

# Shipton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

		Action
	<p><b>Members of the public forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resident advised the Parish Council that there has been discussion on the unofficial Shipton Facebook Group about the amount of dog mess, bagged and unbagged, especially on the footpaths through North Farm and in the Highbank area. Also there is still concern about loose dogs running in the village. It was requested that a reminder be put on the next newsletter from the Parish Council.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Paul Hodgkinson was not able to attend the meeting but sent a report to the Chair advising him that the new Gloucestershire Highways Manager is Danny Taylor (replacing Bob Skillern).</p> <p>Cllr Hodgkinson also reported that the County Council will set its budget next month for the next financial year. The ruling Conservative group have proposed a Council Tax rise of 3.99% (2% adult social care levy and 1.99% for all other services. The Government has relaxed the cap on Council Tax rises without the need for a local referendum, so it's possible this figure may rise further. Pressure on children's services in particular is much higher than previously.</p> <p>Cllr Robin Hughes advised that Kevin Field, Planning and Development Manager of CDC, has asked the Planning Department to look into the latest site put forward for Affordable Housing in the village and make a considered response. This follows nearly a year during which time no formal response has been received.</p> <p>Mr Field is also offering the chance for a number of Parish Councillors from Cllr Hughes' ward to attend a session on Affordable Housing in the District. It was agreed that Shipton should be represented at the meeting and volunteers were asked to contact Cllr Hughes to book their place as soon as possible.</p>	
1	<b>Apologies</b> – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson sent apologies.	
2	<b>Declaration of Interests.</b> None declared	
3	<b>Agree last minutes November 2017.</b> These were agreed and signed	
4	<p><b>Actions Arising from minutes above</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Welcome Pack and the Transparency Code are being updated.</li> <li>Grit Bins – although there is still some bagged grit in the North Farm yard, it was agreed that the Clerk will enquire with Highways if any refilling will be undertaken this year as a lot of grit has been used with the recent icy weather.</li> <li>It was agreed to ask on the website for any volunteers to be the Tree Warden for the Parish.</li> <li>A 'vote of thanks and congratulations on a great job was given to Tony Walsh for the work so far on the village History Project, which is ongoing. The initial material has now been made available on the village website <a href="https://shiptonhistoryproject.yolasite.com/">https://shiptonhistoryproject.yolasite.com/</a></li> <li>Thanks was given to Julia and Richard Bromwich for the lovely Christmas tree on the village green .</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk and SLivesey</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/AS Livesey</p>
5	<p><b>Frogmill Hotel and local Community</b></p> <p>Tony Lewis, Property Manager and Daniel Turner, Marketing Manager from Brakspear, the company that are re-opening the Frogmill Inn, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the planned redevelopment of the business. Comprehensive refurbishment works have begun and the planned reopening will be in July 2018.</p> <p>Brakspear intends that the Frogmill will become an important element in the community and have designed a much larger bar area. As well as a restaurant for up to 100 covers there will also be extensive external dining facilities in the landscaped grounds. They are keen to establish good links with local organisations and will contact the Golf Club, Charlton Rovers AFC and the hunt. It was also noted that there may be scope to get involved with the numerous Festivals that take place in Cheltenham each year.</p>	

