

SHUTTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL OPEN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2008

1. PRESENT/ APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr J Tattersall in the Chair, Cllrs B Frost, J Savage, E Wood & N Perry. Parish Clerk: Mrs A Allsopp and sixteen members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies: Borough Cllr Tilly May and County Cllr Mick Stanley.

2. OPEN FORUM

The chairman commenced by thanking everyone for their attendance and gave a report on the last year's events. Once again the Parish Council is left with a Councillor vacancy to be filled for Shuttington.

Members of the public expressed their deep concerns about the amount of traffic passing through Shuttington, stating that it had never been as bad as this, with traffic permanently parked along Main Road and cars regularly mounting the curbs to keep going. Residents felt that occasional bollards would prevent the frequent driving on the pavement that is regularly witnessed. Many felt that there was a speeding issue as well as a visibility issue and that vehicles often sped around the New Road/Main Road junction and didn't bother to stop. This junction was of major concern because the school bus picks up and drops off children at this point and blocks the view and road whilst doing so. Vehicles also park on the waiting area, making it very dangerous for young children. It was also felt by some that vehicles speed up the hill past the Wolferstan to meet oncoming traffic on their side of the road, overtaking parked cars. Many would like to see solar controlled flashing speed signs at both ends of the village (before the Wolferstan and before the Parish Hall) and also more parking on Milner Drive. There was also a consensus of opinion that would prefer to see the school bus stop at Milner Drive rather than the corner of New Road/Main Road.

Residents would prefer to have an allocated space on the grass crete and were unsure about the benefits for parking, although agreed it might help with visibility. Residents did not want the 30-mile per hour sign nearer to the village and would prefer to see count-down markings to a Gateway with a flashing 30 sign just before the Parish Hall. Many would prefer to cut Shuttington off totally to through traffic, making it access only, as they are very concerned about the current situation.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Perry, unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. BUS SHELTER AND BENCHES

The Clerk reported that the Public Realm Grant was not yet in the account, but that it was expected shortly. It was still felt that one bench should be sited on the Playing Field whilst the bench in memory of Jim Harding should be placed elsewhere. The corner of New Road/Main Road was not deemed to be a satisfactory option for several reasons, including safety. Options of Milner Drive or Coronation Crescent were suggested. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries about who owns the green space in Coronation Crescent and report back to the next meeting.

The majority felt that the bus shelter should be replaced and the Clerk agreed to pursue enquiries into WASP funding for this year to help with the purchase of one bus shelter for Shuttington and a further bus shelter for Alvecote.

6. TRAFFIC CALMING

This was primarily covered in the Open Forum, but the issue of extending the path from the Parish Hall to the corner for better visibility crossing the road was discussed. The majority present were in full agreement with the Parish Council contributing £3,000 towards the £6,500 needed, as the extension would then become the responsibility of Highways for maintenance.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & COMMUNITY SPEED AWARENESS MEETING

Those present were encouraged to come along on Thursday 15th when CPSO Julie Arbuckle would be available to discuss and set in motion the re-introduction of the lapsed Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Residents were also encouraged to sign their agreement to the Community Speed Aware Project, which requires 62 signatures for Shuttington and 25 signatures for Alvecote plus 6 volunteers for each village, and which will be presented and explained by Jessica Grove, Community Projects Officer for North Warwickshire.

8. ALVECOTE TRAVELLERS SITE – UPDATE

There was no update available.

9. PLAY AREAS & GOAL POSTS

Carol Cotterill was thanked for the hard work she had put into researching goal posts and youth activity equipment and invited to present her findings. She explained that a tender for funding had been made for replacement goal posts and that a decision would be available in about 5 weeks.

Carol had also questioned the youngsters about their desires for a kick wall with nets and wickets etc and had then researched the possibilities for this happening at the Playing Field. She explained that she had found a source of funding for 13-19 year olds, to keep them off the streets, and that the young people themselves were doing the work to obtain the necessary funding. They had promised to adopt it and also requested a bench and litter bin be provided. Residents responded very positively to all of this and reiterated the need for better visibility so that children could cross the road safely to get to the Playing Field.

Letters of support have already been supplied by the Police and Parish Council to support the youth tender for funding. The Clerk promised to make enquiries about any planning permission that might be required.

Residents pointed out that there was nothing for the very young and Parish Councillors promised to look at the possibilities of resurrecting the idea of a small play area on Milner Drive.

Cllr Tattersall promised that she would contact Rob Leahy again, the Gypsy and Liaison Officer who can possibly obtain funding for new equipment in the Play Area at Alvecote. This site is now very dilapidated and requires urgent attention. It was suggested that maybe it should be closed entirely for the time being, in order to prevent repair work having to be done unnecessarily before it is re-equipped.

10. PLANNING

A Planning Application without the paper copy of drawings had just been posted for Alvecote Wood, Robeys Lane for the erection of a storage unit for agricultural/forestry equipment, the creation of a new road access to supersede the existing entrance and the erection of a small poly-tunnel. Written comments can be made up until 28th May, but a cursory look didn't raise any objections.

11. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Residents would have been happy to see Carol Cotterill as a co-opted Councillor, but she declined for the present due to being such a new member of the community. No one else offered to stand for co-option.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was dealt with as per the May Correspondence List.

12. INVOICES

Invoices were approved for payment as per the May Correspondence List and a cheque signed for £262.50 for Came & Co.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

There was no other business from Councillors.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9th June, 2008

Anita M Allsopp
13th May, 2008