

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall,
Woollards Lane, Great Shelford on Wednesday 16th January 2013

Present: Councillors Mr Nightingale (chairman) Mrs Bennee, Mr Coggins, Mrs Harwood, Mr Knowles, Mrs Milson, Mr Seeking, Mr Shelton, Mr Smith and Mr Watson. Also in attendance: County Councillor Mr Orgee and District Councillors Mr Nightingale and Mr Shelton. One member of the public was also in attendance.

Apologies: were received from Councillors Mrs Hodge, Mrs Amis, Mrs Hinsby, Mr Johnson and Mr Whiteman-Downes

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2012 were **confirmed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed to give a member of the public the opportunity to raise issues:

Mr Stephen Chittenden gave a presentation on behalf of Great Shelford Tennis Club concerning the muddy ground behind the Memorial Hall, safety and damage to the tennis club. When the courts were recently resurfaced the club was advised that the amount of mud picked up en route then trodden into the surface had played a significant part in accelerating the damage. A visitor to the club in trying to avoid the mud tripped over the cycle racks at the back of the Scout hut sustaining serious injuries. The Tennis Club has built a path on the club land and it needs another shorter path across to the car park.

A soakaway and well consolidated hardcore, topped by turf matting was installed at the rear of the Scout hut a few years ago with sufficient matting left to do more. Following some discussion it was proposed that the recreation ground committee should consider the best way to deal with this problem.

There being no further topics the meeting resumed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE F & GP MEETING

a) *White Lining* (minute 2a) The Chairman said he has raised concerns regarding white and yellow lining in the village; despite assurance that it is in hand nothing has yet been done.

b) *Grange Field* (minute 11) The executors plan to hold a family meeting next week-end to discuss the future of the Grange field.

3. PROPOSALS FROM F & GP MEETING

a) **SSYI** The proposal, submitted by the F & GP committee, that an additional £1,000 one off start up grant towards new projects should be offered, to be reviewed 12 months following the first payment was **approved** by the full council.

b) **Precept** The proposal, submitted by the F & GP committee, that the precept for 2013/2014 should be £82,803, was **approved** by the full council.

Due to the Governments localisation of council tax support, the B and D council tax base for 2013/14 has been considerably reduced.

This year's precept of £86,750 is an increase of 1.87% on last years figure; however minus the District Council grant* of £3, 947 the increase on £82,803 will be higher. The proposed grant from the district council does not fully compensate for the drop in tax base and as a result this year's increase on the parish council precept will appear as a far higher percentage on council tax billing than it actually is.

*Until now council tax benefits have been funded through national funds but the government has concluded that this system is too expensive in the current financial climate. From April the district council will be required to design and implement its own localized council tax support schemes; essentially this will be done through granting of discounts to council tax bills. To fund these discounts the government will give the major precepting authorities a new fixed grant equivalent to 90% of the cost of the current benefit scheme. Like the district council the parish council will also see a reduction to its council tax base; to compensate for this loss the district council is planning to pay a share of this grant to the parish council.

NOMINATIVE & ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

County Council

Cllr: Orgee – see attached report.

District Council

Cllr: Shelton said the proposed boundary review has been suspended.

Shelford Twinning

Cllr: Nightingale confirmed that £450 had been raised at the recent jumble sale.

Police Liaison

Cllr: Shelton talked about the break in at the newsagents and the increased number of burglaries and thefts in the surrounding villages.

School

Cllr: Harwood said the school is facing a funding crisis due to a falling school roll, the top four classes structured to cater for 120 pupils are currently less than 100. The school is funded 'per pupil'; to balance the budget the top classes will be organized into three groups instead of four. To provide an alternative to the loss of a teacher there will be a two class entry instead of one in September 2013.

4. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Recreation Ground

Cllr: Smith said the contractors had been to adjust the gates in the play area fencing and they confirmed that the fencing panels are fixed with security bolts. Muddy areas at the gateways have been filled with wood chippings. A company has recently been to test the old pavilion for asbestos.

Planning

Cllr: Bennee went through the report.

5. SPEED LIMIT HINTON WAY

Residents from Hinton Way have signed a petition for the lowering of the speed restriction to 30mph along the whole length of the road. As with Cambridge Road the parish council will need to go through the same procedure of holding a consultation for local residents, using the *Village News* and web site, and posting notices on lamp posts etc along Hinton Way.

6. SPEED LIMIT CAMBRIDGE ROAD

As a result of the consultation for Cambridge Road the majority of replies and responses were in favour of the reduction to 30mph for the whole length of the road. The highways committee will analyse the consultation, the support of the Parish Council will be added, before the results are sent to the County Council for consideration.

Brian Stinton Area Traffic Manager at Shire Hall and Clair Robson Communications Manager will be advised accordingly.

7. ARCH

Part of the car park will be used for storage of timber during the construction of the new pavilion; to provide open access to the site it will be necessary to move the arch. Since being installed there have been mixed feelings as to whether the arch should have been sited by the play area. Cllr: Bennee explained that as a specific structure had been made for the arch to fit on to, if moved to a different location a new structure would have to be made. Following some discussion it was proposed that at this stage it should be removed and stored until the new pavilion is built when more thought can be given to where the arch goes.

8. CAR PARK REPAIRS

The Chairman said a small area in the car park behind McCall's is breaking up and needs to be repaired, he had met with Mr Cobb to inspect the area; unfortunately the quotation had not arrived in time for the meeting. It was agreed that the repairs needed to be carried out as soon as possible and acceptance should be at the discretion of the Chairman and the Clerk.

9. HEDGE CUTTING CEMETERY

Cllr: Harwood proposed, seconded by Cllr: Knowles that the quotation for the annual cutting of the boundary hedges at the cemetery and adjacent allotments, at a cost of £1,120 should be accepted – **agreed.**

10. HEDGE RECREATION GROUND

Cllr: Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr: Seekings that the quotation to cut the hedge between the pavilion and Woodlands Road, at a cost of £330 should be accepted – **agreed.**

11. FINANCE

It was **resolved** that 14 accounts totalling £15,168.61, as presented by the Clerk, be approved for payment.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

A reply from the County Council concerning the library stated that due to the budget situation it is impossible to increase the opening hours but it had been agreed to review the pattern of opening hours to ensure that these meet the needs of different sections of the community.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Carol service in the village raised £140 which was given to the Mobile Warden Scheme.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Chairman.....