

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the combined Video Conference Meeting held on 23rd April 2020

PRESENT Mr R Lane (Chairman)
 Mr R Theobald (Vice Chairman)
 Mrs S Lindley (Chair of Planning & Highways Committee)
 Mrs L McCluskey (Chair of Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee)
 Mr R Hardy
 Ms P Clifton
 Mr J Bugg
 Mr S White

APOLOGIES Mr C Rea

Parishioners in attendance: None

1. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda

None received.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2020

The minutes were **AGREED** and signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

None

4. To receive any update on the Mobile Telephone Mast proposal.

As advised at the previous meeting, the proposal is currently on hold pending discussions regarding an alternative site on private land. No further update has been received.

5. To receive any update on Shorne Mead Level Crossing.

Mr Theobald arranged a meeting on 13th March, attended by representatives of Network Rail, Graham Rustling of KCC, Mrs Lindley, and Mr Lane. Network Rail advised that they are proposing to install a footbridge at Shorne Mead, but this is likely to take 18 months to secure funding, consents, and to carry out the work, and they will apply to extend the temporary closure. Mr Theobald commented that it sounded like they were serious and positive on what they are proposing. They indicated this would cost a considerable sum in the order of £1.1 million.

6. **To receive any update on the Lower Thames Crossing.**

The supplementary consultation was extended to 2nd April due to the COVID-19 issues. Mrs Lindley submitted a comprehensive response on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mr Lane and Mrs Lindley attended a teleconference with representatives of KCC on 3rd April to discuss their response, which had picked up most if not all the traffic and highway concerns, and it was strongly critical of the environmental impact of the proposed utility diversions. Mrs Lindley said that KCC's views were interesting and strategic, but the question of the marshes and water courses had not been assessed in depth. Although bodies such as the Environment Agency had been involved, generally their inputs are at high level and without showing much detailed local knowledge. KCC reported that there may be a further supplementary consultation later this year. In the meantime, KCC are undertaking their own comprehensive traffic modelling as they consider that Highways England's traffic modelling is not adequate, but it is doubtful that this will be completed in time as it is going into great depth. There will be further telephone conferences with KCC to encourage a joined up approach.

Highways England have been granted access to Crabbles Bottom for archaeological surveys and Mrs Lindley has asked for a copy of the report. We are still waiting this information. At present, they are carrying out further archaeological work, including trenches and drilling on the fields. Photos posted on social media indicate that considerable amounts of crops are being destroyed in doing so.

(The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes to allow Members to clap for carers at 20.00.)

7. **To approve the minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on 12th March 2020, and to receive a report.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated on 22nd April and **AGREED** as a true record subject to the inclusion of comments received.

Mrs Lindley reported that there have been 21 planning applications since the last meeting including six for one property (Merrievale). Mrs Lindley will send out a list. The planning application for 1 Genesta Glade has been refused. The application for lawful development certificate for 7 Burdett Avenue was refused, but the applicant has reapplied. The resubmitted application for lawful development certificate at Courtlands has been granted. Other applications include a garage at The Old Parsonage. Mrs Lindley is currently reviewing documents for an application for outline planning consent for two houses on land adjacent to the See Ho, and an appeal for Hartshill Bungalow.

The stream outside Silverdene has been reported again. A large amount of soil has now been put on the land/verge opposite Landfall in Bowesden Lane, and planning enforcement are now involved. The Forge Lane parking restrictions consultation ends tomorrow 24th April. Mrs Poole will type these up and forward them to Mrs Lindley.

8. **To approve the minutes of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee meeting held on 13th February 2020, and to receive a report**

Mrs McCluskey circulated the minutes on the 20th April and Ms Clifton made some comments to the draft which has now been amended re point 39 and 44. The minutes were **AGREED** as a true record.

Mrs McCluskey reported that Mr Gozzett cut Crabbles Bottom on the 12th April, and the footpaths are scheduled to be done in early June. Mrs McCluskey has a pro forma invoice for a chain and lock for the gate at Crabbles Bottom, we are just awaiting Mr Theobald to authorise the payment on BACS, which was £90.25.

Ms Clifton has submitted a notification to GBC for the tree remedial work at Shorne Common Rough. Mr Lane explained that it is not an application for consent as such, it is notification to give the planning authority the opportunity to comment or raise a tree preservation order. If we do not hear from GBC within six weeks, the Parish Council can proceed with the work. Ms Clifton requested three companies to quote for the work required by the Tree Survey but has only received one reply from NPC Tree Surgery. It was noted that Mr Gozzett is now a qualified tree surgeon. Subject to having appropriate insurance, he can also be invited to quote for the work.

