



SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Karen Leck
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of Sharnford Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th February 2024 in the Evergreen Hall.

Present: Cllr J Feast (Chairman), Cllr G Peryer (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Shirley, Cllr S Waters, Karen Leck (Clerk)

Also, Present: Cllr M Wright (Leicestershire County Council), Members of the Public x 14

Absent: None

24/019 Apologies for Absence: Cllr R Simpson, Cllr L Martin, Cllr C Denton, Cllr B Taylor (Blaby District Council)

24/020 Declarations of Interest Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary: Cllr M Shirley declared an interest on potential planning applications as Cllr Shirley is part of Blaby District Council's Planning Committee.

24/021 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2024.

Resolved that, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2024, a copy of which had been circulated, to each member, is a true recording of the proceedings.

24/022 Turley

David Blackadder-Weinstein (Turley), Tom Collins and Dominic Scott (Stantec, Masterplanner) from the project team updated the parish council with a presentation on the project regarding the land west of Stoney Stanton.

After the presentation the team took questions from the parish council and members of the public:

- Flooding – A number of members of the public asked if the project team are committed to incorporate reliable drainage facilities, as both Stoney Stanton and Sapcote have issues with flooding, and this could impact flooding in Sharnford.
Project Team reply – They are looking at the flooding issues in both Stoney Stanton and Sapcote and are committed to improve these areas, by re-aligning current ditches and incorporating wetland/flood storage areas in Sapcote.
- Traffic – Extra vehicles coming through the village to join the A5, which will increase noise and air pollution.
Project Team reply - The proposed south facing slip roads at junction 2 on the M69 will direct traffic away from Sharnford. Also, the proposed new link road, which will run from Elmsthorpe, through the proposed development and run between Stoney Stanton and Sapcote, will help alleviate the traffic.
- Cllr Shirley spoke about the proposed development at Aston Flamville and the issues regarding traffic. He asked if the development team would be funding the construction of the proposed slip roads at junction 2 or are they waiting for the outcome of the HNRFI to fund the proposed junction?
Project Team reply - The team were unable to answer this question at this time in the application.
- Validation – A member of the public asked if the proposed application would meet all the validation requirements.
Project Team reply – All three sites would go through the validation process individually.

Chairman's Initials

24/023 County and District Councillors

February's County Councillor Report from Cllr M Wright and February's District Councillors report from Cllr M Shirley and Cllr B Taylor have been circulated.

The reports can be found on the parish website – www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk and the parish Facebook page. However, if anyone would like a paper copy please contact the clerk on 07422 718186.

No questions regarding County or District reports.

24/024 Public Participation (All online documents are available in printed format from the parish clerk)

No questions from the public, as items for discussion already on the agenda.

24/025 Councillors Responsibilities

- St Helen's Church – Cllr Simpson has asked on behalf of the Church Council - if they can store 20 stacking chairs in the shed in the churchyard grounds, as they are struggling with space in the church.
Resolved to allow the storage of the chairs if there is enough space.
Gravestone Work- NAH Services have started work on clearing the area and lying the stones down safely.
Christine Clark - Church Warden/Treasurer – Has thanked the parish council for their very generous donation of £400.00 to the Hope Fund. This has meant that they have been able to provide food hampers at Christmas, Easter and the Summer to all those families nominated as being in need in the two parishes.
- Park View Children's Park – Wicksteed have completed the maintenance work at the Children's play area.
- Streetlight on The Green – Unfortunately, the streetlight is currently not working, however the parish council are in communication with Leicestershire County Council regarding responsibility and ownership.

24/026 Flood Update

The clerk updated the parish council and the attending members of the public on the specific areas in the village that require work to help avert flooding.

Drains - Leicestershire County Council have been contacted regarding blocked drains on Aston Lane and the area on Leicester Road especially the area around the Bricklayers Pub, where the majority of the water gathered. A number of drains have been cleared, however a number of drains remain blocked.

Soar River Bridge – Leicestershire County Council have been contacted regarding the removal of the silt under the bridge. The last time LCC cleared it was 2016, they did inspect it in May 2022 but obviously thought it didn't require clearing at that point. Clerk has sent photographic evidence of the flooding and damage caused to the properties for their records, as they need to build a case for the works to be undertaken. In the meantime, they will send an inspector to visit the bridge and seek quotes for the works.

Action – Clerk to continue to pursue LCC re drains and Soar River bridge.

Members of the public commented on the actual infrastructure of the main drains, are there issues we can't see, for example collapsed drains.

Cllr Shirley proposed the Parish Council ask Leicestershire County Council for a full assessment of the drains in Sharnford and the surrounding area.

Resolved to contact Leicestershire County Council regarding drain assessment.

Bricklayers Pub Car Park Drain – Unfortunately the drain on the pub car park wasn't cleared by Leicestershire County Council due to it being on private land. The drain is at a lowest point, where the water gathers quickly. The landowner is making enquires to make the drain larger to help the water drain more rapidly.

Cllr Wright to contact the landlord.

The Bricklayer's Pub is looking to hold a fundraiser to purchase flood items, for example waders, drain makers etc.. More details to follow.

Cllr Wright suggested that the Parish Council write to County Hall and ask for a dispensation regarding a Section 19 investigation. Also, for the residents to look at applying for any grant funding available.

24/027 Cemetery Gates

After receiving quotes for the cemetery gates, the parish council agreed to go with IronStyles Ltd. A deposit is required before the process of manufacture begins. S106 application form to be completed to apply for the remainder of S106 money to contribute to the cost.

Resolved to use IronStyles UK Ltd for the replacement gates.

