

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2022 at 7.00 p.m.
At Shippon Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. M. Page (in the Chair), C. Parkin, V. Talbot, H. Ayub, D. Churchouse, M. Littleboy

In attendance: Cllrs. C. Webber, R. Webber, Mr David O'Hara, & Anna Clarke (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. R. Bahu, N. Roper

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2021

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Report from Cllr Mike Page, Chair of the Parish Council Chairs Report 2021/2

This year has seen a transition away from Covid restrictions and we are now, thankfully, able to conduct our business face to face in the traditional manner. I am pleased to report that in response to our advertisement of vacancies for Councillors we have, in addition to Hamasq Ayub who joined us last year, recruited two more to our ranks. Monica Littleboy will be representing Dry Sandford with particular focus on Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground and Nadia Roper will be representing Shippon with particular reference to the Army estate. We also have one other candidate waiting to join us. This increase in our numbers is particularly welcome given our increasing workload. We still have one vacancy available so if you think you can help, please get in touch with our Clerk, Anna.

Over the course of the last year the proposed development of Abingdon airfield has come a step nearer to fruition with the completion of what is known as an SPD (Supplementary Planning Document). This sets out guidelines for potential developers on what will be considered appropriate in terms of design, landscaping, housing density and infrastructure provision. I am pleased to say that with the assistance of our District Councillor, Catherine Webber, we have been fully engaged in the development of the SPD.

Key to this involvement has been our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which ensures that the wishes of our community on specific aspects of development have legal status in planning legislation. The fact that we have an NP also ensures that we receive a greater proportion of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy – 25% as opposed to 10%) due in relation to qualifying developments. This has raised c£12,000 to date which has enabled us to plan a number of improvements for the benefit of the community. We remain deeply indebted to those volunteers (the Neighbourhood Plan Group) who worked on its development. In view of the prevailing economic challenges we took the decision not to raise our precept this year.

We have purchased a 'mobile' speed camera and six poles, now at locations the subject of frequent complaints of speeding. This is providing valuable data and, when in situ, a deterrent. We have also signed up for the Oxfordshire County Council initiative to introduce a 20mph speed limit at certain points in the parish – we are waiting to see how this progresses. We are now a member of the Community Speedwatch Team, run by Thames Valley Police, and are seeking volunteers who would be willing to be trained in the use of the speed camera we will shortly be purchasing.

We have purchased a defibrillator to be placed in the grounds of the Prince of Wales pub in Barrow Road and will be circulating details of how to access and use it.

Following consultation with users we will be installing some additional equipment imminently in the children's play area in Sandleigh Road Recreation Park. This will include a swing suitable for children with complex needs and a climbing frame for toddlers.

In partnership with the 'Friends of Shippon', the Prince of Wales public house, 3 & 4 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps and St Mary Magdalene Church we have been planning a programme of events to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We have also contributed to the events being held by Wootton parish Council at the WADS Centre. With the assistance of one of our residents, Harriett Alderman, we were successful in obtaining a 'Jubilee Grant' of £10,000 from the Lottery Fund. How we use this will be reported in next year's Chair's report.

In closing I would like to thank all my colleagues for their unstinting support of our endeavours – from emergency removal of fallen trees blocking roads to the rather more mundane, but critically important, task of ensuring concerns raised by you are dealt with and our initiatives are turned into reality.

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Our world is still beset by problems but I wish you a peaceful year ahead and assure you that however small our contribution may be in the overall scheme of things we stand ready to do what we can.

Michael Page QPM
Chair, St Helen Without Parish Council

5. Financial Report by the Clerk

The End of year accounts have been audited and signed off by IAC, the Internal auditor, and now need to be submitted to Moore Stephens, External auditor, by 30th June 2021.

The notice of Public Rights will commence on 6th June for a period of 30 days.

Current Funds

Opening Balance April 2021: £46,918

Total Receipts 2021/22: £29,297

Breakdown of Receipts:

Precept	£18,756
CIL	£5675.66
OCC Grass Cutting Grant	£1302.77
VAT Rebate April '21	£2,339.29
VAT Rebate February '22	£967.30
Insurance Excess	£250
Bank Interest	£6.17

Total Expenditure 2021/22: £19,365

Expenditure was roughly in line with the 2021/22 budget (£754 in excess).

Balance as of 31.3.22: £56,850

NB The following sums have also been received, but will be accounted for in 2022/23 accounts:

Lottery Funding: £10,000 (already ringfenced for the Playground equipment & circle of 7 trees for the recreation ground)

CIL due by end April: £2,011.97. This needs to be spent by April 2027.

£5,675.66 CIL received in 2021/22 financial year needs to be spent by April 2026.

(The PC has five years from receipt of the CIL monies in which to spend it. If unspent, they will be returned to the district council. CIL (Regulation 59C) requires town and parishes to spend these funds on:

• the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or • anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. Your responsibility is to ensure you spend CIL monies in compliance with the CIL)

Circulated Documents:

- Accounting Statement – to be noted, agreed & signed at the main meeting.
- Annual Governance Statement – to be noted, agreed & signed at the main meeting.
- Explanation of Reserves – to be noted & agreed at the main meeting.
- Risk Assessment - to be noted and agreed at the main meeting.
- Asset Register - to be noted & agreed & signed at the main meeting.
- Internal Audit Statement – to be noted agreed & signed at the main meeting.

Assessment of Risk

The Risk Assessment remains unchanged.

Assets Register

There is a £3,505 more than last year with the inclusion of the SID and poles.

Parish Clerk, May 2022

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

6. Public Participation

Dog attacks - to be followed up with Wootton PC and the Army.

AC

7. A.O.B.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.15 p.m

Signed.....Date.....

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