It was considered that the Parish Council should not cut the trees adjacent to Venesta as these may be on private land, and a letter needs to be sent to the landowner.

Mr Lane asked for an update on the maintenance of the play area in Shorne Common which is normally done in April. Mrs McCluskey said this has been put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Mrs McCluskey will contact Mr Vilday and ask when he thinks he may be able to do it. A discussion was held and it was agreed to make sure there is signage to advise people do not use it during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Mr Lane asked if there was any progress or action on painting the railings in The Street, Mrs Lindley said this will be put on next agenda, Mrs Lindley will also report this to KCC via their website.

Mr Lane asked if we had any update on the telephone box at Post Office Green. Mrs McCluskey said she has received nothing. Mr Theobald said that he would not like the Parish to lose it. Mr Lane reminded Members that a couple of years ago it was agreed that we would always resist the removal of the telephone facility, but if necessarily we would purchase the Telephone Box. Mrs Lindley will check with Mrs Waterman regarding this and report at the next meeting.

9. **Review of Finance report**

Date	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	B/F
03/01/2020	DD Vodafone	£25.61	£5.12	£30.73	£6,084.83
10/01/2020	DD Nest Pension (Dec)	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£6,027.31
20/01/2020	DD Professional Wage Slip (Period 9)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£6,004.51
29/01/2020	Chq 102750 Shorne Village Hall Quarter 4	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	£5,944.51

29/01/2020	Chq 102753	S Poole January Salary Mrs Martin Long Service	£776.42	£0.00	£776.42	£5,168.09
31/01/2020	Chq 102747	Award	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£4,168.09
			£1,938.55	£8.92	£1,947.47	

Date	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	B/F	
03/02/2020	Chq 102749	Smith of Derby	£214.00	£42.80	£256.80	£3,911.29
03/02/2020	Chq 102754	SLCC Training	£99.00	£19.80	£118.80	£3,792.49
04/02/2020	DD	Vodafone	£31.38	£6.28	£37.65	£3,754.84
04/02/2020	DD	Card Reader Fee			£6.00	£3,748.84
06/02/2020	Chq 102751	Ms Clifton Expenses	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40	£3,722.44
07/02/2020	DD	Nest Pension (Jan)	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£3,664.92
11/02/2020	Chq 102748	Langley Marketing	£290.00	£58.00	£348.00	£3,316.92
17/02/2020	Chq 102755	S Poole Expenses	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	£3,216.92
20/02/2020	DD	Eslip	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£3,194.12
24/02/2020	Chq 102756	CPRE Subscription	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00	£3,158.12
27/02/2020	Chq 102757	KCC (SID)	£8,269.91	£1,653.98	£9,923.89	£-6,765.77
			£9,138.80	£1,789.06	£10,933.86	

Date	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	B/F	
03/03/2020	Chq 102758	Invicta Arboriculture	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	£-7,115.77
04/03/2020	DD	Vodafone	£28.37	£5.67	£34.04	£-7,149.81
06/03/2020	Chq 102759	S Poole February Salary	£776.42	£0.00	£776.42	£-7,926.23
10/03/2020	DD	Nest Pension Feb	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£-7,983.75
20/03/2020	DD	Professional Wage Slip (Period)	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	£-8,006.55
24/03/2020	DD Public					
24/03/2020	Works Loan	18th Payment on loan	£1,623.48	£0.00	£1,623.48	£-9,630.03
01/04/2020	BACS	S Poole March Salary	£776.42	£0.00	£0.00	£10,406.45

Date	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	B/F	
					Precept Received	£38,127.00
01/04/2020	BACS	Open Space	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	£38,082.00
01/04/2020	BACS	All Seasons Garden	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00	£37,997.00
01/04/2020	BACS	S Poole Expenses			£177.23	£37,819.77
01/04/2020	BACS	KALC			£1,022.06	£36,797.71
02/04/2020	BACS	Vodafone			£43.64	£36,754.07
	Direct					
06/04/2020	Debit	Nest Pension Mar	£57.52	£0.00	£57.52	£36,696.55
20/04/2020	Direct	Eslip			£22.80	£36,673.75

The April forecast is not finalised as we have not yet received the bank statement. Mrs Poole confirmed this has been taken from the online banking which is now in place.

Mr Lane asked if we had received an invoice for £1,500.00 from the Solicitors we engaged for the telephone mast as he could not see anything on the report, Mrs Poole confirmed no invoice has been received so far from them.

