



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 web: www.shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

APPROVED MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2018 LITTLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.15pm.

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

131. Apologies were received from Cllr David Thompson, Cllr Val Neale & Cllr David Smith

132. Declarations of Interest on agenda items.

Cllr David Salter & Cllr Jean Wilson both expressed an interest in item 138.

133. To accept & confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting on Tuesday 14th November 2017.
Confirmed & signed.

134. Clerks report on outstanding matters from minutes 14th November 2017.

Item 113- sale of Lawn Cemetery Land to Eastridge Croft residents: apologies from Moseley's Solicitors for not initiating contact with buyers solicitors before Christmas due to heavy work load. They have now written to Eversheds. Mr Stuart Taylor, one of the buyers, has been in touch to chase & the Clerk has confirmed latest position.

135. Public Participation.

The meeting was attended by Mr Stuart Jones, an applicant for the vacant Shenstone Councillor vacancy and Mr Bob Ingram of Stonnall.

Mr Ingram wanted clarification on the question "Despite a village plan, can District or County Councils overrule?" Cllr Salter explained that the goal is to intermesh, conforming to the accepted and adopted plan, but that there are times when it can be overridden and variances suggested.

Mr Ingram also wished to discuss the Community Speed watch campaign in Stonnall. Mr Ingram was requesting Council support, if asked to comment, on his recent written communication to the local Police requesting extending 30mph repeater signs for the length of Wall Heath Lane. Cllr Salter explained that such signs are illegal, apart from those displaying a camera in safety concern zones.

Cllr Hancocks suggested Mr Ingram contact Cllr David Smith as County Councillor & Cllr Tim Cox also suggested contacting the independent Police Commissioner.

136. To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

Cllr David Salter: 1) The period of collection of brown bins has been extended to January 19th. Thereafter, brown bins will only be collected if residents have signed up to the new garden waste scheme.

2) Environment at District are interested and considering public space protection to try to combat anti-social behaviour. Cllr Salter would like anyone with responsibility for playing fields who may be interested to contact him. Re environmental crime, stands with signs & a dog poo dispenser are being considered.

3) There is a meeting of the Parish Forum on 28th Feb- well worth attending. Universal Credit has been rolled out in Little Aston & Shenstone. Please go via Cllr Salter for further information.

137 Shenstone Lawn Cemetery- meeting with Lichfield District Council on Nov 28th 2017.

Following the awarding of the tender to LDC, this meeting was arranged to agree final details & management of the contract. The Clerk read the following comments from Cllr Thompson "the tender offered a clear specification to

work to, there were proposed savings and put the Parish Council in a better cost control position. The contract has now started with a meeting to assess in February.
The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

138. LDC Soft Landscaping SLA Proposal including Little Aston Recreation Grounds maintenance tender.

Following the request to consider a separate quote from Tonks Brothers to maintain LARGA, Cllr Beilby explained that all details had been carefully considered at the Finance meeting in December. She noted that the amount currently paid to LDC is £7,047.27+ VAT. The street cleaning element is £2,435.00 + VAT so with the Tonks quotation being £6,400, the overall cost for the full maintenance of LARGA would be approx. £8835.00(the £6,400 Tonks quote plus £2435.00 street cleansing). This is an increase of approx. £1788.00 per year but Cllr Beilby agreed that she could completely understand the justification for the increase to provide the specialist attention required.

A vote was taken on the recommendation to approve the awarding of the LARGA soft landscaping contract to Tonks Brothers & was unanimously accepted.

It was also unanimously accepted to award a two year SLA contract to Lichfield District Council for the other wards & that LDC would still provide Little Aston with cover for waste collection, etc.

ACTION: Clerk to notify LDC – DONE. Clerk to notify Tonks- DONE.

139. Community Grant Funding 2018.

The deadline for grant applications is Friday 12th January. We have received a few applications to date but more are expected.

Cllrs Salter & Wilson then brought up the issue of the Christmas tree in Little Aston. Following some public disquiet & communication to the Parish Council expressing dissatisfaction with the perceived lack of support for the Christmas lights, Cllrs Salter & Wilson believe that the Council should respond. The general perception that the failure for any lights is due to the fact that the Council will not pay is in no way correct and that we should issue a public notice disclaiming responsibility.

It was agreed that this is the way forward & that the notice should be publicly displayed, including on the website, as well as being sent to the LACA Chairman. Cllr Salter has contacted the resident who emailed the Council personally but has had no response.

140. Finance- as at 9th Jan 2018.

Co-Op Bank A/C 276100: £28,496.21
A/C 77453: £78,639.18
A/C 138000: £11,040.00 (Stonnall neighbourhood plan)
Nat West Bank A/C 2115: £25,553.56
A/C 1167: £75,012.53

Total: £218,741.48 with £40,000 ring fenced for cemetery.

