



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 21st March 2024 in the Evergreen Hall.

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

Also, Present:, Cllr B Taylor (Blaby District Council), Members of the Public x 2

Absent: None

24/039 Apologies for Absence: Cllr S Waters, Cllr M Wright (Leicestershire County Council)

24/040 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.

24/041 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th February 2024.

Resolved that, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th February 2024, a copy of which had been circulated, to each member, is a true recording of the proceedings.

24/042 County and District Councillors

March's County Councillor Report from Cllr M Wright and March'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.

Cllr Ben Taylor spoke about the District Council budget for 2024/25. This has been agreed and Blaby District Council is set to increase its element of Council Tax by 2.99%, this amounts to around 11p extra each week or an extra £5.49 a year for a band D property. With a predicted budget gap of £1.2m in 2025-26 rising to £4.9m in 2028-29, the District Plan priorities will guide their decision-making. They accept they will need to make difficult decisions as they look to close this gap.

Cllr Taylor also spoke about the New Local Plan - The Regulation 19 consultation on the New Local Plan have been delayed due to the programme of work for the sub-regional strategic evidence that supports the Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground in relation to the housing requirement for Leicester City. More information will be provided in due course.

Cllr Taylor also spoke about the Local Resilience Forum training - The LRFs aim to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. They work to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on their local communities. This includes giving Flood Warden's more power, for example road closures.

No questions regarding County or District reports.

Chairman's Initials

24/043 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.

24/044 Councillors Responsibilities

- Drains – Leicestershire County Council have purged drains around the village. Cllr Peryer informed the council of a man cover on Leicester Road that requires attention. LCC have issued a road closure notice for works to be carried out on the 29th-30th May 2024.
- Cemetery – The new cemetery gates design has been agreed by the parish council and will be going through the manufacturing process. Cllr Lee advised that the brambles at the far end of the cemetery and the shelter will require maintenance in the near future.
- St Helen’s Church – Cllr Simpson informed the council that the shed at the churchyard has now been cleared and reorganised. A big thank you to Andy Wright for his services. The extra church chairs have now been transferred into the shed for storage.

Cllr Simpson also asked the parish council if they would be willing to help towards the purchase of a new flag for the church flagpole. The current flag is frayed and needs replacing.

Resolved to purchase the flag together with St Helens Church.

Unfortunately, due to the wet weather we are experiencing, two gravestones in St Helens churchyard have moved and are in danger of toppling over. The church is currently trying to locate the families.

- Bluebell Green – In his absence, Cllr Waters asked if the clerk could speak on his behalf regarding placing a garden bin on Bluebell Green. After discussing the parish council declined the idea of the garden waste bin, due to the annual cost, possible misuse and previous lack of volunteers. However, the parish council agreed to contact Sharnford’ s grounds maintenance contractor, Lloyds Pitchcare, or a local gardening company, to see if they can maintain the area two or three times a year.

Resolved to contact Lloyds Pitchcare/local gardening company for Bluebell Green maintenance.

24/045 Flood Update

Councillors and the clerk updated the parish council and the attending members of the public on the specific areas in the village regarding work carried out to help avert flooding.

Drains – As above (Minute reference 24/044) Leicestershire County Council have purged the drains in the village. Unfortunately, LCC would not unblock one of the drains on Aston Lane, as it is on private land. The landowner has been contacted and will carry out the work.

Flood Drop-In Sessions - Cllr Shirley and a number of residents attended the Flood Drop-In Sessions held at Blaby District Council. Cllr Shirley spoke to Severn Trent Water regarding the issues we have had in Sharnford. They encouraged residents who have any issues regarding flooding or sewage to contact them as these details will be logged and generate a quicker response to investigate.

Severn Trent Water - [Contact us | Help and Contact | Severn Trent Water \(stwater.co.uk\)](https://www.stwater.co.uk)

24/046 Soar Brook Pollution/Pumping Station

Severn Trent Water have recently replaced two new pumps at the Pumping Station. Severn Trent also confirmed the tanks under Poors Meadow require extensive work to clear them properly, to help the tanks work efficiently.

24/047 Grit Bins

The Parish Council are now in receipt of funding for three grit bins. Before the bins can be purchased, the parish council need to clarify the insurance implications, as well as looking at fitting and securing the bins.

Resolved to contact Clear Councils for advice

24/048 Bench in Fosse Meadows

Cllr Feast has been asked by a member of the public about a memorial bench at Fosse Meadows. Cllr Shirley will contact Paul Coates at Blaby District Council for guidance and report back to Cllr Feast.

