



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Evergreen Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr J Feast (Chairman), Cllr G Peryer (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Shirley, Cllr S Waters, Cllr R Simpson, Cllr L Martin, Cllr C Denton, Karen Leck (Clerk)

**Also, Present:** Cllr B Taylor (Blaby District Council), Cllr M Wright (Leicestershire County Council)  
Members of the Public x 4

**Absent:** None

**24/001 Apologies for Absence:** None

**24/002 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.

**24/003 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st December 2023.**

***Resolved that, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, a copy of which had been circulated, to each member, is a true recording of the proceedings.***

### **24/004 County and District Councillors**

January's County Councillor Report from Cllr M Wright and January'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](http://www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk) and the parish Facebook page. However, if anyone would like a paper copy please contact the clerk on 07422 718186.

Cllr Wright spoke about the floods which effected the Leicestershire area including Sharnford and encouraged residents and businesses to keep up with flood alerts.

People are advised to:

- Sign up for flood alerts - and heed the advice.
- Keep up to date with road and weather updates through social media sites. like @EnvAgencyMids and Environment Agency and listen to your local radio station.
- If you're at risk, make a flood plan.
- Report a flood on the Leicestershire County Council page - [Report a flood | Leicestershire County Council](#)
- Don't move flood road signs.
- Don't drive through flood water.
- Prepare your home on the LLR website.
- Check before you travel on the One Network website.

Cllr Wright also spoke about the budget constraints that face Leicestershire County Council due to spiralling social care prices, growing service demand and inflation driving up costs for councils all across the country. More

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information on this and other items can be found in the monthly report.

Cllr Taylor also spoke of the challenges Blaby District Council are facing regarding budget constraints and the growing demand on services. Regarding the flooding in Sharnford, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Shirley reiterated the information Cllr Wright had given.

No further questions re county and district reports.

#### **24/005 Public Participation (All online documents are available in printed format from the parish clerk)**

A number of residents spoke at the meeting regarding the flooding in the village and their concerns, these included:

- The Soar Brook not being cleared properly – Cllr Feast explained that the Environment Agency had been and cleared the brook from vegetation in the last 3 months.
- The area under the bridge not being cleared – A member of the public stated that this hasn't been cleared for a number of years and that it is the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department and not the Environment Agency.  
**Clerk to contact LCC Highways.**
- Drains not being cleared of debris – Causing the water to pool and unable to drain away.  
**Clerk has contacted LCC Highways, regarding a number of drains in the village.**
- Poors Meadow underground tanks – The volume of water exceeded the amount the tanks could hold, and water spilled up from the drains onto the park, causing the area to flood.
- Other factors included the water running onto Aston Lane from the already saturated fields and the considerable amount of rainfall the country had experienced.

Cllr Wright explained that this unfortunate event had effected the whole country and the agencies concerned, don't have the capacity/people to deal with these issues. and that it will inevitably become the villages responsibility to have a flood plan in place and volunteers to act if this happens again.

A member of the public has kindly put together a list of contacts for residents, who were affected by the flood, to contact if this unfortunate event happens again. This will be posted through doors, in the next Sharnford News and posted on the Sharnford Parish and Community Facebook pages.

#### **24/006 Councillors Responsibilities**

- Drains – A number of drains in the village have been reported to Leicestershire County Council –  
**See Minute Reference 24/005**  
Also, a drain outside the Sharnford Arms has been reported due to the issue of the grate coming off.
- Park View Children's Park – After receiving the playground inspections, work is required on replacing the wetpour and the bushes/shackles on the swings. Quote received from Wicksteed.  
**Resolved to contact Wicksteed and arrange for the work to be carried out.**

#### **24/007 Flooding**

After the devastating flood on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 the parish council are looking to put together a Flood Plan for the village. This will include:

- A Flood Group - The number of flood groups across the country is growing as communities become more aware of flooding and flood risk. Flood groups can achieve great things within their communities and help to build community cohesion.
- Water Pumps – For use within the village, especially where the flood water congregates.
- Information on who to contact, for example re road closures.

A meeting is also to be arranged with the relevant agencies, Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency, Leicestershire County Council, together with the residents from the properties that unfortunately were affected by the flooding.

**Clerk to contact the various agencies to arrange meeting.**

#### **24/008 Cemetery Gates**

A second quote has now been received, which has been forwarded to councillors for review.

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## **24/009 Allotments**

Cllr Feast informed council that complaints have been received regarding the neglect of a number of allotment plots in the Parsons Lane allotments. It was agreed the Parish Council would contact the solicitors, Andrew Grainger & Co, who work on behalf of the allotment holders.

**Resolved to contact Andrew Grainger & Co**

## **24/010 Soar Brook Pollution/Pumping Station**

A Member of the Public updated the Parish Council regarding the rearranged meeting, that will hopefully take place in the coming weeks. Regarding the Soar Brook, the pumping station and the backing up of sewage.

## **24/011 Fosse Villages Growth and Development Forum**

No update due to the Fosse Villages Growth and Development Forum meeting cancelled due to the flooding.

