



## **SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Serving Little Aston, Shenstone, Stonnall, Shenstone Wood End, Lynn,  
Parish Council Office 25C Main Street Shenstone WS14 0LZ**

**Tel: 01543 481 947 e-mail: [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk) web: [www.shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](http://www.shenstone-staffs.gov.uk)**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017** **LITTLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.15pm.**

105. Register of attendance: Cllr Rita Hancocks (Chair), Cllr Mick Cox, Cllr David Salter, Cllr Charles Fordham, Cllr Gail Nicholls, Cllr David Thompson, Cllr Jean Wilson, Cllr Val Neale, Cllr Tim Cox, Cllr Nick Smith, Cllr Neil Perry, Cllr John Branch  
Shirley O'Mara (Parish Clerk & RFO).

106. Apologies were received from Cllr Sheila Beilby & Cllr David Smith

107. Declarations of Interest on agenda items.  
Cllr David Salter expressed an interest in items 114/122 & 115.

108. To accept & confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.  
Confirmed & signed.

109. Matters arising from the minutes.  
None that are not referred to as specific agenda items in this meeting.

110. Public Participation.  
The meeting was attended by Viv Evans, a former Clerk to Shenstone Parish Council.  
Mrs Evans had no comments to make but stated that she would make some notes and liaise with the Clerk at a later date.

111. To receive reports from District & County Councillors.  
Cllr David Salter- has finally had a response re Wall Island but there is little definitive information so he has raised further questions such as timescale, what is happening & when. There are budget problems & alternative options are being considered for 2018. The line marking & re-signage is likely this financial year.  
As the island will be a major thoroughfare for increased traffic following HS2, this could be used as a lever for HS2 funding.

112 Shenstone Lawn Cemetery- update on tenders & recommendation  
Cllr Thompson presented a full report with analysis of the three tenders received from Great Outdoors, LDC & Tonks. (attached). The recommendation was for Full Council to accept the lowest tender supported by the analysis & justifications in the report & that a trial period of 12 months should commence on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with a two year SLA to be considered if all are in agreement at that time.  
The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Cllr Hancocks thanked Cllr Thompson on behalf of the whole council for his hard work.

113. Shenstone Lawn Cemetery- update on Eastridge Croft response & recommendation.  
Cllr Mick Cox explained that following a meeting with Eastridge Croft residents on October 20<sup>th</sup> an offer of 90% was made to purchase the land from the Parish Council. Though the residents have not sought professional advice they did accept the findings of the District Valuers report & the estimation seemed entirely fair and reasonable.

Cllr Mick Cox gave the following financial breakdown:

Sale of Land

District Valuer Estimate £37,000  
Achievable amount £33,000  
Less Costs (legal fees) £5,000  
Net Income from sale £28,300

Option to retain land and use as a Cemetery.

The assumption is that there is capacity for 20 years  
The land would provide either 200 Burial plots @£200.00 per plot. Giving Income of £29,600  
or 556 Cremation Plots.  
@£200.00 per plot = £66,000

Current Ratio of Burials to Cremated Remains is 40% and 60% respectively  
This would provide income of  
Burial Plots £11,840 Cremated remains £39,960 Total £51,800 less costs of:

Establishing new Boundary wall £34,000 (lowest of 2 estimates) .This amount does not include any contingency amount for tree roots, drainage etc.  
Income after costs £17,800. Spread over 20 years is £890.00 per year.

Unknown factors-

Increase in maintenance costs to reflect the larger site. Approx 4K per annum based on existing costs.

The recommendation to Full Council was to accept the offer of 90% with further reference to the following extract from the District Valuers report:

*Owing to the nature of the property and particularly the limited pool of potential purchasers, it should be noted that the sale price may ultimately be determined by the negotiating positions of each party to the transaction.*

Cllr Mick Cox explained also that the residents may deal with their purchases as one case through their Solicitors reducing our legal costs in accordance: 1 buyer- 1 seller, rather than 5 individual buyers-1 seller.

Cllr Hancocks thanked Cllr Cox on behalf of the whole council for his hard work.

114. LDC Soft Landscaping SLA Proposal.

Cllr Salter stated that the Chairman of L.A.R.G.A has received a separate quote from "Tonks". A detailed comparison is now required before any decisions can be made. The council are in receipt of a very comprehensive case from L.A.R.G.A in support of a specialist ground maintenance team (attached).