	<p>The Hotel will also be offered as a venue for weddings, as in the past. The reopening of the Hotel was strongly welcomed in part because of the employment opportunities it would offer to local people. It was also hoped that the business would continue to work closely with the community – in particular it was noted that the need for improved pedestrian facilities at the A40 crossroads was something of benefit to all. Brakspear’s generous contribution to the new Bus Shelter was much appreciated and it was hoped this could be used as a template for future collaborations. The Chairman thanked Tony and Dan for coming to the meeting and wished them every success with the business on behalf of the village.</p>	
6	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The updated Finance Regulations were approved and adopted by the Parish Council. Thanks were given to Richard Brown for his work on these.</li> <li>• It was noted that there had been no increase in the Precept last year and therefore a real terms fall once inflation is taken into account. Following discussion, it was agreed by a majority vote to raise the precept by 3.75% to around £6900. It was agreed that the general advice to Parish Councils that reserves should be roughly equal to the annual income, did not necessarily apply to Parish Councils as small as Shipton, and that it would be better to build up the reserves to cover large items of unplanned expenditure in the future. It was also noted that the Parish Council may wish to contribute part of its budget in the future to the repayments of the Public Works Loan which will be raised to fund the Reading Room refurbishment.</li> <li>• The first draft of the budget was reviewed and it was agreed to look at this more closely at the next meeting when more is known.</li> <li>• The Lloyds Bank account is still being opened.</li> </ul>	Clerk
7	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A40 Crossroads</b> – Cllr Paul Morrish reported that he had met with Bob Skillern and had applied for funding from the Sustainable Development Fund which it is hoped will contribute £6000. Glos Highways will contribute £2000 and it is hoped that this £8000 can be used to help aid crossing at this junction. Cllr Morrish offered to raise this subject at the NOCRASH meeting at Andoversford and to talk to Danny Taylor who has taken over from Mr Skillern.</li> <li>• <b>Accessing Local Bus Service</b> – Discussion took place regarding residents walking to/from the new Bus Shelter at the Frogmill, and it was agreed that the best way is for all residents to look out for people and talk to neighbours who may be looking for a lift to the bus stop. An item will be included on this in the next Newsletter.</li> <li>• <b>Trees on village verges</b> – It was noted that there is a lot of ivy growing on trees and this now needs clearing. A large tree came down as a result in the recent heavy snow, narrowly missing a resident. As these trees are the responsibility of Glos Highways, it was agreed to write to them to request this.</li> <li>• <b>Village Gates</b> - Cllr Paul Hodgkinson advised the Chair by email that as his budget will be cut next year, he will probably not be able to fund the two pairs of gates as previously hoped and it was agreed to wait until the new financial year. It is hoped that one pair may be installed in 2018/2019 and one pair be installed in 2019/2020.</li> <li>• A letter has been received from a resident complaining about the difficulty of walking on the pavement due to parked cars. It was agreed that a note will be put in the newsletter asking residents to leave a space on the pavement for pedestrians.</li> <li>• The trees that have been causing problems in Shipton Manor are being assessed and a tree planning order has been submitted, so work should start soon.</li> <li>• The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) is still on order and should be received soon (at no cost to the PC). This sign is mobile and can be sited in different areas of the village showing the speed of a vehicle and a smiley/non-smiley face.</li> </ul>	<p>Paul Morrish</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
8	<p><b>Standing Orders</b></p> <p>Richard Brown and Dick Bradford had worked on adapting these for Shipton and amendments were noted and agreed. These will be added to the Standing Orders and the final version will be ready for adoption at the next meeting. It was noted that there is still concern about how planning applications are handled as Councillors were skeptical about both the weight given to comments submitted to CDC, and the Parish Council’s ability to objectively assess householder proposals. Although the situation was different for major proposals, in most cases it was agreed that the role of the Parish Council should be confined</p>	Next meeting

	to facilitating individual comments from residents to be submitted to the District Council.	
9	<p><b>Playground Update</b></p> <p>It was noted that Kevin Nicholas, who was heading the Playground Committee, is no longer able to be involved, due to work commitments. It was agreed to ask for Parents who may be interested in heading a working group in the newsletter.</p>	Clerk
10	<p><b>Reading Room Update</b></p> <p>The Trustees of the Reading Room will shortly be in a position formally to approve the planning application for the refurbishment of the Reading Room.</p> <p>It was noted that the Parish Council will need to appoint a new cross-member to the Reading Room committee as the current member is resigning.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the Public Works Loan which will need to be applied for by the Parish Council in due course. The Parish Council reiterated its full support for the Public Works Loan as a means of raising funds for the project. This view has been strengthened by the overwhelming support for both the project and the Public Works Loan evidenced by the residents' survey carried out last year by the Trustees. It was noted that if the loan is taken over 50 years it will reduce the annual amount to be paid back per household. The approval to trigger the loan will need to be taken at a public meeting when the precise figures are known. The Parish Council also confirmed that, apart from the final amount required to be applied for, no additional information will be required from the Reading Room Trustees in order to trigger the Loan application.</p>	
11	<p><b>Sports Field Update</b></p> <p>Dick Bradford reported that CRAFC are ready to submit a planning application for a new club house and that they have now decided to leave the existing Pavillion in place. It was noted that the Cricket Club are not operating currently and the cricket square can now be incorporated into the rest of the field.</p>	
12	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that newsletter business can be dealt with via email. Items so far include: giving lifts to people to and from the bus shelter; dog poo in the village; parking on pavements; the playground project; the village email list; the annual toad migration and this year's ShipFest.</li> <li>• It was agreed to include a vote of thanks in each agenda to cover individuals who have contributed positively to the village.</li> <li>• As previously advised Hugh Thurbon will have resigned his position as Chair following the meeting: Paul Morrish as Vice Chair will take over with immediate effect.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm in the Reading Room.</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Annual Parish Council meeting.</b></p>	