



SHENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

SHENLEY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2020, AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, 108 LONDON ROAD, SHENLEY.

Present: Councillors Justine Ash, Jonathan Bonn, Annie Keen, Nigel Heller, Natalie Susman and William Susman

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Rosemary Gilligan, Gavin O'Sullivan, Anthony Spencer and County Councillor Morris Bright.

Councillor William Susman, Chair of the Parish Council formally opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody present. 6 local residents/electors were present. The Chair invited the Parish Clerk, Amanda Leboff, to record the Minutes with the agreement of the meeting.

Copies of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 5 March 2019 had been distributed together with copies of the audited accounts for the year 2018/19 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019. It was agreed by those present to accept the Minutes as read, and with the consent of the meeting, the Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record. There were no matters arising from the above Minutes.

The Chair then proceeded to read a copy of his report on the activities of the Parish Council for the past year as follows: -

Once again, I am really honoured to be completing my fifth year as Chairman of the Parish Council and am really proud to be able to represent such a unique and vibrant village community. We are so lucky as we are of such a size that it really makes it possible for everyone to have an opinion heard and be able to influence what happens in the Village. I love my role as I know that once we make decisions there is no bureaucracy involved and we can get things done quickly.

We see the role of The Parish not just keeping the open spaces tidy and the streets swept but to facilitate community engagement and create "added value" for the residents. We want to make Shenley a Village that people aspire to live in. It's about creating and maintaining a Village that we are proud of and to be able to create a happy and inclusive environment that will last long into the future.

Our continuing aims are to keep the Village tidy, presentable and safe together with planning for a green and sustainable future involving retaining our greenbelt and Village charm.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has just gone through consultation with residents and Hertsmere Borough Council and is now going through an independent examination and if all goes to plan we expect to be able to hold a referendum to vote on it in the Autumn. Please be assured that the Plan is not about allocating sites for developing but about controlling and designing any development that may be proposed for Shenley. We are keen to retain the greenbelt and will resist plans for “mass” development. There is however an element of this that maybe outside of our control and imposed on us by Central government. We hope that our Plan will be robust enough to protect us from development but if not, it identifies areas where development will have least impact and bring the most benefits to the Village.

I would like to thank The Steering Group lead by Nicky Beaton and Councillor Rosemary Gilligan and our consultant Angela Koch of Imagine Places who have worked tirelessly over the last couple of years to produce the Plan. I would also like to thank all residents who have participated in the consultation process as the plan is as a result of your input.

We are delighted that our dedicated PCSO's are on top of the anti-social behaviour in the Village but to make sure that it doesn't return and to assist them we now have three new state of the art CCTV cameras. I am pleased to say that our CCTV footage has been instrumental in reducing the level of anti-social behaviour. Our new PCSO Suzy Tether is developing a number of new initiatives and can regularly been seen walking or cycling around the Village and we thank her for her hard work.

Whilst the statistics have shown that there has been a small increase in recorded crime in Hertsmere generally, Shenley has actually seen a 13.9% drop. We are also fortunate that there has been a 28.6% reduction in anti-social behaviour. We have been working closely with the Police and believe that this has partly contributed to the crime reduction.

April last year was focused on campaigning for the local elections where all of our Parish Council seats were up for election in early May. We achieved a 38.6% turnout the second highest in Hertsmere. Those elected were Justine Ash, Jonathan Bonn, Nigel Heller, Annie Keen, Gavin O'Sullivan, Anthony Spencer, Natalie Susman & William Susman all representing the Conservative Party and Rosemary Gilligan who stood as an independent. In addition, Natalie Susman and Anthony Spencer were also elected as Hertsmere Borough Councillors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the work that they have put in over the last year.

We regard the Village as fully inclusive with many interfaith events and activities organised. Reverend McCarthy and Rabbi Garber work very closely together to create a fully harmonised and integrated community. Last year they gave a “Happy Hour” talk together which was attended by over sixty members of the Village who

thoroughly enjoyed it and we are all now looking forward to the next one. They also organised, in conjunction with Action for a Cleaner Shenley an interfaith clear up of St. Botolph's Cemetery.

We are pleased that with funding from Councillor Morris Bright MBE Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council we have been able to install flashing warning 20mph lights outside Shenley Primary School in an attempt to make the area safer for the children at drop-off and collection times.

Whilst talking of safer roads we are grateful to Hertsmere Borough Council who have provided funding that will enable Shenley Park to widen the Radlett Lane entrance to the park making it much safer for road and pedestrian users. There have been some delays in the start of these works due to paperwork issues with the County Council but looks like works should commence in the next couple of months.

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful park on our doorstep and thanks to the hard work of the trustees and Park Director and his team the finances have turned around over the last couple of years and they have been able to invest in upgrading footpaths and the greenhouses.

