THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

THE SHOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 31st JANUARY 2022.

Present: Councillor I Cochrane (Chair)
AW Bright, G Bright, JWA Bright, M Cooper,
L Cox, R Hardy, A Kelly, RB Lacey, H Mountain,
MA Mountain, M Parker, KT Wood

Apologies: LA Hill

Members of the Public

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A lady, Joanne, questioned the arrangements and public notice requirements for the current casual vacancy which was explained by the Clerk.

1518. **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Lisa Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted

1519. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted.

1520. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2021 AND 10th JANUARY 2022**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 29th November 2021 and 10th January 2022, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1521. **GROUNDSMANS REPORT**

Apologies were offered on behalf of the Groundsman who was unable to attend. The Clerk confirmed that winter maintenance works were progressing well despite the additional work caused by the recent storm damage to trees at both the Community Park and Victoria Showground.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

1522. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS OF THEIR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

There were no reports of Members' attendance at meetings on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

1523. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillors C Hood and I Cochrane provided a joint update of their work since the last meeting.

- Former County Councillor and Parish Councillor Eunice Huntington had recently been awarded the title of Alderwoman of Durham County Council – it was noted that the Parish Councils congratulations be recorded.
- Village drive through with Believe Housing – identified hotspots at rear of Victoria Street and others which would be addressed.
- Bilsdale TV transmitter – visits were being made to repair /adjust aerials of anyone still affected.
- There had been no progress regarding the proposed Community Bus and the plans for using Alcote House as a possible Youth Centre -exacerbated as dedicated Police Sergeant & Constable had now left the Village.
- Awaiting a date from the Police in February for a follow up to the public meeting held in November.

Councillor Marie Cooper outlined details raised with her by a resident regarding threats to a 13-year-old boy and a brick being thrown through a window in their home.- County Councillors would pursue this with the new Police Sergeant.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted and the joint report be received.

1524. **SHOTTON PARTNERSHIP AND AAP UPDATE**

Councillor R Hardy provided a progress report and covered the following items:

AAP

- Police & Fire Service presentations
- Towns & Villages strategy to look at County wide problem of quad bike nuisance.
- Presentation on DCC Medium Term financial plan to address budget deficit and reduce costs.
- Children & Young people – 10 applications approved for February Fun & Food activities totalling £11,800.
- Young carers application approved by the Board

Partnership

- Kickstarter Gardener commenced in January.
- Free meals delivered during power outage and support given to neighbouring villages – concerns expressed regarding poor co-ordination between agencies

- New youth intervention sessions starting on 1st February making a total of 5 Youth sessions at the Hub,
- Received AAP funding towards Christmas party with free food – 98 children attended
- Appointed a partner with a funding SLA for 4-year East Durham Community Trust 'Information, Advice & Guidance' Lottery project.
- Allocated £50k to develop outside area of the Hub awaiting confirmation of external funding and quotes.
- CDCF funding received for 320 free meals during January & February.
- Panto trip for the Children was a success.
- Problems with heating in the Community Hub Hall & kitchen

RESOLVED that the information given be noted

1525. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

i. Schedule of Payments

RESOLVED that the cheques and payments read out and detailed by the Clerk for January 2022, be endorsed, and approved for payment.

ii. Electronic Banking Update

Access to electronic banking had been implemented but required all authorised users to implement their security keys with the Co-operative Bank. The bank had advised, this would be better if everyone did it at the same time however the Clerk confirmed ringing the bank can take a good while. It was suggested a date and time be agreed where all authorised account holders could be in one place to call the bank and activate everyone's security pass keys.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and arrangements be made for a date and time to implement the bank security pass keys.

iii. Request for Financial Assistance – Our Lady of Lourdes

RESOLVED that a contribution of £500 be made towards grass cutting at Our Lady of Lourdes burial ground.

iv. Double Taxation

RESOLVED that:

i. the information received from Durham County Council in this regard be received and that Members be advised of the ZOOM meeting to be held on 8 February to which they may participate.

ii. Shotton Parish Council confirm they wish to participate in the process to ensure the current unfairness of double taxation across the County is addressed.

1526. **PLANNING MATTERS**

RESOLVED that the planning matters (applications, approvals, appeals and withdrawals) details of which had been circulated electronically when notified to all Members be received and noted.

1527. **COUNCILLOR MATTERS & REQUESTS**

i. Public Noticeboards

RESOLVED that it be noted that a free-standing public notice had been ordered from the Noticeboard Company at a cost £1075 +vat and delivery was currently awaited.

ii. Facebook Page for Shotton Parish Council

RESOLVED that the update from Cllr K Wood on the implementation of the Parish Council Facebook be noted.

iii. Play Equipment Community Park

RESOLVED that the verbal update from the Working Group be received it being noted that indicative costs were approx. £145k and that further community consultation would take place culminating with a display and consultation event on 20th February.

1528. **PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Clerk provided an update and report on the following items:

i. Casual Vacancy Update

The Clerk provided an update on the current casual vacancy election arrangements and timetable.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments awaited.

ii. *Section 106 Application – South Hetton*

The Clerk provided details of a S 106 application submitted by South Hetton Parish Council seeking to utilise monies allocated from developments in Shotton which had been identified by Shotton Parish Council towards its budget priorities.

Members were concerned at this development, bearing in mind that DCC planning were very much aware of the plans for utilising these monies. Both County Councillors confirmed they were also concerned at the application and both fully supported Shotton's position however it was a matter for the County Councils Section 106 Group to determine.

Following much debate, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council formally object to the application and the Clerk write to Durham County Council setting out the reasons for the objection.

Section 106 Project - South Hetton Parish Council Barrier Installation

Good afternoon Stephen,

I refer to the following notification and am extremely concerned that S106 monies that would normally be allocated to Shotton from developments in Shotton is potentially being utilised by other Villages !!.

At Shotton Parish Council meeting on Monday 31 January, this application was raised, and it was unanimously agreed that this should not be approved as the monies have been provisionally allocated to major projects in Shotton.
A similar enquiry was received from DCC Ecology in December 2021 and the Parish Council responded similarly highlighting the priority projects for which the S106 balances had been allocated for the Village.
In 2019 Stephen Reed was advised of the Councils priorities and of course these remain the case and have not been developed to full cases that would require a formal s106 submission.
The Core priority in Shotton over the last 12 years was the development of the £1.2m New Community Hub which was completed in 2000. This required the Council to manage all cash flow really carefully and the remaining projects were deferred until the Hub project was completed.
If the Council had not been successful in obtaining other grants and funding, the 106 balances would have been required to ensure the priority of the Hub was completed
Covid subsequently hit us and it is only now in 2021/22 that the Council has been able to agree to progress and fully develop the remaining priority projects. These are currently being progressed to full cost, following which S106 applications will be submitted
Both County Councillors have confirmed they fully support the Parish Councils stance.
Whilst we understand South Hetton Parish Councils natural wish to utilise S106 monies from Shotton, it is not a priority for the area and accordingly should not be agreed.

1529. CORRESPONDENCE, BULLETINS & CIRCULARS

RESOLVED that the correspondence, bulletins and circulars, details of which had been provided to each Member in attendance be received, and the information contained therein, be noted.

1530. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held at Shotton Community Hub on Monday 28th February 2022 at 6.00pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN .....
Date: 28 February 2022