



SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 8th June 2023
Shenstone Village Hall at 6.00pm.

item	detail
1	<p>Register of members in attendance & apologies for absence. Attendees: Cllr David Thompson & Cllr Stuart Jones. Mrs Lynda Jones. Mr Keith Goldsworthy</p> <p>Acceptance of apologies. Cllr Mick Cox. Cllr Phil Whitehouse. Mr Adrian Walters (SCAR).</p>
2	<p>Welcome and introduction by Cllr David Thompson. Welcome everyone to the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
3	<p>To approve & adopt the minutes of the 2021-22 Annual Parish Meeting. Approved & adopted.</p>
4	<p>Shenstone Parish Council Annual Report 2022/23.</p> <p>Planning: The three village Neighbourhood Plans are eight years old and need updating. The reviews have been delayed following the decision of Lichfield District Council to alter their Local Plan. In the meantime, our existing plans will remain very important safeguards in protecting village amenity and have been successfully used in several successful planning objections following inappropriate development proposals locally.</p> <p>Traffic & Parking: An ongoing problem across all Wards, Council is working closely with Staffs County Highways to look at speed reduction measures.</p>

Community Grants. A bumper year for applications for grant funding with 26 requests approved totalling almost £47,000.

Grants were awarded to a wide variety of groups including Shenstone Tennis Club, Shenstone Table Tennis Group, Stonnall Community Centre, Sporting Stonnall Football Club, Little Aston Village Hall, Little Aston Tennis Club & Fotherley Care Home.

In addition, Council have grant funded Coronation events which were thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part across the Parish.

CIL Grant funding: Following the receipt of community infrastructure levy grant funding from Lichfield District Council, Council have just over £15,500 awarded which forms part of our ring-fenced funds towards the neighbourhood plan refreshes and traffic calming measures.

Rural Community Energy Fund Feasibility Study: With government funding the Parish Council has concluded a feasibility study of two renewable heating options for Stonnall and Shenstone. The first is extracting heat from the aquifer water below both villages and the second is extracting heat from the air and sun for each individual home.

4 **Playing Fields & recreation grounds:** A report from Little Aston Recreation Ground Association, Stonnall Playing Fields & the Lammas Land Committee will follow but the Council wish to reiterate their commitment to supporting the provision and upkeep of our outdoor spaces across the Parish.

Lengthsmen Scheme: Our Lengthsmen Nigel & Gerry continue to work hard across the villages and we are fortunate to receive excellent feedback & compliments on their efforts.

Communications: Though we continue to produce a minimum of three newsletters a year better communication is always a goal. Residents are encouraged to register for our e-bulletins to remain up to date with all Parish news & of course the website contains everything you need to know.

Bee Friendly initiative: We are delighted that Shenstone has formally been awarded Bee Friendly status from the Bee Friendly Trust. with the Bee Friendly Garden 2022 awards. Application forms are in the Community library, the Parish Office & online.

5	<p>Shenstone Parish Council Financial Report 2022/23</p> <p>Current Financial Position: Nat west current account £905.00 Nat West Business Reserve £53,646.57. Nat West Liquidity Account ring fenced funds £93,427.17. Unity Bank £208,750.60.</p> <p>Ring fenced funds are for ear marked projects including traffic calming, professional fees associated with litigation and neighbourhood plan refreshes.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson explained that Council is very pleased to hold the Precept at £182,000 for the fourth consecutive year with austerity as a background.</p> <p>The internal auditor is comfortable with this decision.</p>
6	<p>District and County Council reports 2021/22</p> <p>There were no District or County Councillors present.</p>
7	<p>Matters raised by residents- Open Forum:</p> <p>Mr Keith Goldsworthy asked for more details on the Parish plans for traffic calming. Cllr Thompson highlighted: - that consultation and options will be a large part of the neighbourhood plan refreshes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigating restrains such as the size of cushions. - Investigating technical support from the Police re ANPR cameras - Awaiting data from County re the traffic survey completed at the end of 2022. - Looking at “20 is plenty” initiative. <p>Whilst County Council have indicated little support for this initiative Mrs Jones mentioned that it is also a green issue due to the quality of air and it would be interesting to know County’s green manifesto.</p>
8	<p>To receive reports from Community Organisations.</p> <p>The following reports were read (attached)</p> <p>Shenstone Community Library Friends of Shenstone Tower The Lammas Land & Little Holms Management Committee Diamond Jubilee Allotments Committee Shenstone Village Hall Management Committee Little Aston Recreation Ground Stonnall Community Centre Trust Trinity Methodist Church The Richard Cooper Room Trustees</p>
9	<p>Vote of thanks to all participants.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson thanked everyone for taking part and wished everyone a good evening.</p>
10	<p>Closure of meeting.</p>

