

**Shirland and Higham Parish Council**  
Minutes of the Parish Council  
held in Higham Farm Hotel, Monday 16th October 2017, 19:00 hrs.

Councillors Present: Mr P Allsop, Mr D Williamson, Mr B Barnes (Chair) Ms S Smith, Mrs H Liggett, Mr A Lomax

In Attendance: Sally Plummer (Clerk & RFO) Tom Tait (Assistant Clerk) Cllr C Cupit and eight members of the public.

**1/10/17 To consider for approval the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2017:** Cllr Williamson approved, Cllr Allsop seconded

**2/10/17 To consider accepting apologies for absence:** Apologies received from District Cllr Skinner.

**3/10/17 To Record Declarations of Interest:** None recorded

**4/10/17 To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:** No requests

**5/10/17 To determine if any item on the agenda should be taken with the public excluded:** At the request of the Chair item 22 will be taken with the public excluded.

**6/10/17 Public Participation (A period of not more than 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public and councillors to comment on any matter relating to the Parish):**

A member of the public raised an issue relating to a planning consultation for a large housing development along Hallfieldgate Lane. The Chair informed the meeting that the application concerned had not been received by North East Derbyshire District Council Planning Department therefore the Council could not discuss the matter until the application had been submitted. The Clerk also intimated that an application for Outline planning permission for 50 houses had been received for land at St Leonards Place, Shirland and this application will be considered by the Parish Council at the November meeting.

**7/10/17 Community Cafe**

A presentation was given by Lyn Luddet about the health initiatives planned for Stonebroom and Mickley areas and the setting up of community cafes. The Parish Council was unanimous in its support for this innovation and offered Stonebroom Pavilion as a suitable venue.

**8/10/17 December 2017 Meeting:** The Clerk proposed that the December meeting of the Parish Council be a short meeting to present the monthly Finance Report and discuss any planning related matters. However, in view of the potential number of planning applications being submitted it was felt that a full meeting should be held but with a shortened agenda where possible.

**9/10/17 Stonebroom Forest School:** The Council has received communications/ complaints relating to the current usage of the land and tree management. A report from the school illustrating the excellent work and land management being undertaken by the school was circulated to all Councillors. A number of Councillors have visited the project and were happy with the work they saw. It was evident that much consideration and hard work has gone into the land management and the School Team should be congratulated on its continuing good work. The Forest project is a beacon of innovation and the Council is happy to offer its continuing support.

**10/10/17 Mickley Bus Shelter: Renovation:** Discussion took place on whether this bus shelter/ stop was still in use and the Clerk will ascertain whether the shelter should be decommissioned.

**11/10/17 Mickley BMX Track- Maintenance:** It was noted that the track was showing signs of wear and tear and it was agreed to seek an on-site inspection by Bike Track with a view to agreeing an annual maintenance contract.

**12/10/17 Request to Hold a Live Music Event at Stonebroom 2018:** The Assistant Clerk reported that the on-line consultation had proved a large majority in favour of the event. Cllr Allsop will liaise with the organiser and report back to Council.

**13/10/17 Shirland Village Hall:** The Village Hall Management Committee has rejected the proposed heads of terms of the new lease citing the need to have a much longer lease to attract financial grants. Cllr Barnes took the opportunity to re-iterate the Parish Council's position that it is not considering selling the land that the Village Hall occupies. The Parish Council is fully committed to the continuing presence of such a community resource in Shirland. The Clerk intimated that the Parish Council has been requesting information from the Village Hall Committee on the usage of the Hall but, to date, has not received the detail of information it has requested. It was agreed that the Clerk take further advise on the length of the lease and write to the Village Hall Management Committee setting out clearly the Parish Council's position on the possible future of the building together with a further request for hire information to enable the Parish Council to appraise usage and explore possible ways forward. It is hoped that the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council can work together to achieve a resolution.

**14/10/17 Shirland Cemetery Extension:** The Assistant Clerk reported that a further objection has been raised and he is expecting to be notified in the next 7-10 days if the application has been successful.

#### **15/10/17 Continuing Items**

- a) Mining Memorial: Work now finished. Some further discussion took place on the siting and it was agreed to seek final clarification from Highways department on the proposed new siting at the Park Lane/ A61 junction.
- b) A Nation's Tribute: Nothing further to report as the citing of the tribute is dependent upon the final decision on the siting of the coal mining tub.

**16/10/17 Report from County Councillor:** None received

**17/10/17 Report from District Councillor:** Cllr Cupit reported that NEDDC had identified a seven-year plan for housing development.

**18/10/17 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies:** Cllr Allsop informed the meeting about the under nine-year-old football matches now being played at Stonebroom and the success of the games. During this report, it came to light that a member(s) of the football team had cut the playing surface grass with a mower. The Clerk requested that this must not happen again because only Council approved contractors have the necessary equipment and insurance to undertake such tasks and asked for Councillor's cooperation with this matter.

**19/10/17 DALC Circulars:** One circular was circulated.

**20/10/17 Correspondence:** The Clerk presented written communication not previously circulated electronically to Councillors.

**21/10/17 To consider the following planning application**

**22/10/17 Personnel Matters**

The Assistant Clerk is retiring on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and the Councillors discussed the process of replacement. It was agreed that the current Clerk would assume the role of Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and the Council will advertise for a new Parish Clerk at 15 hours per week which reflects the increase demands upon the role.

It was further agreed that candidate applications will be circulated to all councillors to short list and Cllr Barnes and Cllr Williamson together with the Clerk will form the Interview Panel. It is hoped to have the new Clerk in post for early January 2018

**23 /10/17 To Receive Finance Report, Bank Statements and Bills for Payment:**

The Clerk/RFO circulated breakdown of income and expenditure for to date.

The bank statements and bank reconciliation were presented and signed.

The following payments were made: -