



## SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Little Aston, Shenstone, Stonnall, Shenstone Wood End, Lynn,  
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### APPROVED MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY LITTLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.15pm.

44. Register of attendance: Cllr David Salter (Chair), Cllr David Thompson, Cllr Neil Perry, Cllr Jean Wilson, Cllr Gail Nicholls, Cllr Nicola Macdonald, Cllr Mick Cox, Cllr Rita Hancocks, Cllr Stuart Jones, Cllr Nick Smith  
Shirley O'Mara (Parish Clerk & RFO).  
Susan Craven-Jones (Shenstone resident)
45. Apologies received from Councillors Tim Cox, Sheila Beilby, John Branch, Val Neale & Charles Fordham. District Cllr Brian Yeates.
46. Declarations of Interest.  
Cllr Mick Cox expressed a non-pecuniary interest in item 58.
47. To accept and confirm minutes of the last Full Council meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. These were duly approved and signed.
48. Clerks report on matters outstanding from minutes of last meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Nothing to report not covered by later agenda items.
49. Public Participation.

A resident of Main Street, Mrs Sue Craven Jones, attended the meeting to draw attention to the increasing problems with parking in Main Street. On a daily basis she suffers inconsiderate drivers parking on the kerb outside her house, blocking drive ways & making it difficult to gain entry & exit to her own property. Cars regularly drive on the pavement and parking is only going to get worse, in her view, when the station starts charging. There is a resident's action group who have completed traffic surveys which indicate some drivers leave cars for several days to commute by train. Shops are suffering a significant downturn in trade as there are no spaces for shoppers.

Mrs Craven Jones & other representatives of the Action Group had the previous evening met with Cllr Perry to express their concerns also. Whilst not disputing the issue, Cllr Perry had stressed that the Parish Council can do very little except lobby on residents behalf. Cllr Thompson asked if Cllr Perry had explained the potential two phase plan for action around the Station which he had , adding that he hoped to add Main Street as a Phase 3 once the impact of the station charging is judged. He is also reluctant to request too much all at once from Staffs CC.

Cllr Jones stated, that whilst he understood this reservation, Main Street was a bigger problem than Admiral Parker Drive & believes the Council should push for a three phase plan now rather than hold back. Also, that the Parish Council should approach the landlords of the shops with regard to them policing and utilising their spaces more effectively.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact the landlords to this effect. Also, Cllr Perry will contact Tim Heminsley at Staffs CC to ask for his advice on the matter & feedback both to Council & Mrs Craven Jones.

Cllr Salter stated that it may be worth looking into a community funded traffic scheme possibly supported by Parish Council funding.

50. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.

At the special Lichfield District Council meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June it was a unanimous, cross-party decision that LDC should not borrow funding of circa £50M to back the Friarsgate project directly, especially in the knowledge that the 'smart money' had been withdrawn.

Despite the disappointment that the contract with U&I has been terminated due to the loss of financial backing the situation brings an opportunity to create a new plan which, in the light of recent retail market changes, can be future –proofed and concentrated on the long term needs of the people and the District of Lichfield. There is also some comfort in the fact that a bullet has effectively been dodged because, had the development gone ahead a few years ago it could well now be suffering similar problems to many other such developments in other areas.

Cllr Cox mentioned that this could be an ideal opportunity to look at extra station parking in Lichfield which would alleviate some of the pressures on Shenstone. Cllr Salter stated that the task group would be looking at everything.

51. Position as at 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Co-Op Accounts all now closed with funds transferred to Unity Bank.

Unity main account £205,873.38.

Nat West main account: £31,762.86 Nat West ear marked reserves: £108,332.77

Cllr Salter stated that at the next Finance meeting the terms of reference will be reviewed & adopted but that in his view the standing orders need to be revised, proposing that the Finance Committee have devolved powers to authorise expenditure up to a certain amount. RESOLUTION: Cllrs Hancocks & Cox both seconded this with all in agreement.

Cllr Thompson said that it would be beneficial to see what percentage of the Councils expenditure is on large amounts, i.e. over £1000, how much on medium amounts, and how much on less than £100.00. The Clerk has this breakdown & will share it with Council.

Confirm next Finance meeting Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 5.30 Main Council Office.

52. New Cemetery- update.

Nick Cox has been appointed as the case officer & over the coming weeks will be consulting colleagues on possible cemetery sites across Shenstone Parish. Once reviewed he will be in touch regarding a meeting to progress.

53. Repair to Lower Lawn Cemetery Wall.

Two quotes have been received for repairs to the Lower Lawn Cemetery wall. Croft Construction is £3,745.40 + VAT with possible extras excluded. The second quote from Morgan Garden Services is £780.00, no VAT & all inclusive. It was decided that as Morgan Garden Services have done similar repair work in the past to high satisfaction the contract



should be awarded but with a budget of £1560.00 to account for fencing to segregate the works from the residents affected & churchyard activities. RESOLUTION: Cllr Salter proposed that Morgan Garden Services win contract, Cllr Cox seconded & all were unanimous.

54. All planning applications (attached) were approved. The Clerk updated Council that the following applications are still awaiting decision: 17/01534, 01483 & 01408 –Aston Wood Golf Club; 17/01311 175 Birmingham Rd, Shenstone & 17/01056 2 St Johns Drive, Shenstone.

Regarding the planning appeal relating to the gypsy caravan site at Oak Tree Farm, Gravelly Lane, Stonnall, Cllr Thompson confirmed he would be attending the informal hearing to stress that this is an inappropriate site and Lichfield District Council should look much harder at finding a site with better access & closer to amenities.

Cllr Nicholls said she believed three large caravans are on site.