Chairpersons report for Parish Council

Diamond Jubilee Allotment society

Last year, we and with the assistance from the Parish Council, successfully secured the land lease for another 10 years enabling us to take a long-term vision for the allotments.

Work can now take place on repairing the fences. This work was delayed due to COVID and the need to know if the lease would be renewed. The Parish had provided us with some of the funding to support this work. Due to the more extensive degradation of the fencing posts all the posts now need replacing. We have received a quote for installing all new posts. The quote has been accepted and work should commence in the next few months.

We are fully subscribed and have a healthy waiting list. There is plenty of activity on the allotment with people starting to dig and plant various produce. We are pleased to see that most of the new allotmentees are young, keen and experienced allotmentees.

Social events will be held during the year, as new plot holders get to meet existing plot holders.

Work parties are to be set up in the coming months to stain the shed and toilet. Weedkiller (concentrate) and backpack sprayer have also been purchased to use on the perimeter fence area and also any plots left unattended.

As we do every year, a skip is available in April to allow plot holders to smarten up their area.

We look forward to another successful year.

SHENSTONE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTATION 2022/23

We, the Shenstone Village Hall Management Committee, are a small group of dedicated trustees whose main aim is to improve the Village Hall facility for the use of all the parishioners and hirers, and to leave a legacy for the future generations to come.

The Village Hall has undergone substantial improvements in the year ending 2022. All the toilets were completely refurbished, the floor replaced and upgraded in the committee room. The old curtains in the committee room and main hall, have been replaced with modern blinds. The main hall and committee room have also been completely painted, along with all the doors. New chairs were purchased in the summer, which are more suitable for the elderly sitting in the lounge.

A summary of the finances for 2022 are:

Total funds in were £31,019 almost all of that was hall hirer. We had a small grant from the parish of £1,991 for the blinds.

We had large outgoings in 2022, driven by capital expenditure projects.

Operating expense were £17,504. Year 2022 represented the first full year operating since the pandemic. Expenses were in line with what we expected.

Capital Improvements were £36,961. This was a result of several projects:

1. Replacing committee room flooring £3587
2. Various capital equipment spend £ 772
3. New blinds £3062
4. Toilet refurbishments £24,860
5. Hall painting including doors. £4680

At the end of the year 2022, the available funds were £24,749.

Going forward, our next major project is to install solar panels on the roof of the building with a battery storage system. This is a major project with an estimated cost of approximately £55000+.

We were unsuccessful with our grant application from Enovert, but HS2 have informed us, recently, that it is very likely that we would be successful and be awarded the grant of approximately £43,000. We have also secured grants from ACRE platinum Village Hall fund for £9213. We were informed that we were only village hall to be successful in south Staffordshire. We have also secured a grant of £1999 from the Parish Council, for which we are very grateful.

We, the Village Hall Management committee has also committed £5000 from our funds for the project. We should have results back from the funding providers in the next month. Hopefully, we will be able to complete this project before next winter.

THE LAMMAS LAND AND LITTLE HOLMS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL 2022/3

During the past twelve months committee members have spent most of their time ensuring that briars and Himalayan Balsam do not dominate the area, especially in areas that have been planted with other species such as the Laurel and bamboo plantation and the pockets of land that have been planted with saplings that will result in wooded areas in years to come.

