding item 95.

#### **84: To receive and confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting Tues 11th July 2017**

Minutes were received and signed at the close of the meeting. Cllr Salter complimented the Parish Clerk on the speed & detail of the minutes produced.

#### **85. Matters arising from minutes.**

Re item 72 (vii), Cllr Nicholls requested that Cllr David Smith share the traffic survey information re Church Lane. Cllr David Smith is prepared to loan the analysis which was compiled 2-3 years ago & formed the basis of the whole action – the survey covered key roads across the South East Staffs division covering traffic movement every day for over a week, including vehicle type and speed.

Cllr Beilby asked if SCAR had a copy of the information & Cllr Smith confirmed that they do.

Cllr Salter asked that Cllr David Smith raise the issue of the Blake Street traffic lights with Tim Helmsley as we have had no definitive answers.

#### **86. Public participation.**

No members of the public were present.

#### **87. To receive reports from District & County Councillors. Cllr. David Smith:**

Congratulations on the terrific library. Staffordshire County Council leader Cllr Philip Atkins will be visiting the library in November following good reports & will promote the library as a role model across the County.

Suggests that the Shenstone adopted neighbourhood plan is revisited as amendments may wish to be made as things have changed, such as traffic concerns around Admiral Parker Drive and the station, as well as Greysbrook School. With Lichfield Trent Valley station now charging £7.50 per day to park, Shenstone's users have increased considerably and a recommendation for County with the views of residents would be useful.

Cllr Thompson explained to Cllr Smith that parking around the station was very much on the Parish Councils Neighborhood Plan radar & that Cllr Neil Perry was progressing options with residents. Cllr Smith confirmed that he & Cllr Perry are in communication.

Proposed Mausoleum at Hammerwich- the original planning application for a traffic island to be built is being re-considered. If approved this would have a major effect on Shenstone, Stonnall & the surrounding area. Cllr Smith will keep the Parish Council advised accordingly.

Planning application for Deanslade Park Project- will have massive impact for traffic on Ashcroft Lane & urged Council to engage with the consultation.

The recycling plant at Wall has been approved.

Issue with some signs across the District including the Parish which were erected illegally & are in need of repair/renewal. LDC will not accept responsibility to renew & alternative costs to do so need to be explored.

A meeting is requested to discuss general traffic issues & concerns.

**Action:** Parish Clerk to arrange.

#### **Cllr David Salter:**

The development of Friarsgate has started.

The changes to the Local Council Support Grant were approved at cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept to be effective 2018/19.

Has met with Christopher Pincher who will be raising the issue of Wall Island. Highways are also being pursued with an update hopefully for the autumn newsletter.

Cllr Thompson added that it is important to look at the Forward Plan which was distributed this week re : Local Plan Allocations and he will include the LPA in the planned newsletter.

#### **88. Update on cemetery contract**

Council are awaiting further responses to requests to tender - update at next Council meeting.

#### **89. Update on Eastridge Croft/Lower Lawn Cemetery**

An offer has been received from the Eastridge Croft residents for 66.6% of the recommended value of the land. This was unanimously rejected by Council & a letter to this effect will be drafted.

**Action:** DONE

It is noted also that the offer made is not based on any professional advice.

Other options are also being investigated.

Cllr Nicholls commended Cllr Mick Cox & Cllr Thompson on their hard work so far.

#### **90. Follow up to LDC Soft Landscaping contract meeting being held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The existing contract with LDC expires in April. Gary Brownridge has proposed an SLA (Service level Agreement) going forward. There would be no changes to the way the contract currently operates but it would give LDC the opportunity to plan resources more effectively. The cost would be based on an RPI increase in January which would

be implemented in April. Termination of any contract is effective with six months' notice or immediately if both parties are in agreement.

It was noted that the Council are very pleased with the service offered by LDC who are reactive, approachable & flexible. However, due to the increasingly specialist nature of the trees on Little Aston Recreation ground, a separate quote may be sought in order to ensure these specimens are nurtured accordingly.

Cllr Beilby to provide Cllrs Salter & Wilson with cost breakdown analysis of the existing contract.

**Action:** done.

Cllr Wilson asked if Council would be happy to continue paying a specialist contractor & the response was that this would be quote dependent.

Council will consider the SLA proposal & feedback in the November meeting.