Resolved to pay £2220.00 deposit as per IronStyles UK Ltd terms and apply for S106 money.

Chairman's Initials

24/028 Soar Brook Pollution/Pumping Station

A member of the public has spoken with Severn Trent Water regarding the environmental permit regarding the Pumping Station. These permits help to control intermittent storm discharges from combined sewer overflows and wastewater treatment works and minimise the risk of emergency sewage discharges from sewage pumping stations. The member of the public is now in receipt of the correct permit.

24/029 Grit Bins

Cllr Peryer explained the process regarding the application for grit bins for the village. The parish council applied for four bins, however they have been awarded three. The bins would be placed on Aston Lane, Park View and Henson Way. Once the bins are in situ, the maintenance, purchase and replenishing of salt, will be the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr Peryer asked if the council are happy for him to proceed with the application.

Resolved to proceed with the grit bin application.

24/030 Police Commissioner

Cllr Feast updated the council on the meeting he attended with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Anti-social behaviour was the most talked about topic. Cllr Feast asked about flood teams within the police and working together with the flood wardens, especially where road closures are concerned. The parish council have also been contacted by Sergeant Dom Holmes (Deputy NPA Commander from Leicestershire Police) to join us at a parish meeting to answer any questions we have.

Resolved for clerk to arrange a meeting with Sergeant Dom Holmes.

24/031 Fosse Villages Growth and Development Forum

No update as meeting to be held on the 19th February.

24/032 Blaby District Parish Councils Group

Next meeting will be in March.

24/033 Clerk's Update

To receive clerk's update on ongoing actions and to receive updates on previous agenda items.

No further updates as clerk updated council as agenda items were discussed.

24/034 HNRFI

On the 16 January 2024 Blaby District Council, alongside legal and noise consultants, attended Issue Specific Hearing 6 on Traffic and Transport, and Noise. The Hearing covered various outstanding matters on these topics and the Applicant submitted further information at Deadline 5 on Friday 9 February 2024 at the request of the Examining Authority. Blaby District Council and other Interested Parties can submit further representations on these documents by Deadline 6 on Tuesday 20 February 2024. The Examining Authority will then prepare a report for the Secretary of State over 3 months from when the Examination closes on 12 March 2024.

This report will recommend whether the application should be approved or refused. All documents, that have been submitted so far can be found on the District Council's website using reference 22/3000/HNRFI.

24/035 Planning Matters

To consider current planning applications and report on current decision outcomes.

Tree Preservation Order 2023 - Blaby District Council (The Close, Aston Lane, Sharnford) – This order has now been confirmed.

Application No: 20/1461/FUL Location: Land West Off Bumble Bee Lane Sharnford Leicestershire

After discussing Sharnford Parish Council resolved to comment as follows:

Sharnford Parish Council still support their decision to object to the above planning application, as outlined in their statement, sent 11th May 2021.

No further comments at this time.

Chairman's Initials

Application No: 24/0090/FUL - Erection of 3no. four bedroom detached houses and 3no. five bedroom detached houses including demolition of The Gables and existing structures along with vehicular access road and associated landscaping - The Gables Chapel Lane Sharnford

A number of residents spoke about their concerns about the above planning application. Various issues were raised, from extra traffic on a singletrack lane, school admissions and the already overwhelmed drainage system, to the demolition of a historic building. The residents were advised to use the planning portal to acknowledge their views.

After discussing, Sharnford Parish Council resolved to comment as follows:

Sharnford Parish Council are objecting to the above planning application on the following grounds:

No provision for starter homes.

Access onto Chapel Lane – The lane is a single-track road (without pavement) and used by pedestrians who chose to avoid the B4114, this being walkers for the much-encouraged Leicester Round and Heritage walk to High Cross. Also, horse riders, school children, and others who chose this peaceful route to the shops in the nearby village of Sapcote.

Pressure on school admissions – The village school is already at full capacity.

Strain on the already overwhelmed sewage pumping station.

Impact on protected animal species and wildlife.

Cllr Ben Taylor has also written to Blaby District Council and ‘called in’ the application, this will therefore go to the Planning Committee within the next few months.

Cllr Shirley removed himself from the meeting whilst planning applications were discussed.

24/036 Finance

Equals Money Card – Back in May 2023 it was agreed by the parish council to look into a card that the council can use like a debit card. This was also referenced in the annual audit report. The clerk has contacted Equals Money and explained to the council the registration process and costs.

Resolved to register with Equals Money, purchase a physical card at the cost of £10.00 and apply in the clerk’s name, Karen Leck on behalf of Sharnford Parish Council.

Resolved to approve the following payments.

Accounts for Payment:

Name	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Payment
Michael Harvey	Over 60’s Donation (Table tennis bats)	219.91	0.00	Cheque
Parochial Church Council of Sapcote	Hope for.....Donation	400.00	0.00	Cheque
IronStyles UK Ltd	35 % Deposit for Cemetery Gates	2220.00	370.00	BACS
LRALC Ltd	Internal Audit Service 2023-2024	245.00	0.00	BACS
N.A.H Services	Deposit re Groundwork at St Helens	500.00	0.00	BACS
JAG Arboriculture Consultancy	Tree Survey at Park View Park	350.00	0.00	BACS
Karen Leck – Parish Costs	Flood Sax Direct – Re Gel Bags	306.00	51.00	BACS

Receipts

Name	Description	Amount £	Payment
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24/037 Items for Next Agenda

No further items

24/038 The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Approved By:.....

Jack Feast - Chairman

Date:

Chairman’s Initials

Chairman's Initials