Following on from 2022 when the Shenstone Beavers and every pupil at Greysbrook School planted a tree sapling on the bottom meadow, this years reception class paid us a visit and each child planted their own tree sapling.

In April 2023 the Shenstone Brownies and Girl Guides planted an area of the Hay Meadow with wild flower seeds and these are now just beginning to germinate.

We have removed any major blockages from the water course at the same time ensuring that the area preserves a safe habitat for the wild life that is resident in and around the stream.

At our request the Parish Council arranged for contractors to fell three self-set cherry trees by the Pinfold Hill entrance to the site, this was done to enable more light to reach the four Beech Trees that were planted by ourselves about twelve years ago and were in danger of being affected by these Cherry Trees.

We have planted several, more mature trees over the area that have been donated by various people in memory of their loved ones that have passed away. These trees have been donated after requests for benches were declined, as we feel that the area already has ample benches and when the situation was explained people were more than happy to donate trees.

We also planted a number of saplings that included two Walnut trees, that were purchased for us by the Shenstone Christmas Fayre Committee.

We have carried out repairs to the pedestrian access gate on Lynn Lane which was being affected by the roots from a self-set Cherry Tree. We have also cleared the ivy from the brickwork of the bridge at this location and ivy has been removed from several trees over the whole area.

The Parish Council have created a hard path along the area behind Foden Close and are due in May to connect both ends of this path to the existing paths. This was done as a result of an incursion onto the land by a resident of Foden Close. Another boundary dispute with a resident of Oakwood Close in 2020 is still ongoing and hopefully will be resolved in our favour over the coming months.

Committee members feel very strongly about protecting the area for the future and will continue to be observant in case of any future incursions.

The Parish Council also engaged a contractor to carry out maintenance to Calder Bridge.

We assisted The Frogs with their annual Duck Race along the stream, which raises funds for Greysbrook School.

The area is a great asset to all that use it and provides a haven for flowers and fauna.

Richard Partridge

Chairman

Little Holms and Lammas Land Management Committee.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
Shenstone

Report to the

2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. On behalf of the Church Council, I would like to express thanks for the generous support of the Parish Council during the past year.
2. We were extremely grateful for the grant that the Parish Council made for the enhancement of the garden at the front of the church building enabling us to provide 2 attractive benches for the use of the community. Although the grant for this was made in the previous financial year, the work was not completed until the autumn of 2022
3. The facilities at the Methodist Church are a valuable asset to the local community. The community rooms have regular bookings for groups serving all ages and a variety of interests but following on from the pandemic, the Church has suffered a reduction in its lettings income and in its reserves to meet maintenance costs. We are, therefore, very grateful to the Parish Council, in this last financial year, for providing funding for the replacement of the rear fire doors to community room.

Keith Goldsworthy
Church Treasurer.

10th May 2023

COOPER RECREATION ROOM
Shenstone

Report to the

2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. On behalf of the Management Committee of The Cooper Recreation Room, I would like to express thanks for the support of the Parish Council and particularly the Parish Councillors who have served on our Management Committee during the past year.
2. The Cooper Recreation Room was gifted to the village by the late Sir Richard Cooper as reading room for the men of the village. In recent years, however, it has become a communal facility for a wide range of groups offering varied activities. It is showing some signs of its age and a recent survey commissioned by the Parish Council identified areas needing attention particularly the roof. We are grateful to the Parish Council in providing funding for a detailed study of the various options available to either replace or refurbish this.

Keith Goldsworthy
Treasurer.

10th May 2023

LARGA Chairman's report 12/05/2023

Following the 2 year long effect of the Covid pandemic, the past year has brought a near normal amount of activity back to the field plus a fair amount of catching up.

The long awaited and highly successful return of Party in the Park, or Littleastonbury in 2022 was a very welcome boost to not only our funds, but also to the morale of all of our volunteers, park users and supporters and we look forward to this year's extravaganza on 8th July.

