



SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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APPROVED MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 12th JUNE STONNALL YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE at 7.15pm.

22. Register of attendance: Cllr David Salter (Chair), Cllr Sheila Beilby, Cllr David Thompson, Cllr Val Neale, Cllr Neil Perry, Cllr Charles Fordham, Councillor Nicola Macdonald, Cllr Mick Cox, Cllr John Branch, Cllr Rita Hancocks, Cllr Stuart Jones.
Shirley O'Mara (Parish Clerk & RFO).
Charles Bushe, Director, DevComms. Mr Andy Thomas & Mr Tim Wright, Rapid Relief Team.
23. Apologies received from Councillors Gail Nicholls, Tim Cox, Nick Smith & Jean Wilson.
24. Declarations of Interest.
Councillors expressed non pecuniary interest in items as follows: Cllr Fordham Item 40, Cllr Jones items 37 & 38, Cllr Hancocks item 38 & Cllr Mick Cox item 39.
25. To accept and confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2018.
These were duly approved and signed.
26. Clerks report on matters outstanding from minutes of last meeting Tuesday 8th May 2018.
The revised Standing Orders which had been circulated to all members of the Council were duly signed and adopted.
The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting have already been circulated to all Councillors that attended & will now be shared with Full Council. ACTION: done.
It was agreed that a draft set of these minutes will then be published on the website.
27. Public Participation.
Mr Charles Bushe of DevCom addressed the meeting. Mr Bushe had previously forwarded to Council by email & post details of a proposed housing development on the site of the Wyevale Garden Centre on Chester Road. The proposal is for eleven new homes with a comprehensive landscaping scheme. He then attended the Neighbourhood Planning & Property meeting on May 22nd where a number of questions were raised by Council.
Mr Bushe has since responded by email as follows:
In relation to affordable housing, the planning consultant has confirmed that both the adopted and emerging policies stipulate that onsite affordable housing should be provided on developments of 15 homes or more. As this planning application is for 11 homes, it falls below this threshold. As referred to in the letter however, the mix of housing for the site was driven by what Wyevale expect to be attractive to local people and the detailed design of the homes (which would influence the pricing) would be agreed at the future Reserved Matters stage.

We also discussed the reference to the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) within the letter. Currently, the BCCS is the adopted over-arching policy document which applies to developments coming forward in Walsall District, alongside the remaining saved Unitary Development Plan policies. There is an emerging Walsall Site Allocations Plan which, although not yet adopted, has also been taken into consideration. Both BCCS and the emerging Walsall Site Allocations Plan policy state that minimum densities of 35 homes per hectare should be achieved for new developments, however: this only applies if it does not prejudice the historic character and distinctiveness of the local area; and lower densities are permitted where it would be in-keeping with its surroundings (as in this case). As such, the proposals being brought forward comply with both the adopted BCCS and emerging Walsall Site Allocations Plan policies as:

- *Fewer than 15 homes are proposed so no onsite affordable housing is required (complies with BCCS and emerging Walsall Site Allocations Plan); and*
- *The lower density has been proposed in order to protect the character of the local area (complies with the exceptions within the BCCS and emerging Walsall strategy).*

An application has now been submitted but not registered and a mailing sent to all local residents.

Cllr Thompson stressed the need to look at repeat applications for development as cumulative and this should be made clear to Walsall DC.

Cllr Salter asked if adjacent local planning authorities have been consulted & stressed that they must be, as well as looking at the impact on the greenbelt area.

Cllr Cox asked if there were any plans to develop the Wyevale site in Shenstone as it is up for sale- Mr Bushe has heard nothing to this effect.

Cllr Beilby asked Mr Bushe if DevCom have looked at the entrance, exit & car parking at Wyevale in Shenstone & any impact the potential increase in traffic would have. Mr Bushe stated that he believed Wyevale would lose trade to other local garden centres rather than increase.

Also attending the meeting were Andy Thomas and Tim Wright from the charity Rapid Relief Team. Their goal is to assist with community projects and they have assisted the Council in the past with the "Great British Spring Clean". It was suggested that they could be involved again in the forthcoming "Community Clear up Day". ACTION: Clerk to contact after planning meeting on June 13th at St Johns.

28. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Salter explained that there are a lot of meetings taking place regarding the Friarsgate development in Lichfield with a big press release expected within a month.

Cllr Thompson requested an update on any meetings with the Franchise holder of the cross city line to discuss parking problems at Shenstone. Francis Thomas, Head of Corporate Affairs West Midlands Trains Ltd, has agreed to meet Cllr David Smith shortly & Cllr Salter has asked to be involved.

Cllr Perry updated Council on his recent conversation with Tim Heminsley at Staffordshire CC re parking restriction proposals. It was agreed that the proposal for a parking restriction

between 11.00-13.00 Monday to Friday was likely to be effective and easier to enforce. Any lines put down would be the thin conservational type. The trees along the station would also need to be dealt with on a day when there is no train service.

Cllr Thompson questioned whether what the Council is proposing is enough bearing in mind the station will soon be charging for parking. It was agreed that this will have an impact and we must keep looking at the situation.

Cllr Perry also asked that restrictions along Main Street be considered as part of any consultation as parking outside the shops is becoming a major problem. Some kind of time restriction could be effective with local businesses enforcing the no parking restriction on their own private land.

29. Report from Public Meeting held on 5th June 2018.

A full report of the public meeting has already been circulated to Council. In addition to those submitted on line, 69 objections were processed by the Clerk & acknowledged as received by LDC. It was agreed that the meeting had cleared the air but that the situation is very serious and we are far from safe. We must remain vigilant and proactive working with "Save our Shenstone" awaiting the options statement in January.

Cllr Jones stated that he believes the Parish Council must learn from this experience and be better prepared next time; ready with an effective communications strategy highlighting key dates and much better publicised. The Council, in his view, got away with it, was not seen in a good light and a lot more needs to be done to regain faith.

Whilst agreeing that communication certainly could have been much better, Cllr Salter reiterated that the wording in the original communication from LDC re the consultation was not very clear and in future we need to pay very close attention.

Cllr Salter quoted the following from Lichfield Live 12.11.2013

Councillors have issued a 'hands off' warning to other areas thinking about using Lichfield and Burntwood to meet their own house building targets. The ruling Conservative group on Lichfield District Council made the comments after discussing the area's Local Plan. The document outlines the local authority's allocation of land for new housing across the region in the next 20 years. But despite recognising that the scale of growth planned for Lichfield and Burntwood will shock some residents, the councillors say they are ready to fight off vultures from other areas.

Cllr Ian Pritchard said: "Lichfield District has already accepted growth from Cannock and Tamworth and the planning inspector has acknowledged how well we have co-operated with them on this matter. But as other neighbours like Birmingham and the Local Enterprise Partnership start to eye our open land for further development, they should be clear that they will have a fight on their hands. Birmingham has many previously developed sites – they should use those first before they come knocking on our door".

Cllr Perry stated that he believed there was a feeling in the community of coming together which should be built on. He also commended Cllr Thompson for his work at the meeting and since & thanked him for all of his efforts.

30. GDPR Officer.

Following a change in law it is now not mandatory for Parish Councils to appoint an officer to look at data protection but it is considered good practice. It was agreed that Shenstone

Parish Council should opt in to the scheme being offered by Staffs County Council for a period of one year. Proposed by Cllr Salter, seconded by Cllr Cox & vote agreed.

31. Position as at 12th June 2018.

Co-Op Main account: £176,662.00 Co-Op Reserve account: £33,650.57

Co-Op Neighbourhood Plan: £11,040.10

Nat West main account: £31,762.86 Nat West Business reserve account: £108,328.47

Unity Bank is very close to completing the set-up of our new account with them. They are, in the next few days, contacting the Co-Op to arrange transfer of funds & will then amend payment details on any direct debits or standing orders we have. At the next Finance meeting, it will be decided how to split funds out so that the funds we have earmarked for the development of a cemetery are clearly ring fenced.

Transactions for May & June to date were shared & approved.

Confirm next Finance meeting Tuesday 26th June 2018 6.00 Richard Cooper Room, Shenstone

32. Update on sale of Lower Lawn Cemetery/ Eastridge Croft.

The Clerk spoke with Moseley's on the morning of 12th June & confirmed all monies had now been received and was being held pending full completion. This is expected to be in the next few days.

