

Shipton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 18th January 2017

		Action
1	<p>Members of the public forum A member of the Parish commented on the bad state of the wooden bench by the telephone box and it was noted that this bench is in memorial of Lionel Waring. It was agreed that everyone will ask around to find out if there are any living relatives of Mr Waring and ask whether they would like the bench to be replaced. It was noted that any future furniture purchases, such as benches and notice boards need to have a schedule of maintenance arranged.</p> <p>Binna Robinson asked permission for the WI to clean the telephone box during their Annual Village spring clean. This was agreed and the WI were thanked in advance.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Hodgkinson advised the Parish Council about funding currently available for any local Highways issues. He was asked to provide an additional grit bin to go opposite Hightrees and Cllr Hodgkinson agreed to find out if this is eligible for funding.</p> <p>Tim Locke has removed the old Shipton village sign which was in a dilapidated state. Thanks were given to him.</p> <p>Cllr Hodgkinson advised that the old A40 road to Northleach which has been closed for 15 months is being surveyed and hopes work will start to re-open this road shortly.</p> <p>A member of the Parish complained about the degradation of verges and roads in the village due to large trucks at building and development sites. Also mounds of builders rubble particularly at the old garages on Kilham Lane. Steve Cooke offered to speak to the owner's daughter (Alison Gillett) to find out who is using this land. Once we have heard back it was agreed to contact Cotswold District Council to seek advice regarding the dumping on this piece of land in terms of Environmental health.</p> <p>It was noted that contractors should reinstate verges at the end of building projects.</p> <p>Cllr Hodgkinson reminded everyone that they can report any Highways issues along with potholes on the direct line number 08000 514514.</p>	All to ask for relatives of L Waring
2.	<p>Apologies –Emma Locke sent apologies Cllr Robin Hughes Cotswold District Councillor also sent apologies Present: Hugh Thurbon, Richard Brown, Paul Morrish, Lynn Hurley & Cllr Paul Hodgkinson.</p>	
3	<p>Agree last minutes – these were agreed and signed</p>	
4	<p>Actions from last meeting Glos Highways have now scheduled repairs to the pedestrian footpath over the ford in the village at Kilham Lane and have allocated a job number. It is hoped work will commence shortly. There is no more information regarding affordable housing in the village and councillors are still looking for other suitable sites.</p>	
5	<p>Sports Field Charity Thanks were given to Richard Bromwich for his hard work in formulating the lease and liaising with the solicitors. The solicitors have agreed to cap their fees at the agreed level as they had failed to notify us before these were exceeded. It was unanimously agreed to ask Richard Bromwich to take this matter forward with Charlton Rovers AFC using the latest version of the lease. It was noted that there will be a management committee formed with representatives of all three clubs, chaired by a representative of the Parish Council, which would meet three times a year and report to the Parish Council.</p>	
6	<p>Playground</p>	

	<p>Paul Morrish explained that a playground will need to be designed, approved and regularly maintained. Insurance cover will also be required. A designer is due to come to the site soon and an idea of costs will be given at future meetings when more information is available. There maybe some grants available and Paul Morrish will contact Barbara Pond at GRCC for advice. It was noted that this project will go forward along side the Reading Room refurbishment and any shortfall in grant funding will be made up with funds raised through the Public Works Loan (PWL).</p>	
7	<p>Reading Room</p> <p>The RR committee are currently interviewing designers and surveyors to draw up detailed plans for the refurbishment work, and to act as Project Manager once work starts. It was noted that for security the Playground will be designed to be integral with the Reading Room.</p> <p>A PWL will be required to cover the shortfall in grant funding for the project and this will require approval from the community as it is repaid using an increase in the Precept. Hugh Thurbon will find out what level of support constitutes approval. It is hoped that sufficient details will be in place in time to speak to the community about the project at the May Village meeting although this will be a challenging timescale.</p> <p>A proportion of the anticipated savings from sports field expenditure can be used towards the PWL and thus reduce the increase in precept level for each household.</p>	HT
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Spending for the year has been on budget and the financial year should end with approximately £6500 balance which is the suggested amount (1 year precept amount). After discussion it was unanimously agreed to keep the precept at £6700 as last year. Hugh Thurbon will seek advice on the level of funds that should be held in reserve given the small size of the overall budget.</p> <p>It was noted that not increasing the Precept by the current rate of inflation meant a real terms fall in income. However given the likely increase in the Precept that will be required to repay the PWL, and the anticipated savings to be made from leasing the Sports Field, it was agreed to keep the Precept at its current level on this occasion.</p> <p>It was noted that a grant from the Transparency Fund via GAPTC has been requested and a new laptop and associated software for the Parish Council will be purchased with this money.</p>	HT
9	<p>Parish Plan</p> <p>Hugh Thurbon had agreed a statement with GRCC as follows:</p> <p>Producing a Parish Plan is neither a legal requirement for PC's nor a legally binding document. It is however considered to be good practice for helping to obtain input from the Community to the direction of travel of Parish Council policy. The Parish Council mandate comes from a combination of factors including the election process every five years and interaction with the community, which may include periodic Parish Plan exercises. GRCC advised us on the "update" process we conducted in 2015 and stand by their view that this was an appropriate means of refreshing the original findings from the 2011 Plan. A repeat exercise based on individual household questionnaires could usefully be repeated in 2018/19 in advance of the next round of Parish elections.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Plan should be fully updated in 2018 and Richard Brown will convene a working party to produce proposals for the household questionnaire to be ratified by the Parish Council.</p> <p>During the discussion it was agreed that the PC mandate is derived from its role as the base level of UK democracy, holding public meetings and being subject to transparency rules. Whilst we expect to be held to account for the exercise of our executive powers the current level of community engagement remains limited, which suggests either that people aren't particularly interested in our activities or it is thought we are performing satisfactorily. The Crossroads public meeting was a good example of the community turning out in force to discuss an issue that was considered sufficiently important to warrant their involvement.</p>	RB to gather a working party
10	<p>Community Transport</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting for the Community Liftshare will be held in March and information is available from the Parish Lift Share Website. It was agreed to wait for results</p>	Next meeting

	<p>from Harris Ethical who are undertaking a survey of residents and their transport needs. If this scheme fails to get enough support we will consider either joining existing volunteer schemes or setting up our own. Follow up at the next meeting. Thinktravel is a Department for Transport (DfT) funded initiative that gives you information about sustainable travel options like walking, cycling, using the bus and train, or car sharing. Website: thinktravel.info</p>	
11	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>It was noted that the current system for notifying neighbours of Planning Applications and the system for entering comment to the Planning Portal of CDC seems to be suitable but will be kept under review.</p> <p>It was also noted that the planning process is skewed in favour of the homeowner and there is little the community or Parish Council can do to influence outcomes as the planning guidelines are currently so weak, the emphasis placed on local precedent and the reluctance of CDC to open themselves to risk of having decisions overturned at appeal and being charged the costs.</p>	
12	<p>Village Notices</p> <p>Susan Livesey reminded the Parish Council that the best way to contact residents to inform them of anything important is to use the Village email list which Susan has compiled and can reach around 60% of households. It was agreed that the Mail Chimp system be used in conjunction with the Village website, and other hard copy notice boards, to notify residents of Parish Council information, once the wording has been agreed.</p>	
12	<p>Speeding</p> <p>A new speed indicator device (SID) is on order and should be received soon. It has been noted by several residents that there is a resident who appears to drive at excessive speed in the village. It was agreed that a Parish Councillor would speak informally to the individual to bring the matter to their attention.</p>	
12	<p>Date for next meeting - Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7pm in the Reading Room.</p>	