#### **91. Sycamore in St Johns cemetery & Blake Street lime tree.**

A quote has been received from Tonks Brothers re reducing & rebalancing tree canopy in St Johns Cemetery following recent damage caused by a storm. This was initiated by Tonks after removing a damaged tree days earlier. We have now received an alternative quote & are seeking one further from Calder's.

**Action:** Clerk to request quotation from Calder's – done

A quote has also been received at the request of Cllrs Salter & Wilson re the lime tree outside the main shops in Little Aston which needs pruning & balancing.

This work was authorised to proceed.

**Action:** done

The Clerk is seeking emergency call out rates from the local tree services in order to establish a rate card for unplanned work going forward.

#### **92. Resignation of Cllr Elizabeth Hassell**

This resignation was unanimously accepted. Cllr Hancocks will write to Cllr Hassell in due course.

#### **93. Councillor Vacancy.**

Awaiting decision from the Returning Officer re election requests if any. If none forthcoming, adverts for co-option to the vacancy will be produced & shared on notice boards & website.

#### **94. Richard Cooper Room Emergency Grant Funding.**

An emergency grant will be sought following the discovery of woodworm in the Cooper Room, the extent of which is wide ranging. Quotes are currently in progress & a hole has been temporarily filled.

There followed a discussion as to whether the emergency grant applications should be open ended or have a ceiling. In the past the limit has been £750.00 but it is felt by some that this is not sufficient should a grant be required for something more substantial such as a new boiler, extensive building damage. There was no resolution on this point.

#### **95. Stonnall Gardeners Guild Sunday Volunteers Emergency Grant Funding.**

An application was made for £189.00 to provide a new brown bin for Berryfields & fund three bins going forward. This was approved by Council.

#### **96. Stonnall Youth & Community Club sign**

A quote has been sought for a new sign to replace the existing one which needs new wording. The £229.52 quote has been accepted & will now progress.

**Action:** Clerk to request artwork- done

## 97. Downes Gate & Lynn Lane signage

New street signs are on order & will be erected in the next few weeks.

## 98. Funding relief for problem parking around schools

Following the adoption of a new initiative in Sutton Coldfield where the Council employ traffic enforcement officers to deal with dangerous, problem parking around schools it is requested that Council take this matter equally seriously in our Wards. Cllr Wilson described particular problems in Little Aston though Stonnall & Shenstone could also benefit.

**Action-** Parish Clerk to research options- done. Information requested & to follow from Sutton Coldfield Town Council.

## 99. Planning

Cllrs Salter & Thompson will consult on the proposals for the Mausoleum at Hammerwich, Clay Pit Lane/Ashcroft Lane & Ash & Lacey then make representations.

## 100. Finance.

Cllr Beilby explained:  
Finances as at 30<sup>th</sup> September

Co-operative Acct: 276100	34,912.34
Co-operative Acct: 77453	93,627.21
Nat West Acct: 2115	25,568.56
Nat West Acct: 1167	75,006.30
Total	229,114.41
Less £40,000 ring fenced	<b><u>£189,114.41</u></b>
For cemetery	
Co-operative Acct: 38000	
(Stonnall N.P.)	5010.78

A full list of expenditure & income was provided as was a list of payments for Councils approval in October. The Grant Thornton audit report was discussed & is available on the Parish Council website.

Clarification of charges for Pinfold Hill island: The Parish Clerk confirmed that after speaking with Burntwood Town Clerk, charges of rates on islands with advertising do apply.

Councillors are requested to consider the Precept for the FLS meeting on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

**101.** Temporary Traffic Order - Diversion of Vehicular Traffic, Park Lane, Shenstone.

Effective 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Noted.

**102. Contacts for Parish Councillors.**

Duly amended.

**103. Changes to Parish Clerks hours.**

At a meeting of the Employment Committee attended by Cllrs Hancocks, Beilby, Salter & Wilson a change to the working pattern of the Clerk was discussed. This involved no reduction in working hours over the month but that the hours are distributed so that Fridays are a day off. This was agreed at the meeting & unanimously approved by Full Council.

The Clerk asked for permission to attend a "Budgets, Precepts & Annual Returns" course with the SPCA at a cost of £20.00+ VAT & to enrol in the "Introduction to Local Council Administration" Level 2 qualification with the Society of Local Council Clerks at a cost of £99.00+VAT. This was also approved.

**104. Confidential item**

Cllr Hancocks stated "Due to the receipt of new and confidential information this item will now be held in camera. It is resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972".

Members discussed an item of correspondence received and resolved to respond with a full explanation.

**105. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 7.15 Little Aston Village Hall**