Chairman’s Initials

24/049 Fosse Villages Growth and Development Forum

Cllr Peryer updated the council on the recent Fosse Villages Growth and Development Forum meeting. The forum discussed revising the next neighbourhood plan. Cat Hartley from Blaby District Council updated the forum on the HNRFI. Regarding the land west of Stoney Stanton there are issues with the data being put forward. The drone survey took place, covering Sharnford, the road running down to the A5 and up to the M69 roundabout – once the data has been compiled a consultant will look at the data and report back to the forum. Regarding flooding in the area, the forum spoke about collective resources and also to take advantage of the Parish online training.
Next meeting 24th April 2024.

24/050 Blaby District Parish Councils Group

Next Meeting will be held on 27th March at Sharnford Youth Club and Community Centre. Cllr Simpson and Cllr Denton to attend on behalf of Sharnford Parish Council.

24/051 Blaby District Council Parish Charter (Draft)

Due to the timing of receiving the draft, it was agreed to move the agenda item to April's meeting for more time for the parish council to familiarise themselves with the charter.

Resolved to move the agenda item 24/051 to April's Parish Council meeting

24/052 Clerk's Update

To receive clerk's update on ongoing actions and to receive updates on previous agenda items.
Tree maintenance – Quote received from Lloyds Pitchcare for the work required on trees at St Helen's church and on Poors Meadow, as per tree survey. Copy of contractor's insurance document required. Also clerk to contact County Council Highways for advice regarding a possible road closure.
Park View Tree Maintenance – Contacted Blaby District Council regarding the tree work required at Park View. A number of mole hills have appeared on both parks, this causes issues with grass cutting, grounds contractor asked if anything could be done. After discussing the parish council agreed to leave the moles alone.

Resolved to leave the moles alone.

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

24/053 HNRFI

The Examination concluded on Tuesday 12 March 2024. The Examining Authority are now preparing a report for the Secretary of State for Transport, over a 3-month period. This report will recommend whether the application should be approved or refused. It is expected that from the close of Examination a final decision on the application by the Secretary of State for Transport will take 6 months to be issued and is therefore expected in September 2024. Immediately prior to the closing of the Examination, Blaby District Council submitted its Deadline 8 response to the Examining Authority. This Deadline consisted of the BDC's response to the Applicant's Deadline 7 submissions and comments on the Applicant's draft Development Consent Order. Additionally, BDC submitted a Summary and Signposting document that outlined the District Council's overall position at the conclusion of Examination. All documents that have been submitted so far can be found on the District Council's website using reference [22/3000/HNRFI](#).

24/054 Planning Matters

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

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

Decision - Granted

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

Decision - Withdrawn During Consideration

Chairman's Initials

Application No. 24/0222/HHPD (HHPD - Notification of Larger Householder Rear Extension)

Location: 13 Henson Way, Sharnford - The erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6.41 metres, with a maximum height of 3.40 metres and height to eaves of 2.50 metres.

Resolved to send the following comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application - 'Before the development is permitted and brought into use, correct drainage should be provided within the site such that surface water does not drain into the public highway.

No development should be permitted that further exceeds the capacity of the sewage pumping station.

And all waste disposal works are connected onto the Severn Trent Water foul system.'

24/055 Finance

Equals Money Card – The Parish Council have now registered with Equals Money, a starting balance is required – agreed to transfer £500.00 onto the card from the Parish Council's current account.

Resolved to transfer £500.00 from the Parish Council Current Account to Equals Money Card

Clerk's pay award – On 6th November 2023 NALC agreed a pay award for employees, the increase is the same as last year - £1,925 increase for all scale points - the increase and back date the award to 1st April 2023.

Resolved to pay back dated salary in March 2024 and increase clerk's salary.

Resolved to approve the following payments.

Accounts for Payment:

Name	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Payment
Karen Leck	Salary Increase (23/24 Pay Award)	580.00	0.00	BACS
Karen Leck	McAfee Subscription	109.99	0.00	BACS
LRALC Ltd	Chairmans Training	50.00	0.00	BACS
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Park View Childrens Park Repairs	538.08	89.68	BACS
Cuttlefish Media Ltd	Annual License, Hosting & Support	846.00	141.00	BACS
N.A.H Services	Securing Gravestones in Churchyard (Remaining Payment)	750.00	0.00	BACS
LRALC Ltd	Delegate Fee – AGM 2023	10.00	0.00	BACS

Receipts

Name	Description	Amount £	Payment
Mr G Martin	Burial Plot & Interment Fee (B21)	350.00	Cheque

24/056 Items for Next Agenda

Parish Charter
Blaby Local Plan

24/057 The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Approved By:.....

Jack Feast - Chairman

Date:

Chairman's Initials

Chairman's Initials