



SHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES - Sherington Parish Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 19:00 and Parish Council Meeting at 19:30 in Sherington Pavilion.

Attendees: Cllrs Palmer, Kitchingham, Axford, Hartley, Ramsden & O'Dell, Jacqueline Galloway. Ward Cllr McLean & Ward Cllr Geary

17 Members of the public.

	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	OWNER/ACTION
1	VOTE IN CHAIRMAN	Peter Palmer to remain as Chairman.	Carried
2	CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT	It has been a turbulent year but we have ended the year in a positive financial position, mainly due to the claiming and receiving of the VAT outstanding from the last 4 years, thanks to JG for doing this. We have also managed to dispose of the old village shop, this has enabled us to help the new shop, financially. However, the shop is currently running at a loss and if we want to keep the new shop, we need to use it and support it. The PC has made a commitment to helping financially when needed and if possible to try and keep this invaluable resource in the village. (Please check this website for Government Guidance for helping local businesses: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parish-power-can-save-struggling-village-shops-and-pubs) After the ups and downs with the old landscaping contractor we hope that with the appointment of a new contractor we will see an improvement in the grass in village in the coming weeks. After a year of fluctuating numbers of Councillors we are now at full capacity with 7 Councillors, we now have a much stronger council. Looking forward to the challenges in the year ahead.	Cllr Palmer
3	WARD COUNCILLORS ANNUAL REPORT	New City Plan coming out for consultation June/July, will be 12-15 weeks. MK Connect, the service is reduced now and when it goes for tender next year in April it will be with this reduced coverage. Wheelie bins were rolled out and calls with complaints are much fewer now, the system seems to be working now after the teething problems. There is an option for alternate weekly collection for black bins. Speeding is still an ongoing problem in the area. Street Cleansing – MKCC/SUEZ have produced the new Street Cleansing Plan, if you have any questions, please email the Clerk.	Ward Cllr McLean
4	CLERK'S/RFO'S ANNUAL REPORT	This last year the Clerk/RFO has implemented a new accounting software which is now totally 'up and running' this makes the financial reporting much more robust. The AGAR was completed on time. The pavilion is still making a loss so any suggestions for extra income would be gratefully received. Mother and baby, coffee mornings, clubs etc. Apologies were made for the grass cutting situation, this has now been resolved with the appointment of a new contractor, Cut Crew who have been doing our pitch for the last 6 months. The cost of cutting the grass in the village has been reduced by £300 per cut.	Clerk
5	PROJECT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT	Shop – New shop at the White Hart, is everything we want it to be but as said before we really do need to support it, it would be terrible to lose it now.	
6	OPEN FORUM	Thanks to Clerk/RFO for their work with transparency of finances and recovery of VAT.	



SHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

		Question regarding the shop and their relationship with the Parish Council, the PC does not have any formal 'relationship' with Squirrel Stores, however, if the village wants a shop and the shop cannot maintain itself without some extra financial input then the PC will look to some funding help, see the link above.													
		PARISH COUNCIL MEETING													
1	RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Cllrs Nokes, PCSO Skippen, Ward Cllrs Geary & Whitworth													
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None													
3	APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING	Approved.	Chair												
4	WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT	See above.	Cllr McLean												
5	POLICE REPORT	Update of latest crime statistics for 5/4 – 12/05/24 - 0 Incidents in Sherington. 2 Motorcycle thefts in Havesham.	PCSO Skippen												
6	ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES	None.													
7	PROJECT GROUP UPDATE	<p>7.1 BARN CO/SHOP – Ongoing financial issues to be resolved with GF.</p> <p>7.2 LANDSCAPING – Cllr Ramsden has now taken the reins for Landscaping. Grass cutting ongoing, tree cutting to follow. Discussed putting in planters at the village hall for the pre-school to use for the children to plant vegetables to grow and cook with, look at further once the climbing wall is installed. WI planter on School Lane is not being maintained, contact WI for comment.</p> <p>7.3 BIODIVERSITY – New sub-committee to be formed with Landscaping.</p> <p>7.4 DRAINAGE – School Lane, since resurfacing not draining, ironworks still not been uncovered.</p> <p>7.5 HIGHWAYS – Update on NP road footpath, we have had confirmation that the funding is now available for the work and that it will be scheduled for June. Is this part of the official Redway network? A509 at top of hill going toward NP a lot of gravel on the road and a large trench.</p> <p>7.6 The request for release of funds has been submitted. Great Linford Arts Centre has been engaged to manage the project. £42,000 for the benefit of the village to be spent on public art, consultation will be make with the village.</p>	<p>Report JG</p> <p>Reported MKCC</p>												
8	FINANCE	<p>8.1 REVIEW MONTHLY BALANCES –</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Balances on account at 31/04/24:</td> <td>Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 42223</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Savings Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 3050</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Payments</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 1405</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 43868</td> </tr> </table> <p>8.2 APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT – Approved.</p> <p>8.3 AGAR 23/24 – Approved and signed ready for submission.</p>	Balances on account at 31/04/24:	Current Account	£ 42223		Savings Account	£ 3050		Payments	£ 1405		Total	£ 43868	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
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9	PLANNING APPLICATIONS	None at this time													



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10	CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE AND NEW CONSULTATIONS	Solar power SID's, Keith Wheeler, Road Safety officer has asked that we apply for these.	
11	EXTERNAL MEETINGS	None.	
12	COUNCILLORS ITEMS	Lottery funding has been received for the installation of a Monkey Challenge Climbing Wall at the Village Hall on the site of the old shop. The wall will be installed at the end of May. CIF 25/26 application is now open, apply again for funding for speed cameras at either end of the village, the poles may need to be replaced if we get solar power SID's. This would be at a cost of approx. £2K. Cllr Axford has sourced a defibrillator for the pavilion	
13	RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT	Grass cutting contract, a question about transparency and dissemination of information regarding the contract was asked, Cllr Kitchingham explained that the old contract had expired in early 2023 and because we were in no position to tender for a new contract at that time we met with the incumbent contractor and asked that they carry on an ad-hoc basis going through until September, we asked for an extension to take us through to April this year but they failed to do the job and we ended up in the position we are in. During this time the Councillor who was working on the landscaping contract and new tender left the council and we had quite a lot of difficulty getting access to the documents required. To clarify a question asked, The Churchyard Graveyard, The Knoll, The Village Hall playing field and the Sports Field at The Pavilion are included in the grass cutting contract and will continue to be so, these areas are not included in the Devolved Services Contract or paid for by MKCC but come out of the PC Precept payment. Neighbourhood Plan will be taken up as an agenda item once MKCC view of where the sites in Sherington for development are, however, a working group is to be formed. Concrete bins at the Village Hall, there are 4 bins, 2 of which are heavy concrete bins and also there is a concrete bin at the school, could these be removed?	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS	Next Parish council meeting will be 9th July 2024	

Clerk – Jacqueline Galloway