33. New cemetery- research so far.

Analysis of the burial records in each of the Wards indicates an overwhelming preference for residents to be buried in the Ward in which they live.

Information has been received from expert companies re the potential cost of feasibility studies looking at geomorphology, hydrogeology, climate & other factors relating to potential sites. The Clerk has contacted LDC to ask for a meeting to discuss moving forward & guidance.

Re the Burial Authority Review, there have been no comments received.

34. Repair to Lower Lawn Cemetery Wall.

Quote expected this week from the conservation builders recommended by English Heritage. It was suggested that Russell Morgan is also asked to quote.

ACTION: done.

35. Planning applications.

All planning applications (attached) were approved. The Clerk updated Council that application 18/00492 Park Drive, LittleAston has been refused. 17/010561 St Johns Hill is still awaiting a decision.


Confirm next NPP meeting Tuesday July 24th at 5.30pm Main Parish Council office.

36. Community Clear up day .

A planning meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 5.30 at St Johns. Rev Liz & the church wardens will also attend. There are currently five confirmed volunteers and two further potentials. Lammas Land representatives have confirmed they are happy to provide man power & equipment on the two preceding Friday afternoons.

Cllr Fordham confirmed there is no problem regarding insurance cover.

37. Lammas Land & Richard Cooper Room management agreement proposal.
Cllr Salter explained that he believed a formal management agreement, similar to that recently signed between Shenstone Parish Council & Little Aston Recreation Ground Association, would strongly benefit the Lammas Land Committee & the committee of the Richard Cooper Room. It would serve only to formalise existing agreements but offer clear guidelines for the future management. Cllr Fordham asked if this would involve outside legal help as it had with LARGA but Cllr Salter, whilst he does not know for sure, indicated that he felt it may not be necessary.
Cllr Jones commented that he had already mentioned this possibility to the Chairman of the Lammas Land Committee & they had no objection to the proposal.
It was agreed by all that the Council should approach both committees for discussions.
38. Telephone Box on Birmingham Road.
Shenstone Community Library would like to adopt the old telephone box on the corner of Birmingham Rd & Churchill Rd with a view to using it as a mini library. They would like to refurb it, look after it, but not own it. Cllr Fordham confirmed that there would be no problem with the insurance cover though advised us to notify the insurance company.
ACTION. Done.
Cllr Hancocks proposed that Council accept this request & Cllr Perry seconded it.
Whilst it was agreed in the majority, Cllr Branch expressed concerns that the phone box would be vandalised, create rubbish & may be even set alight. Cllr Jones said there is a risk but such ventures work well in other villages.
39. Following a written request from a resident of Holm View Close it was agreed that there was justification for a grit bin on the corner. Cllr Hancocks proposed, Cllr Beilby seconded and the vote to purchase was unanimously agreed.
40. Cllr Fordham has closely examined the renewal documentation from Zurich Insurance & is happy that the details are top notch & requested payment. ACTION: Clerk to process invoice. DONE.
41. Post Office Shenstone.
The Clerk has received a further update from the Post Office re the recent closure of Shenstone. They hope to conclude the contractual issues at Shenstone Post Office in the very near future. They will at this point be able to provide a more detailed update on the situation and the prospects for future provision of Post Office services in the area but remain committed to a service of some kind in the village.
42. Two none decision making items of other business were raised:
a) The Clerk has expressed the wish to move the main office into the front of the building. It would allow the public to see that the office is open & someone is inside, it would be better for security as visitors can be seen approaching the door & it has a much more pleasant outlook. Whilst the Clerk is happy to utilise existing furniture, Cllr Salter suggested that as some of it is old and, in some cases, faulty, it may be time to look at replacements. Permission to gather price information was requested and approved.
b) We have now taken receipt of the three WW1 commemorative benches & are awaiting resident's suggestions as to where they might go. Little Aston favour two sites currently with both Shenstone & Stonnall so far in agreement on one site each.
43. Date of next meeting Tuesday 10th July 2018 7.15pm Little Aston Village Hall.



10.7.18