

Shobrooke Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2023, at Shobrooke Village Hall at 7:30 PM

Councillors Present:

Cllr Furse, (chairwoman) Cllr Jones, (vice-chair), Cllr Balkwill, Cllr Collier, Mrs Clarke (Clerk),
One member of the public

MINUTES

01/09/23 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllr Tuffin

02/09/23 Declaration of Interest:- None

Public Participation: A member of the public raised concerns about hedgehog signage and community housing. Steps with Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) were discussed, lettings difficulties with anti social behaviour and it concluded with a request for a meeting with MDDC and a review of relevant meeting minutes. The need for more homes or adapting existing ones was discussed, along with the lack of housing for young people. Grants for land purchase were mentioned, and Cllr Balkwill will contact Graham Barnell in due course.

Hedgehog signage, information about hedgehog sightings, breeding locations, and the specific areas where the signs are needed have been provided. This proposal was prepared and sent to the council, with the understanding that it would be reviewed by the Devon County Council (DCC) and Transport for the relevant signs

03/09/23 Minutes of the last meeting held - Wednesday 12th July 2023, were agreed and signed as a true record

04/09/23 Parish council - Matters arising-

04.01 Shobrooke Play Park – Replacement logs are still pending due to lack of stock, a discussion was held about the delivery and installation. The current ones have to remain in situ due to the fittings being dangerous if exposed.

04.02 Let Talk Mid Devon - Discussion about the new MDDC website as a platform for voicing opinions. Cllrs indicated that the new information should be placed on our website.

04.03 Valencia Grant: The grant application failed. A new application for toddler swings was discussed.

04.04 Hedgehog Signage: Details about the proposal and follow-up actions as discussed with the mop above.

04.05 Budget Preparation: A discussion on budgeting was held and mention was made of the Bus shelter - needing a coat of paint. Thanks given to Mr. Worden for his gift of the defib pads.

05/09/23 Mid Devon District Council

05.01 Planning Applications: - none,

05.02 Planning Decisions: 23/00737/FULL – full planning permission was granted. back to June, class Q decision.

06/09/23 Reports from DCC Councillor - Cllr Tuffin sent insert her report here.

“As District Councillor, I’ve enjoyed meeting the Parish Councils in the Ward and look forward to meeting all of you. I’m on the Homes and Community Policy Development Groups and the Net Zero Advisory Group. So far, we have mainly just been brought up to speed, as there is so much to learn. A couple of months ago, Mark and I met Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer on a visit to Tiverton, where we discussed the scandal of food banks and river pollution, issues close to our hearts. Mid Devon District Council is going through an exciting period, with so many inductions for so many newbies only now coming to an end. Altogether there is a huge feeling of optimism and determination. At the same time, we are facing the

tightest budgetary situation Council Officers can remember, and also public anger at some major issues hanging over us from the previous administration (think 3 Rivers). So learning from past mistakes is crucial, and so is prioritisation, given the huge cuts from Central Government. We hope that with your guidance – the public and Parish and Town Councillors – we can move forward more wisely and listen more to what you are saying.”

07/09/23 Finance -PAYE tax query

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
07.00.01	Ionus	Website DDR.	1.20
07.00.02	A. Clarke	Salary and expenses	233.97
07.00.03	HMRC *	PAYE	48.20

07.01 Parish Council receipts (bus) Current Account: £8085.38

07.02 Parish Council payments(res) Current Account: £7643.33

07.03 Payments authorised - signatures for this month's documents.

07.04 Balances:

7.4.1 Parish Council Footpath balance (in above current account figure): £300

7.4.2 Parish Council Play equipment: £4,000.00

A discussion was held about the banking. New software is being used online for the wages. The Clerk indicated that she had spoken to HMRC, about an error in last year and had been advised how to correct this. A new direct debit will be set up to pay HMRC Cumberland.

08/09/23 Roads and Footpaths.

08.01 Road issues no through sign from the Barton to the top of the village needs this replacing. **Highways.** Park cottages near the entrance to the cricket ground, the roads need reporting. Questions were raised over whether or not it is deemed to be a pothole in relation to MDDC requirements.

08.02 Drain in the road at the bottom (base) of the church steps on the road, needs clearing out - highways

08.03 P3 grant -application update. Clerk getting hold of Ros Davies and Carol (footpath warden) about the survey which was carried out in February.

09/09/23 Clerks Report

09.01 Paperwork for Cllr Collier.

09.02 Training dates to be provided for cllr and clerk raised the Filca qualification which is to be split between Shobrooke and Inwardleigh Parish Councils. Dates for finance for Cllr Jones.

10/09/23 Miscellaneous matters/ correspondence

10.01 Gritter sale - email received we believe it was a general email. Ours is not serviceable and needs to be repaired. Needs a new gearbox and repairs. Cllrs considered whether to sell it, do they want to make us an offer?

10.02 Highways introduced a change of people in there department.

10.03 19th October MDDC have a zoom for planning class Q training. Presentation will be recorded.

10.04 Closure of the 3 Rivers Housing firm set up by the council, due to cuts. Cllr mentioned that some of this has already been sent to contractors.

11/09/23 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda - details to be corrected on The Brooke regarding the councillors. Cllr Collier asked how many councillors are allowed is it 8 or 9? Cllr Collier suggested we put Cllr Tuffin on the earlier housing matter raised by the mop

12/09/23 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th October 2023, at 7.30 pm, at the Village Hall

Chair

Dated