

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th July 2023 on Coldred Village Green at 1830hrs.

Reports – Please see Appendix A for written reports from Cllr D Beaney (KCC) and J West (Community Warden).

Before the meeting started Mr S Elgar thanked the outgoing Parish Clerk for his services over nearly seven years.

122/2023 Present

Cllr J Bulaitis (Chair), B Crush, S Denyer, M Elgar, T Hunt, K Roberts, B Stauffer-Kruse, L Symes, A Softley, S Taber, M Watson, C White, C Tearle (Parish Clerk) and 21 members of the public.

123/2023 Apologies

Cllrs M Mamjan (DDC) and J Pout (DDC).

124/2023 Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st June 2023 to approve and sign.

It was resolved to approve and sign these.

125/2023 Public participation limited to items on the agenda

Vicky Beaumont the vice chair of the Sibertswold School PTA spoke in support of the school bus project, especially in relation to the logistics around school trips and sports matches against other schools.

Hanna a student spoke eloquently about the possible benefits of having such a facility for the school.

The school's special needs co-ordinator also spoke in support of the project and how the facility would be available for other local clubs and organisations to use.

126/2023 Declarations of Interest

- a) Cllr C White (OSI) on items 132/2023 & 133/2023
Cllr M Elgar (OSI) on items 132/2023 & 134/2023
Cllr K Roberts (OSI) on items 131/2023
- b) The Council granted dispensations to the following councillors on these issues until May 2027.
Cllr M Elgar – Coldred Forum, Community Land Trust, Shepherdswell Village Hall.
Cllr K Roberts – Shepherdswell Cricket Club, Parish Magazine, Shepherdswell Primary School and the T42 café.
Cllr C White – Shepherdswell Village Hall, Shepherdswell WI, History Society, The Recreation Ground Forum and the Shepherdswell Village Green Ass.

127/2023 Standing Orders

- a) The following amendment was approved to the Council's Standing Orders Clause 3; Para 3; 6 votes in favour, 2 against with 4 abstentions.

"Subject to standing orders, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair of the Council may be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair of the Council", and to delete the words, "which indicate otherwise" and may in his absence".

- b) To deal with the changes recommended by the Finance and Planning Committees at the next meeting.

NB. At this point the Chair was transferred to Cllr B Stauffer-Kruse for the duration of the meeting.

128/2023 Parish Clerk's Report

- a) A parishioner has made a request under the Audit Regulations for the Exercise of Public Rights (2022/23). A meeting has been arranged.
- b) An FOI request has been received to do with the Correspondence on the Coldred Pond (2022/23). This has now been dealt with.
- c) The new village green maps have been received by the Council to which Members have approved a budget of £100 for printing for the village green map boards.
- d) DEFRA has been in contact with the Parish Clerk because Asian Hornets have a nest in the trees beside the recreation ground. As they are a dangerous invasive species they will have to be destroyed. The Parish Clerk is liaising with Defra's inspectors about this.

129/2023 Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve the schedule of payments and bank balances

1 st July 2023	£
Current A/C	9,307.11
Business A/C	95,795.73
INCOME	
Bank Interest	90.46
M Wright (Mode Hairdressers)	260.00
Cemetery	185.00
SVHA (Insurance Repay)	763.41
Pre-School (Rent and Insurance Repay)	834.87
EXPENDITURE	
Harmer & Sons	753.28
C Tearle (Salary & Expenses)	830.00
All Clear Services (SWC)	512.56
Sue Foster (Potty Planters)	78.45
Work Nest	1,950.00
*Solar Together	150.00
PJ Smith (Electrical Contractor) VH Repairs November 2022	185.00

- b) A report from the Chair of the Finance Committee about the recent meeting where there was a detailed analysis of the current fiscal position. This is explained in the minutes of the meeting which were circulated prior to the meeting. He also explained that should the expenditure predicted in the budget materialise in addition to the recent unbudgeted potential expenditure, then Members must expect a substantial rise in next year's precept. The Committee has also looked at the current Standing Orders of the Finance Committee and is recommending to raise the threshold which the Parish Clerk can

authorise expenditure in cases where there is 'an extreme risk to council services' from £250 to £1000.

