

SHUTTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2009

1. PRESENT/ APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone and invited the owners of Alvecote Wood to update the Parish Council on progress being made there. They expressed intention to ultimately have open days and make the area available to countryside groups by appointment. The Parish Council were advised that the owners are working closely with the Forestry Commission, Conservation groups and Warwickshire Wild Life Trust to protect wildlife and habitat, whilst improving the area sympathetically whilst keeping the area secure.

A Shuttington resident expressed concerns about the amount of litter and rubbish, particularly around the lakes, saying that he felt the area was a beautiful place to live, but under-rated and unappreciated. The clerk agreed to contact the Borough, report the black bin bags dumped near Laundry Lane and also enquire if there was anything they could do about the litter situation. She also agreed to forward the details of UK Coal's land agents, Smiths Gore, so that a letter of complaint could be sent. Concerns were raised about the dangers of the ice on the hill by the Wolferstan and also on footpaths. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries about some salt boxes which might serve to address this problem.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. TRAFFIC CALMING & LIGHTING (TO INCLUDE ALVECOTE) – UPDATE

The agreed Traffic Calming measures are still anticipated to be complete by the end of April. County Councillor Mick Stanley has provided costings for an additional light in front of the Parish Hall, but at present there is no budget available to cover this. Mike Smith agreed to take back to the Parish Hall Committee comments that it is very dark in front of the Parish Hall, which could be improved greatly by a security light fitted to the front of the building.

The continuing speed problem in Alvecote was again acknowledged and this will be addressed as soon as the Shuttington Traffic Calming has been completed.

6. FOOTPATHS PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE MIKE SMITH

Mike reported that progress is good. Many stiles have now been replaced with kissing gates and the problem of a kissing gate being partly placed on private land had now been resolved amicably. A meeting in the near future with Marina Kircham from County Council Footpaths should result in better and more visible signage marking footpaths.

7. TO DISCUSS BUDGET & CLERK'S SALARY FOR PRECEPT DECISION.

There was considerable discussion about possible improvements for next year, but it was agreed that final decisions for most of this should wait until a Parish Plan had been considered, as this would then provide the Parish Council with evidence of areas of concern agreed upon by residents. Due to the many additional hours being worked by the Clerk, Cllr Perry proposed that the Clerk now be paid for 30 hours per month on SCP Scale 19, and that this should be reviewed again in December. This was seconded by Cllr Savage and passed with one abstention.

Cllr Frost then proposed that the precept be increased back to £5250. This was seconded by Cllr Savage and unanimously agreed.

8. TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH A PARISH PLAN – AND THE WAY FORWARD IF 'YES'

The Clerk provided some copies of the recent Parish Plan completed by Arley. Concerns were raised about asking too many questions, and it was agreed that questions should be as specific as possible, with census information being used whenever and where ever possible.

It was also agreed that to proceed with a Parish Plan, it would require a Specific Parish Plan Committee made up of some Parish Councillors, and at least 6-8 people who were not connected with the Parish Council. Cllrs Perry, Blackburn and Savage agreed to be involved and Mike Smith and Carol Cotterill have already volunteered their services. In view of this Cllr Wood proposed that the Clerk arrange a Public Meeting when Steve Patalong from Warwickshire Rural Community Council would present the benefits of doing a Parish Plan to residents. This was seconded by Cllr Blackburn and unanimously agreed.

9. TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Rather than issue a Newsletter and just include details of the forthcoming Parish Plan meeting along with other matters, it was agreed that Cllr Blackburn would produce a flier to be delivered to all residents, outlining the benefits of a Parish Plan and encouraging everyone to come and air their views. A Newsletter might be more appropriate then after the Open Meeting.

10. TRAVELLER'S SITE MEETING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – REPORT CLLR TATTERSALL

Cllr Tattersall reported a positive meeting with Phil Burgess from Environmental Health and Travellers on the Site. It was suggested that the state of the Site was contributing to the problem and it was agreed to request a skip be supplied so that the Site could be cleaned up. Animal bones and animal feed along with rubbish encourage rats onto the Site.

11. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY AREA – UPDATE

The Clerk reported that Austrey Rangers had approached Shuttington to use the Playing Field when it is too wet to play in Austrey. They have already used the field for one match and as Austrey Rangers have nine teams there is a strong possibility that they will want to use our facilities next year. Cllr Perry has agreed to liase with the football teams and the Parish Hall about this.

Cllr Tattersall reported that the swing has now been removed from the Play Area as a safety measure and that it might be better to wait for the results of a Parish Plan before making any further decisions about the Play Area. The Parish Council has been advised that there is grant money available to be used for the combined use of Travellers and the settled community where appropriate. This might provide a tots climbing area on the Traveller's Site for all to use.

12. BUS SHELTERS & LITTER BINS – UPDATE

The bus shelters have now been erected, although concerns were raised about the anti graffiti, polycarbonate panels. The bench and litterbins will be concreted-in in the near future.

13. REPORT FROM MEETING WITH COUNTY CLLR MICK STANLEY & HIGHWAYS ABOUT FLOODING

Cllrs Tattersall and Frost reported a positive meeting with County Councillor Mick Stanley and Bryn Patefield from Highways. Bryn Patefield agreed to check water and ground levels, as well as storm drains to see what might be done to alleviate the problem. Due to the severe weather since, Bryn Patefield has not been able to report back yet. The Clerk will chase again.

14. TO DISCUSS WEBSITE POSSIBILITIES

Cllr Blackburn reported that he had spoken to Kurt Kovach and discussed the possibility of a joint website. He provided some rough costings and Cllr Frost then proposed Cllr Blackburn should go ahead and purchase the domaine-name of shuttington-alvecote. This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. Cllr Blackburn will then need to be supplied with contact details, historical information, photographs and forthcoming events information, etc to enter on the web page.

15. PLANNING

There were no new Planning Applications to consider.

16. REPORT FROM PARISH HALL MEETING

There was little to report, but the Parish Council was requested to notify the Parish Hall of who would be attending in case of a late cancellation or change of venue.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was dealt with as per the February Correspondence List.

18. INVOICES

There were no invoices for payment in February.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Wood reported that a new 'Mineral Core Strategy' document would be republished on 19th February.

The Biodiversity Action Plan has not yet been progressed any further.

The Clerk reported that Severn Trent had agreed to repair the damaged verges.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9th March, 2009 and following meeting changed from Easter Monday to previous Monday 6th April.

Anita M Allsopp
19th February, 2009