



*representing
the civil parish
of Shalford,
Peasmarsh
and Chilworth*

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs N Livesey

Clerk to the Council

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MINUTES

Shalford Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 20th February 2014 at Shalford Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) Attendance and apologies: Present;** Cllrs Birkett (Chairman), Phillips, Morden, Parsons, Thomson and Young.
In attendance: Mrs Nuala Livesey, GBC Cllr Palmer, PC Hannah Buckley, four members of the public.
Apologies: Cllrs Bawden and Lewis, SCC Cllrs Taylor and Johnson, PC Ryan Stephens.
- 2) Local Code of Conduct – Disclosure of Interests:** None
- 3) Minutes: Confirmation:** The Council considered and confirmed the minutes of the last Council meeting held on the 23rd January. Following some minor amendments the minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 4) Police Report:** PC Buckley reported that there had been one burglary, one drink driving arrest, one theft near the shops and one violent crime. She also reported that a man had been approaching women in an intimidating way near The Chancies and Pilgrim Way. Any suspicious activity should be reported on the 101 number but she emphasised particularly that elderly people should call 999 if they had any concerns about people calling at the door etc. Cllr Young enquired about the Neighbourhood Watch scheme that used to thrive in the area. She suggested that this was something to discuss with PC Stephens who would know where Neighbourhood Watch schemes were still in place in the parish.
- 5) Councillor Report:** Cllr Palmer reported that following the recent flooding GBC was reviewing all responses particularly relating to the Christmas period. The Council had worked very hard on pumping water and clearing problems but would welcome any comments from the members. He was aware that Tilthams Green had suffered high water levels. A member of the public reported that properties in Somerswey had also suffered from the flooding. GBC were in correspondence with the National Trust regarding the tow path in particular the impact on Tilthams Corner and Tilthams Green. He also reported that the budget for 2014/15 had been agreed and would result in an increase of 1.9% overall equating to an increase of £2.59 on a band D property. The borough would have to deal with a 7% cut in external funding and 28% reduction from Central Government over the next few years so was trying very hard to become self sufficient. It had recently completed a deal to purchase property in the town that would bring in £1m a year in rent. This was all designed to help the Council maintain the current level of services. Cllr Palmer reported that there would be scrutiny session on 4th Mar to concentrate on the major concerns from the Local Plan. He confirmed that representatives of the consultants, the planning dept and councillors would all be in attendance to hear the comments of local people. This was an extra opportunity to make any comments. He added that the Draft Plan would now be published in early July after debate at full council on 19th June. This would be followed by a further consultation of approx 2 ½ months. GBC felt confident that residents had been given every opportunity to comment ahead of the very difficult decisions that needed

to be made particularly regarding the Green Belt. The Chairman asked if there was an estimate of the total cost of producing the new plan and Cllr Palmer confirmed that £1m had been allocated to it. Cllr Morden asked if any clear trends had emerged from the consultation and how decisions would be made if there were many different answers. Cllr Palmer confirmed that building in the Green Belt and affordable housing were amongst the main concerns being expressed. The priority was to come up with objectively assessed need and employment opportunities robust enough for inspection. The Chairman asked how GBC would manage the rolling nature of the plan and how elements would be reassessed over time. Cllr Palmer confirmed that the inspectors would focus on the first five years but there was a duty to review the plan over time. A member of the public asked for clarification of the figure for affordable housing and whether the percentage of affordable homes could be increased. Cllr Palmer explained that the national figure was 15% and the GBC figure was 35% on developments over 15 homes. This would be difficult to change because of the need for commercial value to the developers. He added that this would be an integral part of the discussions. A member of the public asked if it were possible for GBC to borrow money for housing since they were able to borrow for investment in commercial property. Cllr Parsons commented that GBC had agreement for 150 new homes confirmed, and Cllr Palmer added that being in competition with developers would not be advantageous to the Council so it was more cost effective to try and build on land already owned by the borough. He confirmed that commercial borrowing was cheap over 60 years and the capital values should increase at the same time.

6) Public session: A member of Friends of Shalford reported that the group were discussing the purchase of a defibrillator for the village and hoping to fundraise locally. Good discounts could be obtained through some of the local emergency services. Members of the council suggested SSALC as a way of sourcing them and that the British Heart Foundation also gave grants. Cllr Morden suggested that it could be sited outside the chemist or the village shop. The member of the public also reported that there was a new pony of the Common rescued from the floods. A member of the public commented that as a resident on the boundary of Shalford and Bramley parishes they received information from both areas. Bramley parish operated a very efficient electronic newsletter every month updating residents on important local information. The Chairman agreed that it was necessary to address communication and once the new website was up and running the PC would give this some consideration.

7) Planning: Current Planning Applications (Appendix 1): The Council considered the planning applications listed at **Appendix 1** and recorded **No Objections**.

8) Chilworth Community Association:

8.1) CCA Constitution: the Chairman of the CCA outlined the reason for changing the constitution. It was felt that having a voting member of the Parish Council involved would be a help. Cllr Young asked if the CCA still had a membership of local residents. She confirmed that this was no longer the case but it had been replaced by a management committee. She also confirmed that funding was received from St Martha's PC and income came from pitch lettings. The PC agreed to adopt the new constitution and to appoint a member to join the CCA

8.2) Albury Eagles Football Club: the Chairman of the CCA confirmed that they were concerned that the football club had approached the Parish Council regarding possible improvements to the field rather than talking to the CCA. The CCA was keen to protect the field and promote it for activities other than just football. Cllr Birkett confirmed that following discussions the football club clearly had plans to expand and fundraise to improve facilities. It was agreed that the PC would consider supporting such an initiative once discussions had taken place between the CCA and Albury Eagles subject to the CCA being happy with any proposals.