130/2023 Planning Committee

A report was received from the Chair of the Planning Committee. As requested by the Council, the Chair will bring forward two minor amendments to the Standing Orders which would reflect the current custom and practice.

131/2023 Sibertswold Church of England Primary School

Proposed by Cllr J Bulaitis and seconded by Cllr M Elgar, it was approved to give the school a contribution of £10K towards the cost of a minibus. This would also be available for use by local clubs and organisations. A recorded vote was requested with 6 votes in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention.

In favour: Cllrs J Bulaitis, S Taber, M Elgar, K Roberts, A Softley, B Stauffer-Kruse

Against: Cllrs B Crush, S Denyer, T Hunt, C White, M Watson

Abstention: Cllr L Symes

There was a second proposal to award a grant of £7K because of the position of the Council's finances. This was not put to vote as the first vote was carried.

132/2023 Solar Together (Shepherdswell Village Hall)

Members had been presented with a detailed costing to put solar panels on the village hall roof. More time was requested and by 7 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions asked Cllr T Hunt to investigate what other companies would offer.

133/2023 Recreation Ground

a) The Parish Clerk was asked to find out how much legal advice would cost to establish formal agreements between users such as the cricket and football clubs, which would replace the current informal arrangements.(recently circulated). This followed on from a meeting attended by Cllr J Bulaitis with the cricket club regarding safety issues and the protection of the cricket square.

b) There has been a continual problem with cars from those associated with the user groups blocking the emergency exit/entrance despite a perfectly adequate sign in place. The Parish Clerk was asked to remind those groups not to allow their members to park in that spot. In other words to police the events.

c) Once the play inspection report on the play equipment is in, which is due in August, a programme can be put in place to progress that which is needed to be done.

134/2023 Coldred Pond

Further to the resolution passed at the last meeting, this is to be left to the Coldred Forum to investigate possible funding for future repairs.

135/2023 Risk Assessments

Cllr S Taber gave an update on the progress so far.

136/2023 Assets and Property Committee

Deferred to the next meeting

The Council Chair on behalf of the Council and parish thanked the Clerk for his service as this was his last full council meeting.

At this point Cllr M Watson left the meeting.

137/2023 Items for next agenda

Standing Orders-Planning and Finance
Solar Panels
Risk Assessments
Assets and Property Committee

138/2023 Date of the next meeting

This will be on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 in Shepherdswell Village Hall at 2000hrs.

139/2023 Exclusion of the Public

It was resolved to exclude the public and the press from the meeting for the following items of business by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

At this point Cllr J Bulaitis left the meeting

140/2023 Shepherdswell Cemetery

Members received quotes to install footpaths in the cemetery.
Chaucer Paving was awarded the contract.

It was requested that Harmers be asked to level the sunken graves, and also a sign warning of uneven surfaces.

141/2023 Personnel Committee Report

An update on the appointment of a new Parish Clerk was given by the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

A Personnel Committee has been arranged for the 2nd August at 1900hrs in Shepherdswell Village Hall.

APPENDIX A

Cllr D Beaney (KCC)

KCC are appealing for more foster parents to join the fostering team so if anyone in the Parish is looking to or have ever considered fostering. Please come forward.

There is a consultation out regarding waste recycle centres. This is for opening times and closure of some sites in Kent. I urge residents to give their views on this consultation please.

Kent Fire and Rescue are trying to make people more aware. When charging some devices, they are urging people to research and check the quality of these devices when buying them. Also, Kent Fire And Rescue are asking people not to charge ebikes and scooters in hallways and entrance to houses or flats due to blocking emergency access points in case of a fire.

Operation Brook is due to come back in place at the beginning of school holidays.

Kent Trading Standards are cracking down of the selling of illegal vapes and the selling of these to underage children. If anyone is aware of this happening, please report to Kent Trading Standards.

J West (Community Warden)

Theft from garden

Safety concerns raised ref recreational area

Obstruction to access

Vehicles obstructing pavement

Damage to vehicles

(concerns raised ref suspected careless driving relating to damage caused to vehicles)

Nuisance smoke

Nuisance noise

Straying animals

Overgrown footpaths

Concern for welfare

Welfare issues

Positive wellbeing

Community / district/ events/projects