

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF SHOCKLACH OVIATT AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN SHOCKLACH PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 2011**

PRESENT:

Cllr Kathy M^cKenzie (Chair)
Cllr Mark Piggott
Cllr Jo Shone

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Marcus Chaloner (at work).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** The Acting Clerk, Mrs Alison Macchi, declared a personal interest in item 4.i) and Cllr Kathy McKenzie declared a personal interest in items 4.i) and 4.ii).
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER, 2011:** Cllr Mark Piggott proposed that these be accepted as a true record. Cllr Kathy McKenzie seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

The Acting Clerk then read out a letter of resignation from former councillor Jim Blake. The Acting Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Jim.

The Acting Clerk then explained that, with great regret, she had decided to stand down for the same reasons as those expressed by Lou Macchi in his letter of resignation. She also felt that her reputation had been called into question by the recent letter from Stephen O'Brien MP and that the impression thus given would reflect badly on the Parish Council. If councillors were able to find a way of refuting the accusations made by Stephen O'Brien to all those who had received the original correspondence, this would help matters but councillors were unable to decide how this could be achieved, given the length of time which had elapsed since the letter had been received. The Acting Clerk agreed to stay in post up to and including the March 2012 meeting in order to give councillors time to find a replacement.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

- i) Weight/width restriction/damage to hedges/letter from Stephen O'Brien MP: neither Stephen O'Brien MP, nor Cllr Howard Greenwood, had come back to the Parish Council following the September meeting and councillors resolved to write to the latter, asking whether he had managed to speak to Eleanor Johnson and/or Neil Ritchie and whether he had made any progress. The results of the petition should be sent with the letter. Following a recommendation from Stephen O'Brien in his last letter, councillors also resolved to write to the Clerk of Barrow Parish Council, also enclosing the results of the petition, in the hopes that they could offer some advice and assistance as to how to proceed.
- ii) Driveway across fields adjoining road through Shocklach: an email had been received from Cllr Howard Greenwood after the September meeting, explaining that this was still under investigation. However, a subsequent communication from the Chief Planning Enforcement Officer suggested that nothing had been done regarding this matter for some time. The officer informed councillors *via* the Acting Clerk that he would now take charge of the matter and report back as soon as possible.
- iii) Dog fouling: it had eventually been ascertained that the Dog Warden could help here. He had made two visits to Shocklach, had erected some notices and spoken to residents and parents. He would make further, unannounced visits at regular intervals and would use a "carrot and stick" approach with any dog owners he came across. Councillors decided to monitor this before undertaking any further action.
- iv) Community transport: the bus and drivers were now based in Chester/Ellesmere Port rather than Crewe and were the responsibility of CWaC, not Crewe and Nantwich Dial-a-Ride and were being part-funded (as a temporary measure) from the budgets of councillors Ann Wright and Howard Greenwood until March 2013. In the meantime, residents and councils were being asked to try to find other uses for the community bus to make better use of its time. The Acting Clerk was asked to find out as much information on the availability of the buses as possible.

5. **FINANCE:**
- i) Councillors carefully considered the budget for 2012/13, following which Cllr Mark Piggott proposed that the precept for the next financial year be set at £350.00. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Kathy McKenzie and all were in favour. The Acting Clerk informed councillors that Reservoir Associates would cover the cost of refreshments (up to £100.00 *per* meeting) for future parish meetings until further notice.
 - ii) Speedgun: Cllr Kathy McKenzie proposed that the cost of recalibrating the speedgun (£95.00 plus £16.00 carriage, both excluding VAT) be accepted. Cllr Jo Shone seconded the proposal and all were in favour.
 - iii) No information had been received regarding the possibility of a quiz in the Bull to raise funds for this and councillors resolved that the cost should, therefore, be met out of existing Parish Council funds.
6. **POOR STATE OF ROADS**
- The Acting Clerk had received three complaints from residents regarding the state of the roads in and around Shocklach and councillors were asked to use the CWaC Highways portal to report specific areas of concern and to ask residents to do the same.
7. **SPEED GUN ROTA:** w/c 14 November: Cllr Mark Piggott; w/c 21 November: Alison Macchi.
8. **PARISH MEETING 2012/QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE:**
- It was suggested that the Parish Council could plant 60 oak trees to commemorate the Jubilee and use the Parish Meeting to publicize this initiative and to ask each household to plant a tree. The Acting Clerk was asked to approach the Woodland Trust to see if they could provide a speaker for the Parish Meeting, as well as the oak trees.
9. **RACE RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988:** the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder and in respect of racial equality.
10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 12 January, 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Shocklach Primary School.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.04.