## **24/012 Blaby District Parish Councils Group**

Next meeting will be in March.

## **24/013 Clerk's Update**

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

- Website/Emails and Domain Name - Our current website provider, 2Commune are no longer able to supply and support the Parish Council's website after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. A number of website suppliers were discussed, and it was agreed to give the yearly contract to Cuttlefish – Cuttlefish are the actual website software suppliers and will be responsible for the website, licensing and support, domain name (Sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk) and the email accounts. The contract will begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

**Resolved to award the yearly contract to Cuttlefish**

- Tree inspection – The next full tree survey is due February 2025. However, after examining the current survey, there are a number of trees that require work. Lloyds PitchCare, has looked at the trees and survey and will quote on the work required.

Regarding the trees at Park View – Due to the Park View trees not currently part of the 4 year Parish Council Tree Inspection, it was agreed to contact JAG Arb Consultancy to inspect and conduct a survey at Park View.

**Resolved to contact JAG Arb Consultancy and arrange a survey.**

Also discussed and agreed - if any tree work is required immediately on the survey, Lloyds PitchCare to quote on the work to be done.

**Resolved to instruct Lloyds PitchCare to quote on any work to be carried out from the above tree survey.**

Poors Meadow – Agreed to instruct Lloyds PitchCare on the removal of the branch blocking the pathway at the entrance of Poors Meadow.

**Resolved to instruct Lloyds PitchCare on the work required at Poors Meadow**

- Over 60's Club – The Parish Council have donated towards the new table tennis bats for the Over 60's club.

**Resolved to donate towards the new equipment.**

## **24/014 HNRFI**

Latest update

A full day's examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 24th January was attended by the applicant Tritax, Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, National Highways, Friends of Narborough Station and your local representatives: • Blaby DC Planning Authority • Cllr Terry Richardson – Leader of Blaby DC • Cllr Maggie Wright – County Councillor • Cllr Ben Taylor – Fosse Highcross Ward • Cllr Mike Shirley – Fosse Highcross Ward • Cllr Janet Forey – Narborough & Littlethorpe Ward.

It was noticeable by their absence that National Rail had nothing to contribute to the proceedings even though this warehouse development relied on a rail link to enable the developer to circumvent the local planning authority by calling it a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange. Needless to say, the Planning Inspector was understandably annoyed that National Rail could not be bothered to turn up.

Since the beginning of the Examination the applicant, Tritax, has been sadly lacking in providing information and has now been instructed by the Planning Inspector to provide missing data by the next deadline D5, 9th February 2024. Information required: 1. Continuous review of local junctions 2. Over-height HGV's 3. Road works on A5 and M69 4.

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Structural integrity of M69 Junction 2 5. Narborough Level Crossing – vehicle queue length when crossing is closed.  
 6. HGV Routing, Monitoring and Enforcement 7. Traffic Modelling 8. Sustainable Travel Connections 9. Noise – the effect of traffic and rail noise on local residents and Burbage Common biodiversity.  
 We will continue to fight to stop the HNRFI proposals as we move forward through the examination and beyond.

**24/015 Planning Matters**

To consider current planning applications and report on current decision outcomes.  
 Amendment to Application No: 22/0048/FUL - Land North and South Of Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville  
**Parish Council have already sent comments - Resolved to send no further comments re amendment.**

**24/016 Finance**

To finalise budget for 2024-2025 - Members were given an updated budget document.  
**Resolved to agree a budget increase of 25% equating to a precept of £35,000.00.**

To confirm the precept amount for 2024-2025  
**Resolved to agree to send a precept request to Blaby District Council for £35,000 (Thirty Five Thousand Pounds).**  
 This will present a Band D charge of £87.34 and increase of £17.43 per household annually.

To approve third quarter accounts  
**Bank Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> December - £51,227.31**

Bank Reconciliation 01-10-23 to 31-12-23	
Current Account	
Bank Balance B/F 30/11/2023	<u>£54073.60</u>
Cash Book Opening Balance	£62916.83
Add Receipts	£ 450.00
Less Expenditure	-£12139.52
Cash Book Closing Balance	<u>£51227.31</u>
Balance per bank statement at 31/12/2023	£51527.31
Less unrepresented cheque	
Sharnford Golden Jubilee Fete Committee - Cheque 100697	£ 300.00
Plus unrepresented receipts	£ 0.00
<b>Total Funds: Current Account</b>	<b><u>£51227.31</u></b>

**Resolved and approved Third Quarter Accounts**

**Resolved to approve the following payments.**

**Accounts for Payment:**

Name	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Payment
Enston Electrical	Cable & Accessories for Christmas Lights	184.41	0.00	BACS

**Receipts**

Name	Description	Amount £	Payment
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**24/017 Items for Next Agenda**

Grit Bins  
 Visit with Police Commissioner

**24/018 The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7:30pm.**

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Approved By:.....

Jack Feast - Chairman

Date:

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