

Shobrooke Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2023, at Shobrooke Village Hall at 7:30 PM

Councillors Present:

Cllr Furse, (chairwoman) Cllr Jones, (vice-chair), Cllr Balkwill, Cllr Tuffin (MDDC), Mrs Clarke (Clerk)

MINUTES

01/11/23 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllr. Collier, Cllr. Jenkins

02/11/23 Declaration of Interest:- None

Public Participation: none

03/11/23 Minutes of the last meeting held - Wednesday 13th September 2023, were agreed and signed as a true record.

04/11/23 Parish council - Matters arising-

04.01 Shobrooke Play Park – play park, balance beam has been completed by the Chair and Vice Chair at a cost of £126. Maintenance form has been filled in .

04.02 Community led housing, Cllr Balkwill, indicated that the parish would like to see a different policy for occupation of the houses. To allow younger people to use them rather than just the over 50s. The balance of the village is disproportionate. The properties can be difficult to fill, as the village doesn't have a shop, they are on a hill and there is no transport so the older people are not interested in them as they would be living in isolation.

Some of the bungalows have large gardens where either housing could be extended or plans could be made to use the gardens for new properties, as the council have been looking at in-fill plots to build on. Cllr Tuffin is on the homes policy group and will talk to the committee to see how this could be explored. Previous efforts to build some community housing took 12 years.

04.03 Gritter update: Various things no longer work on the unit, the clerk hasn't heard back from the other council who were initially interested in the unit. The councillors all supported scrapping the unit.

05/11/23 Mid Devon District Council

05.01 Planning Applications: - none,

05.02 Planning Decisions: - None

06/11/23 Reports from DCC Councillor - Cllr Tuffin

Cllr Tuffin, talked about Pedlars Pool and the developers of the site. Traffic will affect this parish. Flooding was a concern raised by Cllr Balkwill and there was a discussion about the run-off during and after building.

Cllr Jones attended finance training and discussed what had been covered in the training.

07/11/23 Finance

Documents were signed by two councillor for invoices, receipts etc. The banking mandate was discussed and given to the clerk for processing.

All councillors approved the payments and noted the elector charges yet this council didn't have an election, however MDDC indicate the charge is for administration purposes.

Cllr Balkwill proposed the approval of the payments, seconded by Cllr Jones and everyone else

approved it.

Grant application failed, it was noted that the company concerned had an accident and they have been charged a serious amount which may have reduced the funding they have available to councils. Clerk will look into this again and possible other grants i.e. Tesco community grants and the national lottery.

08/11/23 Roads and Footpaths.

08.01 Patching of holes has been taking place. Notice of a road closure to go up on the website. Various notices to go up on the noticeboard and the website - road closure.

10/11/23 Clerks Report

10.01 Tiverton - A new £5.7m junction, off the A361 near Tiverton, was officially opened on Monday 30 October. The new Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension access junction is a vital part of new infrastructure links to developments that are currently being delivered and planned to the east of Tiverton, as part of the Council's local plan.

10.02 Flooding information and contact details for people if it affects anyone, also the fire safety in power cuts has been sent to us.

10.03 New residents survey – to post on the website - Residents in Mid Devon are being urged to share their views about services provided by Mid Devon District Council.

10.04 Mid Devon announces the launch of our Walking Festival, due to take place across the region from 14 to 29 September 2024.

11/11/23 Miscellaneous matters/ correspondence

11.01 The Brooke to contact the editor with a view to changing the day of the week the parish council holds its meeting

11.02 Hedgehogs, a member of the parish wanted to know why there are no small mammal warning signs, the following is the response from the DfT who requires some specific information to authorise any small mammal warning sign:-

These involve the numbers of Car/cyclist collisions with small wildlife, The number of small wildlife in the area · Number of dead small wildlife in the area along with evidence of hedgehog sightings, i.e. a spreadsheet logging monthly sightings of hedgehogs (and other small mammals) killed on the highway over the last year. This needs to include the dates, numbers of animals seen (both dead and alive) and the road or area you've seen it.

These accidents also have to be reported on

the BIG Hedgehog Map <https://bighedgehogmap.org/> – And on

Project Splatter <https://projectsplatter.co.uk/> – Creating a UK map of wildlife roadkill -to log animals killed on the highway of all species. Both websites are used as evidence in the application process, **until this evidence is submitted to the DfT, the application will be rejected.**

12/11/23 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda -

Wifi /broadband for the area, the clerk mentioned Airband and the new BT Broadband remote service. The clerk explained the Airband usage elsewhere in Devon. Gigagclear might be worth looking into.

Bench in the park to commemorate John Hill, a plaque will also be required for the next agenda, Cllr. Jones will get a quote in the interim.

There was a discussion about a possible new contractor for cutting of the grass. Cllr. Jones has requested an estimate from another contractor, a budget was provided.

13/11/23 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th December 2023, at 7.30 pm, at the Village Hall

Part one of the meeting was closed at 8.25

Chair

Dated