115. Community Grant Funding 2018.

A new application form & guidance notes have been produced. New applications will be required by a 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 deadline in order to go to a special FLHS meeting on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. An article detailing the application process will appear in the newsletter.  
All those in receipt of a grant in 2017 have received reminders that they must submit relevant invoices and Cllr Salter Confirmed that the £1000 limit for applications remains.  
The new application was proposed and approved by all present (attached).

116. Precept 2018.

The Clerk took Council through an analysis of spend this year & a forecast to end of this year as a base line for looking at next year's budget requirements & made recommendation of a minimum 9% increase. Full breakdown of figures attached.  
No resolution was made as Cllr Beilby, Chairman of the Finance Committee, is currently away and both Council & the Clerk requested her input.

117. Winter maintenance programme.

Cllr Hancocks, Cllr Neal and the Clerk met Matt Bond of Tamworth Gritting Services to discuss the programme for this year on Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. The service provider confirmed that rates are unchanged at £125.00 and that he uses site specific postcode ground temperatures as triggers.

It was confirmed at Full Council that the areas designated as requiring attention are around the three schools- Barnes Rd, Forge Lane and Main St. These will be term time only.

In addition, should weather dictate, Church Road, Stonnall is to be gritted once a year for the children's Christmas service.

Tamworth Gritting Services also provide snow clearance services but it was not considered something we require. However, Cllr Thompson has asked for pricing information anyway.

118. Islands and Planters.

Cllr Salter confirmed that though "Creative Plants" would like to maintain the planter opposite "The Lodge" there is a question of ownership of the land. He is currently trying to establish the precise detail.

However, "Creative Plants" would like to advertise on Pinfold Island at a cost of £200 per sign per annum.

This was approved by Full Council.

119. Cllr Hancocks stated that a new road sign is requested for the new development by Derry Farm.

Cllr Hancocks gave the proposed suggestions and "Derry Court" was agreed. Action: Clerk to move forward with LDC Planning. DONE.

120. Downes Gate naming ceremony. Cllr Mick Cox confirmed that now the new sign is in place we can arrange the appropriate ceremony with the family of the late Rev Downes. Ceremony to be held in St. Peter's Church.

121. Finance- as at 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017.

Nat West Bank A/C 2115: £25,568.02  
A/C 1167: £75,006.30

Co-Op Bank A/C 276100: £28,763.57  
A/C 77453: £96,639.18

Total: £225,639.18 with £40,000 ring fenced for cemetery.

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan: £11,040.10.

A full breakdown of all costs for approval this month was presented (attached).

122. Update on Cooper Room.

Cllr Salter explained that an emergency grant fund form will be submitted by the Richard Cooper Room committee in light of the wood worm problem & the issues with damp which have been put off. Quotes have been received totalling £5,000 inc VAT which covers treating the woodworm, internal damp work, re-plastering & sanding & re-varnishing the floor. The hall would need to be closed for a few days to enable the work to take place.

In light of the seriousness of the problem Cllr Salter requested Council to consider part or full funding.

The decision was taken unanimously to support the application in full.

123. Update on Village Hall.

Handyman & Co Ltd have been given the contract of completing the work on Shenstone Village Hall. It is starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November and expected to run for ten weeks weather dependent. Letters have been sent to residents of Barnes Road. It was not clear whether a tent scaffold would be used to cover the building.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Handyman & Co.

124. Resignation of Cllr Lynda Jones & update on vacancies.

The resignation of Cllr Jones was accepted & the Clerk was requested to write to confirm.

Action: DONE

To date there have been no applications for the vacancy in Stonnall & Little Aston and one for the vacancy in Shenstone.

125. Newsletter.

It was agreed that all amendments be forwarded to the Clerk on Wednesday morning in time for the print deadline.

Action: DONE. All amendments received & processed. Newsletter now gone for printing.

126. Cllr Thompson explained the objection to Planning Application 17/01515/CLE Deanslade Farm (attached).

All other planning applications this month (attached) were approved.

127. Individual ward funding for Christmas Events.

Cllr Fordham passed on a request from Little Aston Community Association re financial assistance with Christmas tree lights for the large tree at Little Aston crossroads. It is the view of both Cllr Fordham & Cllr Salter that this request cannot be supported as there is no indication that any fundraising activities have taken place in support of this project and that the Clerk should write to this effect suggesting that a more structured fundraising approach be made next year of which the Council may perhaps contribute.

Action: Clerk to write to L.A.C.A. DONE.

128. Christmas Office opening.

It was unanimously agreed that the office will be closed across Christmas & New Year. As the Clerk does not work Fridays this means the office will close on Thursday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> & re-open on Tuesday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.

129. Date, time & location of next Full Council Meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.15 Stonnall Youth & Community Centre.