9) GBC Local Plan: the Chairman confirmed that although a draft response had been produced for the SHMA, the comments of members would be taken into account before a final response would be agreed. He also added that it was interesting to see that the planning consultants were part of a larger property developer. Cllr Palmer stressed that it was important to focus on

the important issues rather than the author who had been appointed through a rigorous tender process. The Chairman confirmed that the main concerns of the Council were to do with the demographic approach to the proposals, the inadequate level of housing for the population and the rate of predicting net migration. Following discussion the Council agreed that a response would be forwarded to GBC by the deadline on Friday. The Chairman asked Cllr Palmer how a Neighbourhood Plan would fit with the Local Plan if it wasn't finished ahead of it. Cllr Palmer confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would sit alongside the Local Plan and would have to be acknowledged by the borough. He also confirmed that GBC would assist with the process.

10)Traffic Management in Peasmarsch: The Clerk confirmed that a petition was being collected for presentation to the next Local Committee meeting in March. Cllrs Birkett and Bawden would attend the meeting to put the case before the Committee and would be supported by both GBC Cllr Palmer and SCC Cllr Johnson.

11)Neighbourhood Planning: the Chairman suggested that the first thing to do was agree an area a plan would cover. The nature of the parish meant that it would probably have to be three small plans under the umbrella of the whole parish. It would also be important to gauge what support residents would give to a plan. The PC needed to compile a list of issues that it would like to see addressed in a plan, including parking, Common land management, community assets, flood control etc. The Council agreed to meet on 13th Mar to draw up a more detailed plan of action.

12)Tillingbourne Valley Project: the Clerk reported that the meeting in Albury on 4th Feb continued to progress ideas for a Lottery application. It had been agreed that villages along the valley would try and identify individual projects that could be linked together for the whole project. Cllr Young added that she had been invited to a meeting to discuss the potential of West Lodge with Maggie Scott and Kathy Wells of Chilworth2gether as a community facility.

13)Annual Assembly: the Clerk agreed to try and arrange the Annual Assembly in Shalford Village Hall on 8th or 9th May in the evening.

14)Speed Limit on Christmas Hill: the Clerk confirmed that there was nothing to report this month but that she would contact PC Stephens to see if any progress had been made with monitoring speeds on the road.

15) Finance: Finance Report:

15.1)Report for the year up to the end of January 2014 (Appendix 2): This report provided an updated review of the 2013/14 accounts up to 31st January 2014. Income totalled £360.20 for January being mostly administrative refunds and the refund of the fraudulent HMRC cheque from October. Expenditure was £4,173.99 incl VAT which consisted mostly of regular outgoings. The cash balance at the end of January was £92,369.51 compared with £96,183.30 at the start of the month. In comparing actual with budget, expenditure at 63.4% remained comfortably within budget for the year.

15.2) Review of financial position: the Clerk outlined the areas of over and under spending for the year ending 31st March. Lighting repairs for the year would be overspent by £114 due to some major replacements to light heads in Tilthams Green and Hornhatch. However this was balanced by underspend in a number of areas amounting to approx £6,000 which would allow for the toddler swings to be replaced at Peasmarsch and some monies allocated to a Neighbourhood Plan reserve fund when all expenditure had been allocated.

16)Authorisation of Expenditure:

Epsilon Lighting – new lighting heads at Tilthams Green and Hornhatch £606+ VAT

17) World War I Commemorations: the Clerk reported that Cllr Bawden was waiting for quotes for small crosses as discussed at the last meeting. There were a number of companies producing commemorative medals. The Clerk had been in contact with Margaret Dierden who was doing a talk on the war effort in Shalford for the Conservation Society in April. She would also be

contacting the infant and junior school to see if they were planning anything and would investigate the grants available for War Memorial restoration or cleaning. Stephanie Sokolowski added that St Thomas' church in Chilworth had records of those from Shalford hamlet and would be including them in their commemorations

18) Correspondence: The Clerk informed the Council of correspondence received and agreed to check if Cllr Bawden or Birkett might attend the National Trust Spring Workshop and to pass the letter regarding Guildford Walkfest to the Wey and Arun canal group to see if they might be able to help. Cllr Morden and the Clerk agreed to attend the Local Plan Scrutiny Forums on 4th March. Copies of the Notes on Membership of Campaigning groups from SSALC had already been circulated to members and the information on GBC Play rangers visits had been circulated to Chilworth members. The Clerk agreed to talk to SCC Cllr Johnson about the condition of the footpath and cycle path by Dagley Farm and Lane.

19) Members reports:

Cllr Morden: reported that the disused phone box in Drogos Close was now in a very poor state

Cllr Young: reported that the junction of New Rd and Brook Rd had been resurfaced and the street light had been repaired

Cllr Thomson: reported that parking in Station Row Shalford was now causing extreme problems for cars trying to get through. The Clerk agreed to talk to the GBC Countryside team about this.

Cllr Birkett: commented that where the trees had fallen on the Common, the area now looked untidy. The Clerk agreed to check whether any replanting would take place. He also reported that he had visited the Shalford Social Club on the corner of Station Road and it had good facilities available

Cllr Thomson agreed to act as the PC representative on the CCA supported by Cllrs Parsons and Young if necessary

Meeting closed at 10.35pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th March 2014, at 7.30.p.m., at **Shalford Village Hall.**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....