



## **SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

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### **APPROVED MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY at 7.30pm SHENSTONE VILLAGE HALL, BARNES ROAD, SHENSTONE WS14 0LT**

Register of attendance: Cllr David Salter (Chairman), Cllr Sheila Beilby, Cllr Rita Hancocks, Cllr Mick Cox, Cllr Val Neale, County Cllr David Smith, Shirley O'Mara (Clerk & RFO), Mr Malcolm Beilby (Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields), Lisa Breeze (Little Aston Recreation Ground Association), Mrs Mary Jones (Shenstone Day Care Centre), Marisha Place (Lichfield and District Partnership Manager, Staffordshire Police), Mr Brian Eyles, Mrs Carol Eyles, Mrs Dot Horton, Mr Brian Hartley.

1. Apologies for absence  
Cllr Tim Cox, Cllr Jean Wilson, Cllr Gail Nicholls
2. Welcome.  
Cllr David Salter, Chairman of Shenstone Parish Council for 2018-19, welcomed all attendees and explained the format of the meeting along with an explanation of the legal requirement to hold one.
3. To approve & adopt the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting, Shenstone Village Hall, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017- The minutes were duly approved and signed. .
4. Shenstone Parish Council Annual Report 2017-18.  
Cllr Salter introduced the new Clerk, Shirley O'Mara and explained that three new Councillors have been appointed since the last meeting: Cllr Stuart Jones representing Shenstone, Cllr Nick Smith representing Little Aston & Cllr Nicola Macdonald representing Stonnall. He thanked them for their contributions so far.

Cllr Salter then read a list of those community organisations that have this year benefited from Parish Council grants. These are: Stonnall Village Hall, Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields, Little Aston Tennis Club, Shenstone Village Hall, Shenstone Day Care Centre, St Johns Hall, Shenstone Cares, Trinity Methodist Church, Stonnall Youth & Community Centre, Shenstone Playing Fields, Fotherley Hall, Stonnall Gardeners Guild & St Johns Church. £10,165 of grants in total has been paid out to these organisations.

A review of St Johns Lower Lawn Cemetery burial regulations has recently been approved by Council. The Parish Council is increasingly aware of the need to accommodate requests made on behalf of people who may not have been resident in the Parish Council area when they died but have previously had a close association with the Parish Council area. Currently people who pass away and had lived outside the Shenstone Parish Council area have no access to the Lower Lawn open cemetery. As a result the Parish Council will soon issue proposals for the renewal of the current St John's lower Lawn open Cemetery Burial Regulations. These proposals are open to public consultation. Following consideration of the consultation responses formal changes to the Regulations will be the subject of a Parish Council recommendation to endorse the changes or maintain the status quo. Please direct any responses to the Parish Clerk by the end of July.

A great Shenstone success was achieved when in December 2017 Lichfield District Council dropped proposals to build houses on land at Lynn Lane Pumping Station and Millbrook Drive. This decision was a strong endorsement of both the provisions of the Parish Council's Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan and the well organised and effective "Save our Shenstone" campaign. Both sites had been previously carefully considered and rejected by residents during the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process and our local arguments to omit the two sites were again successfully brought to the attention of Lichfield Council. As a result of the continuing requirement for Lichfield District Council to contribute to the West Midlands requirement for new homes over the next twenty years similar proposals may be tabled for sites elsewhere in the Shenstone Parish Council area in the future.

Cllr Salter also displayed a copy of the new Parish Newsletter which is being delivered from the 25<sup>th</sup> May. He drew particular attention to the article concerning the recent purchase of three WW1 commemorative benches for which ideas are sought from residents regarding locations.

5. Shenstone Parish Council Financial Report 2017-18

Financial year end closed with a balance of £160,000. Though this may at first seem like a large figure over 60% of this is an earmarked fund for a specific major project: research & building of a new cemetery as the existing Lower Lawn Cemetery at St Johns is nearing capacity.

Full accounts in detail will be available both on the website & on the noticeboards from mid-June.

6. District and County Councillors Reports 2017-18.

County Councillor David Smith

Cllr Smith stated that 80% of Council Tax payment to County is spent on social care; the figure is soaring and impacting on other things. £15,000 has been spent from his budget on Shenstone and adjoining Parishes.

County are working with the Parish Council and others on measures to reduce speeding including new illuminated speed display signs.

After a bad winter the schedule for addressing the problem of pot holes is behind schedule by about a month but work has now started.

Cllr Smith then spoke of the Lichfield District County Local Plan Proposals. Demand for housing in the West Midlands is greater than capacity so they are looking at Staffordshire for potential sites. The spread is from Stafford down but Lichfield District is expected to carry significantly more than in the local plan. Sorting out the infrastructure is essential regardless of what develops- looking at how traffic can be distributed and improving the two stations as well as looking at a possible station north of Shenstone. Development is more likely to be on the borders of Little Aston with 6,000 houses potentially.

Mr Malcolm Beilby asked how the proposals interact with the Neighbourhood Plan & Cllr Smith responded that he did not think Stonnall & Shenstone will get disturbed but there will be pressure on Little Aston.

Cllr Salter drew attention to the Local Plan Review survey on line which is well worth looking at and taking part. Save our Shenstone are formulating an official response but the more responses the better. Birmingham does have a housing shortfall & have identified sites at the outer rim for possible development. Though nothing is set in stone, Cllr Salter is working with District & County Councillors to create boundary between a development and any boundary itself so that if a boundary review happens it is clear what land belongs to whom.

Mrs Carol Eyles, a resident of Shenstone, said that growth is inevitable but infrastructure needs to be kept in mind. She has shared the online survey with the Campaign to Protect Rural England who are very concerned.

7. Matters raised by residents- Open Forum.

Mrs Eyles raised the subject of cars speeding down Pinfold Hill & past her home opposite The Railway pub- recently two cars racing each other side by side in the middle of the afternoon. Cllr Salter asked Marisha Place (Lichfield and District Partnership Manager, Staffordshire Police) to note & follow up.

8. To receive reports from Community Organisations.

Reports were read from the following: Shenstone Cares, Shenstone Village Hall, Shenstone Community Library Organisation, Shenstone Day Care Centre, Fotherley Hall, Stonnall Village Hall, Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields, The Lammas Land Committee, Stonnall Youth & Community Centre & Little Aston Recreation Ground. (Attached)

Cllr Salter briefed everyone on the potential new developments for the Old Tower in St Johns Churchyard in Shenstone. 80% of funding for its renovation is pending from English Heritage. Ideas have been sought re future income generating opportunities including adding to the local Heritage Trail & adapting as a satellite mast boost to boost signal.

The Post Office in Shenstone has been closed for some weeks now causing inconvenience to residents & businesses alike. On contacting main headquarters the following statement was issued which the Post Office would like shared:

“We sincerely apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of Shenstone Post Office.

“We understand and appreciate how much communities rely on our services. We would like to reassure customers that the decision to suspend services at any of our branches is never taken lightly. We take very seriously any decision to change the way a branch is operated, and will only do so when it is warranted by the circumstances of the particular case, for example to protect customers, Post Office assets or the safety and security of the Post Office network.

“We are working hard to restore services for the community as quickly as possible.”

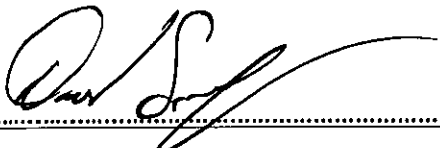
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9. Vote of thanks to all participants

10. Closure of meeting at 8.33pm with light refreshments served.

Signed  Date 20-6-18