Improvements to the grounds have included; the installation of rubberised safety surfacing under several pieces of play equipment, the refurbishment of the basket swing, the re-instatement of the rope snake swing, a new complete replacement see-saw and an inclusive, disabled access spinner roundabout for which grateful thanks must go to the Parish Council for grant funding the full £8,000 for its purchase and installation.

We are, as ever, also grateful to Shenstone Parish Council for its funding of our grass-cutting and bin emptying contracts and for the reimbursement of our insurance costs. This year they have also covered the cost of new pads and battery for our defibrillator.

We are fortunate, compared to many play areas and parks, to suffer very little vandalism. However, for some unknown reason, damage to the glass lenses of the magnifier posts seems to be a regular occurrence. New lenses are very expensive but we were fortunate to receive a donation to cover the cost of the last batch of replacements from a generous park user.

In October, the gap between the two storage containers was turned into a very useful and secure storage area with a roof and strong metal doors at each end. Whilst the mobile welder was on site, repairs were made to the gate between the play area and the school playing field and also to the footplates of the springy seesaw.

December saw the second of our very successful and much appreciated Christmas get-togethers, held to thank all of the volunteers involved with the various aspects of the successful running of the site – the Vol gardeners, the Party in the Park committee, the gate keepers and the trustees. My thanks on behalf of all of the park's users to everyone involved for their hard work and commitment, and my personal thanks as Chairman to all of you for the support you have given me.

In January we were generously donated a large selection of plants and trees from Creative Plants.

I'm delighted to report that during the past year we gained two new trustee members to the LARGA committee; Lynn and Bill, both of whom bring very different fields of knowledge and expertise which has already been of great value.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I give sincere thanks to Denise, who, after many years of pro-active and much valued membership of the committee, has decided to retire from it.

David Salter (Chairman).

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of The Stonnall Community Centre Trust for the continued support given to the Trust over the past year. In particular the invaluable assistance with buildings and public liabilities insurances.

The Trust has also received specific grants for 2 events, a Christmas Fayre which was very successful and well attended and the celebration of The King's Coronation. This again was a huge success. The support of The Parish Council was instrumental in the Trust being able to stage these community events The Parish Council also gave a generous grant towards the installation and running of Wi Fi internet at the Community Centre, this is something that has been needed for some considerable time. It is now used on a regular basis by groups and individuals using the Centre.

Mick Cox

Chair, Stonnall Community Centre

Friends of Shenstone Tower

After the grand opening last October, the tower has established itself as a popular historic monument in the Parish. We are fast approaching our 1000 visitor and all but a handful have made it onto the roof to enjoy the spectacular views.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for a grant made towards the completion of the internal exhibition which will feature the historical, religious, and social history of the village from the early Saxon period up until the completion of the new church in the 1850s.

The first of the display boards which display Peter the bell ringer telling the story of the tower, are set to be installed over the next week or so and the three boards completed are the first of ten further ones set over the five floors of the tower. The Parish Council money has paid the bulk of the cost for these.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for its assistance with the purchase of landscaping turf which when established will set off the fine structure of the tower.

Stuart Jones

Shenstone Community Library

It is almost six years since the Community Library was established and the Parish Council has had a substantial part to play in its success.

There has been considerable development with the extension completed in the last year providing meeting space for the PCSO surgeries, art groups, new parents group and working groups from the Council itself.

The Library garden is thriving providing a space for both children to play & wildlife to flourish.

A shed has been added for storage of tools.

Based at the Library, Shenstone Environment Group has recently been established building on several environmental initiatives which have been held in the previous years including the Bee Friendly Award, seed bomb making with children and our seed bank and wildflower garden.

We have now developed a recycling centre for bras to be distributed in Africa & glasses for third world countries. You can also bring your stamps, printer cartridges and blister packs from used medication.

We have also planned a range of activities including storyteller walks to celebrate our green spaces, 'Bikes and Trikes' repairs in the library garden to offer free advice for cycle repairs and a talk given by Veolia, the company which manages the waste in our area to be confirmed very soon.

Lynda Jones