Ms Clifton asked whether the village sign has this been put up as she cannot see the payment in the above figures. Mr Lane reported that he contacted AGS Fencing & Hoarding at the end of last week, and they have apologised and said they will get this repaired ASAP.

Ms Clifton has said that the bollard has been replaced for Shorne Common Rough but again there is no invoice showing for March. Mrs Poole confirmed this has not been received yet.

10. Appointment of Internal Auditor

Mrs Poole confirmed that Martin Thomas has been appointed for this year, after Mrs Poole circulated it to all councillors for approval. Mrs Poole asked three companies for quotes as well as the company that had taken over from Nigel after his retirement last year. The quotes all varied in price but it was felt that Martin Thomas was the best value for money. Mrs Poole will take things to his house and deliver what he needs as the postal service is being overwhelmed at the moment. Mrs Poole has sent him the information from Littlejohn as well.

11. To receive any update from Borough Cllr Lane.

GBC has suspended the majority of its meetings, with the exception of statutory meetings which will be carried out by a skeleton attendance and teleconferencing. The Regulatory Board scheduled for 8th April was cancelled due to lack of business. We are still awaiting outcome of Green Belt boundary review, and housing targets, which may impact on Shorne Parish.

Mr Lane attended a Ward Councillor teleconference with KCC's SPD Team on 20th April which included Barbara Westmacott, Claire Venner, and Kevin Gore. This discussed speed limits in Shorne, Unsuitable for HGVs signage, etc, amongst other ward matters. Unfortunately the traffic monitoring carried out in The Ridgeway in March was inconclusive due to a problem with the monitoring tubes, and will need to be repeated. KCC claimed to be unaware of our desire to extend the 30 mph zone in Forge Lane. Notes of this meeting have been circulated.

Council Parking Enforcement Officers have issued penalty notices to illegally parked vehicles near Shorne Woods Country Park.

12. Correspondence requiring action

None received.

13. General matters raised by Members for discussion

Mr Theobald reported that a timber butt needs to be replaced on Shorne Common (Mill Hill Lane). Mrs McCluskey said she will add it to her notes of items to be done.

Mr Theobald has submitted a report to GBC regarding a car that has been parked in Warren View for more than 28 days. It has a flat tyre and is not taxed or tested.

Mr White asked a question about a property in Green Farm Lane that has been rebuilt with two windows facing the neighbouring property which were not part of the original planning permission. This should be investigated by GBC to determine whether a breach has occurred.

Mr White also mentioned the wall in Forge Lane is still degrading, especially being so close to the school. Mrs Lindley reported that KCC have looked at it and considered it sound at present. Mrs Lindley did go back to KCC after further concerns were raised but has heard nothing back, so will chase this up.

Mrs McCluskey has had a request from a Parishioner who lives on the Shorne side of Astra Drive with regards to vehicles speeding in Astra Drive just before the bend, and claims that neighbours' cars have been damaged due to cars not slowing in time. Mrs McCluskey has submitted a request to KCC for a 'Slow' traffic sign. There is a sign imprinted on the carriageway, but it is too close to the bend to make a difference. KCC have confirmed that it is being looked into.

Mrs McCluskey reported that there was a disturbance in Michael Gardens park at 03.00 on 21st April. Police were involved as there appeared to be drug dealing. A parishioner in Fairfield Drive has CCTV of the cars involved which has been passed to the Police. PCSO Jo Hartley called the next day to check the situation as it appears the problem has moved to another area now.

Mr Lane circulated the quotation for the village clock upgrade prior to the meeting. The costs were reported in the Parish Council meeting on 6th December 2019. This will be included on the agenda for the next meeting to consider approval to proceed.

Mr Lane has obtained two self-contained camouflaged, motion-activated video cameras, SD cards, batteries, chargers, etc, and issued them to Mr Russell Cooper for deployment in Shorne Ifield Road.

Mr Lane proposed that we should hold one video meeting a month combining the committees during the coronavirus restrictions. All Members agreed, with it to be an AGM on 21st May.

Mrs Lindley enquired about the Annual Report. Mr Lane said we should publish and distribute this as soon as possible. Mrs Poole reported that the majority of organisations have submitted their reports. Mrs Poole will send a final reminder that all reports must be received by the Clerk by 1st May, otherwise they will be omitted from the Annual Report.

Mr White felt that tonight's meeting went very well for the first video meeting, and this was generally agreed. Parishioners will be asked to contact the Clerk to get access for future meetings.

14. **Date of next meeting**

AGM 21st May on Zoom at 19.45 with an adjournment for NHS & Key Workers clapping at 20.00. Please log in from 19.30 to ensure the meeting starts on time

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed Mr Lane:.....

Dated:.....