

Shobrooke Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Shobrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February 2025

The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

Members Present: Cllr A Jones (Chair) Cllr C Furse (Vice-Chair),
Cllr L Balkwill Cllr S Collier
Cllr J Leaming Cllr Tuffin
Mrs A Clarke (Clerk)

01/02/25 Welcome -The chair opened the meeting welcomed everybody, there were no members of the public in attendance. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Squires and Cllr Jenkins.

02/02/25 There were no Declaration of Interest

03/02/25 The Minutes of the last meeting held in November 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.
Proposed by ??? and Seconded by Cllr Furse.

04/02/25 The Co-option Vacancy - there was discussion as there is someone of interest.

05/02/25 Parish council - Matters arising-

05.01 Grants, Church - The church haven't received their grant. The clerk will look into this matter.

05.02 Holy Lane, lighting in School close - a new sign has gone up and the area has also been cut back. People are still passing through here when they shouldn't be and one even ignored a parishioners request not to go through.

05.03 Shute/Efford traffic latest - at a previous meeting Cllr Squires indicated that a scarf report would be needed and subsequently the clerk has now formally request this to attempt to resolve this problem. The chair also suggested an interim idea of moving a few 20 is plenty signs into the area to try and help matters until the scarf report is undertaken.

05.04 Snow Warden - Grit Distribution - Highways will only deliver to the snow warden and currently we do not have one. Grit was delivered to the Chairman who has subsequently filled all the grit bins, including two large ones that were purchased by the council privately some time ago. An email was sent out via the village email for anyone who wanted/needed grit. A list of all the grit bins has been produced for future reference. Expressions of interest are invited for the snow warden position. This will also be placed in the Brooke. The person will need to have a 4 wheel drive vehicle and appropriate towing licence, there may also be some early starts and a course to attend with the district council to cover the insurance aspect.

05.05 Policy Amendments - these were discussed and approved. The risk assessment and work from home, raised a few questions in relation to eye tests and security matters. The clerk will provide the chair with full details of bitwarden and security passwords for access in the event of a problem.

06/02/25 Mid Devon District Council

06.01 Planning Applications: -

24/00631/FULL - Erection of agricultural workers dwelling, the application was discussed and the council has no objection to this.

06.02 The following planning decisions were noted.

24/01614/FULL - Retention of concreted yard area and track

25/0020297/HOUSE - Erection of double garage with work office above.

07/02/25 Reports from Councillors:-

MDDC Tuffin: provided information about Devon devolution the elections will still go ahead in May.

Cllr Tuffin mentioned community assets and a discussion was held on the potential assets in the village.

DCC Councillor Squires (December report), talked about the devolution and the process which she objects to. In the second part of the report it mentions the disposal of furniture. From the 1st December, everything has changed only 1 of the 8 recycling centres will upholstered furniture and for this area that is Tiverton. Tiverton council will still use the online bulk collection system. The council believe this will increase fly tipping.

08/02/25 Finance this month's online payments were approved

Item	Payee	Purpose	Amount £
08.01.01	Ionus	Website	£7.20
08.01.02	A. Clarke	Salary and expenses	£387.27
08.01.03	HMRC *	PAYE (nothing to pay as still in credit)	£0.00

8.02 Parish Council receipts £8.93 - this is bank interest on the reserve account.

8.03 The balances are as follows:- Parish Council Current Account £6,981.70 Reserve £10519.49 (end of January) Parish Council Footpath balance £311.00

The clerk indicated that the banks have started to charge £4.25 for the account, which is currently offset by the interest. Bank reconciliation have been held back due to a banking error.

09/02/25 Roads and Footpaths.

09.01 An update was provided to the councillors, John Boyd is the new foot path contact at Devon County Council. The footpaths report has to be in by March. There have been a few repairs recently, so it appears DCC are very proactive. A step repair is also needed and has been reported in the past. They have been repairing potholes, and have carried out some random patching works. There has been some flooding in Efford, where the landowner has cleaned the drains out solving the problem.

10/02/25 Play Park

10.01 Update - We have the reports from the play park for the last 3 months. The majority of the items in the play park are now static. Devon County Council have informed us that a weekly inspection are not needed so a monthly one will suffice. However, in the past the insurance company required it. Cllr Furse will discuss this with Mr. Jacobs.

The chair provided an update on the park, the items and their condition. A discussion was held over the new swing and possible gym equipment, whilst noting the application to the lottery had failed. It was decided to try the national lottery again and Viridor. Talks about whether to buy the swing separately and have it installed and the costs costs of this was also discussed. There would be some work to take the existing equipment out, it was suggested to approach our gardener in this respect. The roundabout needs repair and the clerk will order the new keys to access this.

An update was provided on a tree which is struggling at the moment, and is being cared for by Cllr Balkwill.

11/02/25 Clerks Report: The bin in the park has been reported a couple of times.

The community risk register was sent to us and this was overviewed by Cllr Leaming, there's nothing to add to the report. The Locality grant closes this Friday, the clerk has submitted a request for funding for the hearing loop at the village hall.

12/02/25 Miscellaneous matters -

The Wi-Fi in the village hall was discussed. Cllr Leaming has registered an interest with the churches for using the tower to broadcast a signal, however it will be low on their agenda because the amount of people it serves is to small.

A discussion was held about having a mobile wifi unit. The clerk will ask another parish council who they use for their Wi-Fi in their village hall to see if it's of any benefit.

When the weather improves, the bus shelter will need some maintenance i.e. preservative.

13/02/25 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda

The chair proposed changing from monthly meeting to a bimonthly meeting. If there were any problems it would be possible to have zoom meetings in between. Cllr. Furse pointed out the reason that the council went to monthly meetings was simply due to it being impossible to get anything done. A trial period was suggested. A query was raised in relation to this and the clerk has subsequently checked what the minimum requirements are:- There has to be four meetings a year. Cllr Collier mentioned rogation in March, could this be a village event. This led to a discussion on beating of the bounds. The suggestion being to bring everybody together in the village, a litter pick and a fete were also considered. A new parish boundary map will need to be ordered. It was noted that a couple of people approached the chair for help, after the leaflet drop about the winter fuel payments.

14/02/25 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th March 2025, at 7.30 pm, at the Village Hall

15/02/25 The chair closed the meeting 21:10pm

Signed.....

Date.....