

Shipton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 16th January 2019

		Action
	Please note that the order of the meeting was altered to provide residents with a good understanding of the rise in the precept in advance of the Public Forum taking place.	
1	Apologies –no apologies – all present. Two members of the Reading Room Committee – Susan Livesey and Richard Bromwich were present in the audience.	
2	Declaration of Interests on Agenda items by Councillors – none declared but it was noted that one Parish Councillor is linked to a Reading Room Committee member. Also, Julia Mangan is the cross- committee member for both the Parish Council and the Reading Room committees.	
3	Local Councillors and visitors – Cllr Robin Hughes was welcomed to the meeting.	
8	Reading Room Update and Loan requirements Susan Livesey and Richard Bromwich addressed the Council and public audience to report and update on the programme to refurbish/rebuild the Reading Room. It was noted that the Reading Room is currently in a very fragile state and emergency repairs to electrics had just been undertaken to ensure the Room can stay open. In 2017 there had been a village consultation and agreement from the majority of the village to support an extension to, and the renovation of, the Reading Room which would be partly funded by a Public Works Loan (PWL) of £75K. The Reading Room committee had plans drawn up and planning permission approval for these works however, once these plans went to tender, estimates came in ranging from £250,000 - £300,000 for the work required excluding any unforeseen works that were found to be needed during the refurbishment. Around the same time the Parish Council offered its support to the Reading Room and suggested that the works be financed by a much larger PWL. The trustees were also advised that due to the much higher costs of the extension and renovation, it would probably be more cost effective to demolish the current hall and rebuild a new purpose-built building on the same site. Discussion followed, and the following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could the Reading Room be sold for development and with the funds raised, a hall be built on the Village Green (owned by the Parish Council), along with parking? This option has been investigated previously but further investigation is required by the Reading Room committee• Will the hire costs increase significantly in a new hall in order to recoup some money spent on building? The Reading Room committee could not see any reason for a significant raise in the hall hire costs. The Reading Room committee reiterated the point that raising the precept significantly this year (in April) does not commit the village for the next 50 years if the outcome of the public consultation is against the proposed Public Works Loan of £250,000.	

9	<p>Precept – agree and approve the precept requirement for 2019/2020</p> <p>The Parish Council noted that the precept for last year (2018/2019) was £6900 and has been raised only nominally over the past few years. In order to keep up with inflation and extra administration costs it was agreed that Parish Council's needs would be £8000 – an increase of £1100. In addition to this, the Parish Council is preparing to request £9,600, to finance the first instalment of a Public Works Loan in order to rebuild the Reading Room or to finance urgent repairs. A Public Works Loan would only be applied for with the approval of the village, otherwise it would be returned to the residents. It will not be used for other projects. Therefore the precept requested will be <u>£17,600 for the forthcoming year</u>. This will cost the average Band D household in Shipton <u>approximately £5.00 increase per month</u>. The Parish Councillors were in full agreement with this action.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk will raise her hours from 3 hours per week to 5 hours per week in order to be paid fairly for work undertaken as many hours are given free of charge presently.</p> <p>It was noted that the Sports Field is no longer costing the Parish Council anything. Services such as Village Grass cutting and other items are expected to increase due to inflation.</p>									
4	<p>Members of the public Forum</p> <p>There were some concerns about the amount of money required for the Reading Room refurbishment and/or rebuild and the costs to households for a Public Works Loan over 50 years. It was thought that the wider village should be consulted before such a rise in the precept is requested. The deadline for this is 31st January and it was agreed to distribute these minutes before that date in order for all village residents to have a chance to comment.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding empty properties in the village and the number of houses for sale. The Clerk advised that the Empty Property Officer at Cotswold District Council has been contacted. Cllr Robin Hughes offered to follow up on this. It was agreed that nothing can be done about houses that are currently for sale.</p>	Cllr Hughes to follow up with Empty Property Officer								
5	<p>Agree and sign minutes from previous meeting (November)</p> <p>Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>									
6	<p>Actions from the minutes above:</p> <p>The Snow Warden is now Harvey Lawrence from North Farm and Charles Baillie Hamilton is still involved.</p> <p>Standing Orders were moved to the next meeting as there has not been time to review.</p> <p>Empty Property Officer has been contacted – see above</p> <p>In response to some concerns expressed at the previous meeting about the Dowdeswell Forestry tree maintenance programme for the green, felling of the small horse chestnut tree has been removed from the programme and their quotation has been reduced from £465 to £385 +vat. They will now be instructed to proceed.</p> <p>Richard Brown has the football goals and is starting work on sanding them.</p> <p>Parking notices – see 11 below</p> <p>Andoversford Parish Council has been in touch with Paul Morrish to discuss borrowing the Speed indicator sign.</p> <p>The grit bin on Kilham Lane is still in use.</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Dick to instruct</p>								
7	<p>Finance</p> <p>Current financial position – bank balance £9497.90</p> <p>Possible upcoming expenditure for this year -£1400</p> <p>Expected reserves at the end of the Financial Year = £8112</p> <p>Expenditure approved at the meeting:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Tree Work on the village green</td> <td>£462.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training Course for new Councillors</td> <td>£200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Pay</td> <td>£450.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New notice board</td> <td>£246.00</td> </tr> </table>	Tree Work on the village green	£462.00	Training Course for new Councillors	£200.00	Clerk Pay	£450.00	New notice board	£246.00	Dick to instruct for noticeboard
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10	Planning Applications It was noted that there are current 3 planning applications. 7 School Lane – The Parish Council has submitted objection to this application. Objection also submitted on behalf of Deborah Griggs. I Manor Cottages – no comments submitted as yet Demolition of garage in Kilham Lane – no objections	
11	Parking Issues. PC Jason Page has been approached by the Parish Council for advice, and the PCSO has reported that he will be including Shipton in his rounds and will issue tickets or advice and put up posters where he sees incidents of unsafe parking and obstructions (to roads and pavements).	
12	Dates for next meetings – Wednesday 20th March 7.00pm in the Reading Room Wednesday 15th May – 7.00pm in the Reading Room. The Annual Meeting for the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15 th May. All Parish Councillors will be standing down and re-elections will take place. Please note that we are looking for new Parish Councillors. If you would like to know more information, please contact us at shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com	