Cllr Cox informed Council that there is a traveller's site in Aldridge, and though a different authority, it may be worth mentioning at the meeting.

The next Neighbourhood Planning & Property meeting will be Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018.

55. Shenstone Station car park charging and wider parking management plans.  
Discussed under Item 49.
56. Lammas Land & Richard Cooper Room management agreement proposals- progress.  
Nothing to report. ACTION: Clerk to chase.
57. Stonnall Village Hall Community Grant application re-submission from 2017-18.  
RESOLUTION: Council voted unanimously to pay the grant as agreed previously.
58. Stonnall Speedwatch- grant application.  
Cllr Mick Cox presented a grant request to purchase a two way radio system on behalf of Stonnall Speedwatch . Some residents of Cartersfield Lane consider the speed of vehicles entering the village to be excessive. The Speed Watch Co-ordinator for the County has been to Cartersfield Lane and authorised a second site for carrying out speed checks. For this site to function there needs to be 4 volunteers split into 2 groups of 2. A means of communication is needed to pass details of vehicles travelling at potentially high speeds, and accurate information to be recorded. Cllr Salter added, that in the interest of the operators safety, a go pro camera would also be very useful & could be shared with the Shenstone Speedwatch volunteers. RESOLUTION: A sum of £200 maximum was agreed, proposed by Cllr Hancocks, seconded by Cllr Nicholls & agreed unanimously.
59. It was unanimously agreed that Council wish to contract on a self-employed basis a Lengthsman for 16 hours per week over two days at a salary of £8.50-£10.00 per hour dependant on experience & providing own transport, equipment & insurance.  
RESOLUTION: This was proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Hancocks & unanimously agreed. An advert will now be prepared & publicised with a view to interviews in due course.
60. Lichfield District Council cut and collect contract addition.  
RESOLUTION: Prohibitively expensive- no action to proceed. Unanimous agreement.  
Proposed Cllr Salter, seconded Cllr Nicholls.



61. Little Aston Christmas tree.

At the Finance meeting in June, Cllr Wilson put forward a request for the Committee to consider the Parish Council taking over responsibility for the Little Aston Christmas tree. The cost would initially be for some trimming & then the cost of a cherry picker to put the lights on (one off cost of £750.00) & the cost of the lights themselves potentially. The Committee unanimously agreed that the Clerk should contact Little Aston Community Association to request permission to move forward & ask if they would like to make a financial contribution. This has been done & LACA have given permission along with the offer of the lights. Cllr Salter believes that new lights would need to be purchased, however, and that the initial cost would be between £2000-£2500 and much of it for the first year only.

RESOLUTION: It was proposed that Council research further with the view to adoption.

Proposed by Cllr Salter, seconded by Cllr Cox.

62. Urgent tree pruning to overgrown beech tree Little Aston- Council to assess quote & decide action.

There is an over grown beech tree outside the main Little Aston shops, which is causing serious concern. It is hanging over the pavement to the degree that pedestrians have to walk in the road to avoid it at great risk to themselves. It was requested at Finance Committee that Council approve immediate action to rectify. RESOLUTION: Council agreed quote including the recommended repollard. Proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Hancocks.

63. Community Clear up day. .

Cllr Salter stated that this was a wonderful event with great efforts from all.

He proposed a £250.00 donation to the charity Rapid Relief Team in appreciation for all of their invaluable efforts. This was unanimously agreed. RESOLUTION: Proposed Cllr Salter, seconded Cllr Perry.

Cllr Jones stated that a second event is needed to complete the rest of the Cemetery. The Clerk will contact all involved & come up with a possible date.

Cllr Thompson stated that he was in agreement that a second day is required but that any events thereafter should be focused elsewhere in the Parish including Stonnall & Little Aston.

64. Post Office Shenstone.

The Clerk has received a further update from the Post Office re the recent closure of Shenstone. They have been approached by an experienced individual to take over as Post Master. They are currently assessing suitability and remain hopeful of service being resumed in the very near future.

65. Centenary Benches- agree locations & dates of erection.

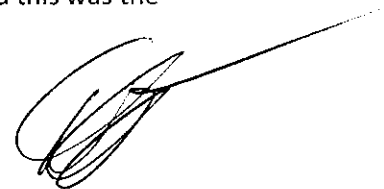
Following public consultation the following locations are the overwhelming favourites and approved by Council as the locations for the centenary benches:

Shenstone- outside the Richard Cooper Room by the cenotaph. The existing bench will move to the Lammas Land. Little Aston- on Little Aston Recreation Ground. 3. Stonnall- corner of Cartersfield Lane.

Council also approved the costs of moving & installing the benches.

66. Wall & Hints & Canwell Parish Council- request for Clerk support Jan-March 2019.

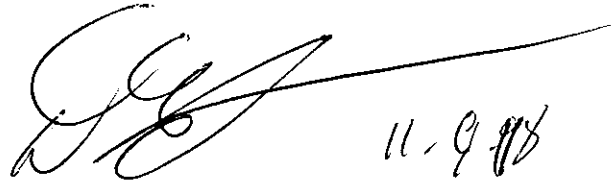
A request for administration support from the Shenstone Clerk to cover their Clerks extended leave has been made by Wall & Hints & Canwell PC. Council stated this was the Clerk's decision and had no objection.



67. Elections 2019- consideration of roles.

Cllr Salter reminded everyone of Elections next May & asked for consideration re whether to stand again or not, expressing his hope that everyone would choose to do so.

68. Date of next meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 7.15pm Shenstone Village Hall.



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "11.9.18". The signature is stylized and appears to be "D. Salter".