A full breakdown of all expenditure for December & January was presented & approved

141. Precept 2018.

Following a recommendation from the Finance Meeting on December 18th 2017, the suggestion of a 6.5% increase on the Precept for 2018/19 was fully discussed and unanimously approved. An analysis of expenditure to date & forecast of both income & costs was provided (attached).

This will enable the Council to increase the ring fenced figure for a new cemetery to £100,000.

142. Planning applications.

Update on LDC new build proposals- Cllr Thompson, via the Chairman, reported " Victory for Shenstone Parish Council and 'Save our Shenstone' Green Belt Campaign as LDC have withdrawn their extra new build proposals.
St John's Hill 17/01056/FUL- objection to application-

Cllr Thompson, via the Clerk, noted “Another example of the value of having an approved neighbourhood plan which has a specific policy against allowing many large homes with small gardens and bedroom numbers that do not cater for local needs to be built on a site which a single home previously stood”.

The Clerk has today contacted the Planning Officer to inform them that the Parish Council wishes to make personal representation at the planning committee – no date currently agreed.

All other planning applications for Dec & Jan were passed without comment (attached).

Cllr Nicholls mentioned that it would be very useful to know the outcome of all planning applications. The Parish Council are not automatically notified of this, though the information is available on the website. In order to provide this useful detail, the Clerk will add an outcome column to the spreadsheet produced & check weekly.

143. Update on Cooper Room.

Nothing forthcoming.

144 Update on Village Hall.

Cllr Hancocks said that the builders are awaiting approval of stress loading.

145. There is still an outstanding vacancy in Stonnall with no interest received to date.

Stuart Jones, who was in attendance, has provided a full application form for the Shenstone vacancy & it was unanimously agreed that he will be co-opted on to the Council at the February meeting.

146. Interactive speed signs/Safety Camera Partnership.

Request from Cllr David Smith to defer this item until the transport meeting on Feb 8th.

Cllr Salter did add, however, that if pursued it may be much easier to purchase our own signs.

147. Rubbish Bin for Lammas Land.

Request to purchase a new bin was recommended by the Finance Committee at Dec 18th meeting & approved by Full Council.

ACTION: Clerk to order from LDC- done.

148. Grit Bins for Village Halls/ Junction of Holly Hill Rd-Court Drive.

Purchase of bin for Holly Hill Lane/Court Drive & for the half of which the Parish Council are custodian trustees unanimously approved. Clerk awaiting confirmation of costs.

149. Wall Island/St Johns Hill Signage.

There was a general discussion about speed signs but no outcome. Cllr Fordham stated that in his opinion the only speed signs that are effective are those that have vehicle registration recognition. Cllr Nicholls said that, as speed is an issue in all three wards, we should consider expenditure on appropriate measures.

150. English Heritage visit to St Johns.

Cllr Salter- nothing heard as yet.

151. Downes Gate naming ceremony.

Photographs of the sign sent to Mrs Graves & a ceremony to be confirmed in May at St Peter's Church.

152. Playing Fields Inspection.

Unanimously agreed that “Playdale” complete the inspections of all three playing fields.

Cost £195.00 per inspection.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange. DONE: Requested dates mid-March. Awaiting confirmation.

153: Code of Conduct/Equalities Training.

Item requested by Cllr Thompson who was not in attendance so deferred to next meeting.

Cllr Nicholls commented that she had attended the training in October & that it was very good. Cllr Salter agreed it was well worth taking part.

154. Employment Committee.

Cllr Salter- In accordance with agreed procedure, a three month review of the Clerk's progress was arranged for Wednesday 10th December.

Given that there were no concerns about her work it was concluded that Shirley should receive an increase in salary to the predetermined pay-scale LC1 rate 24, which takes her salary to £21,962 per annum from December 1st 2017. The next review will be at the end of the financial year when remuneration will increase to pay scale LC2 rate 26, £23,398 plus the annual local government statutory increase, currently 1%.

This will then also involve pension rights and full employer's contribution will be made.

Shirley will now register for the CILCA qualification for which costs were approved.

Cllr Beilby confirmed that the mentoring given by Viv Evans was completed in December & is no longer required.

155. Approve dates of Finance, Legal, Health & Safety Meetings & Neighbourhood Planning & Property Meetings for 2018.

All dates approved except F, L H&S meeting on April 24th. Requested 1 week earlier or later.

Action: Clerk to re-arrange. DONE- April meeting now April 17th. (Full dates attached).

Cllr Tim Cox confirmed that as he does not attend NPP meetings they can be held in the main office.

F, L, H& S meetings will be in the Richard Cooper Room.

156. Date, time & location of next Full Council Meeting: Tuesday 13th February Richard Cooper Room, Shenstone 7.15pm

Signed Pat Claxcock Date 13/2/18