One of my personal highlights of the last year was receiving an invite in June to attend one of the Queens Garden Parties in Buckingham Palace. I was really proud to have been selected as Chairman of your Parish and received many compliments throughout the afternoon on our village logo displayed on the chain of office I wore. We were treated to a sumptuous tea on the impeccably manicured lawn and mingled to the music of two brass bands. I felt humbled to meet so many people who did so much in the charitable sector and those individuals who despite disabilities had been able to achieve so much.

The Shenley fete was again a highlight of last summer it was a tremendous success raising considerable sums for local charities and groups. Thanks to those all involved who volunteered their time so willingly to make sure it happened and went without a hitch. I must also take this opportunity to thank Guy and Nicky Beaton, real stalwarts of the community, they have been leading the fete committee for many years now. What amazes me most is that they do this whilst editing our own Parish publication Shenley Village Matters, running the seniors monthly games afternoon, running the Action for a Cleaner Shenley group and leading the team on the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan. A real example and inspiration to us all; thank you both so much.

Through our lobbying we continue to get our share of road funding and last year were able to have a large section of porters Park Drive resurfaced and hopefully in the next week or so the Harris Lane end of London Road will be resurfaced.

It was sad to see the end of the Shenley Parish News monthly publication with the last edition last August. It was the end of an era unfortunately and will be sorely missed by the community. On behalf of the community I would like to thank Mervyn and the team for their hard work over the years and wish them all the very best in their retirement. As the Parish Council we publish Shenley Village Matters three times a year and hope that it will go some way to filling the gap.

It looks like that due to the increase in County Council bureaucracy and the poor condition of our lamp posts, a number of which are no longer able to accommodate our Christmas lights we will have to discontinue them. With a small working group we will be looking at alternatives as it will be sad to see them go completely.

Hopefully you will all have seen that we now have our own "Little Shenley Library" opposite the Village Hall. The initiative was the brainchild of our Parish & Borough Councillor Natalie Susman and local resident Suzanne Raggett, inspired by a local resident who had set up an informal book swap. The Parish Council have taken over the phone box from BT and Griggs Homes have very kindly fitted it out.

We are always looking for new ideas and ways of bringing the community together and are delighted to announce that we will be holding a free outdoor cinema event on 14th June this year. We will start by showing England play Croatia in the Euros and then follow with two other films. All residents and friends and family are invited to come along and bring their own food and drink or purchase from one of the food stalls that will be there.

We welcome to the Village Kate Fiddler the new Head of Shenley Primary School who joined in September last year. It is great to see her enthusiasm for her role and the desire to work with the community. This has been great as she is actively working with parents to reduce the inconsiderate parking that has previously been experienced. In our first joint initiative last year it was great to see two children from the school selected to switch on the Shenley Christmas lights in a light-hearted and fun event in November at the Village Hall.

Keeping our Village tidy and presentable is a priority and as such we must thank the Community Payback Scheme, who have been working on improving the footpaths and Spinney area.

In addition, our own team of Action for a Cleaner Shenley led by Nicky Beaton gets together monthly to tidy the Village over the last couple of years they have accrued hundreds of hours of volunteer time and collected hundreds of sacks of rubbish and recyclables.

I would like to thank the ladies of the Carpet Bowls Club together with the other local residents for looking after the Village planters who ensure that the planters are refreshed, fed and watered.

We run a range of events for the seniors of the Village and in April we were pleased to have been able to take over 100 people from Shenley to Chartwell House, Winston Churchill's residence. Despite the cold it was a great day out and enjoyed by all. July saw our Summer outing, where we went to Southend-On-Sea and partook of a fish and chip lunch and a stroll along the pier. The trio of trips ended in December with a trip to see the musical 9 to 5 and on the way back a tour through Central London to see the Christmas lights.

We ended 2019 on a high with a great number of events which were well supported by the community. Once again Remembrance Day was marked with our special service around the newly cleaned war memorial with prayers readings and bugle

playing to remember those who gave their lives for their country. Thanks goes to all our local clergy for organising the service and the WI for providing tea and cakes after in the Village Hall. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe and to mark this event on Sunday 10th May we will be holding a celebratory afternoon tea with readings and reflections.

Halloween brought out all of our local ghouls, ghosts and witches at The Cage for an evening of scary surprises. The Cage also hosted once again Santa Claus who was passing through on his way to collecting presents to be delivered on Christmas morning. We are delighted that he received such a great welcome from the children of Shenley that he has already confirmed that he will be coming back this year. Thanks must go to The Café in the Orchard for providing refreshments for both these events. St. Martin's Church Choir once again provided beautiful carol singing at the Cage to accompany Santa's visit.

The year ended with a fantastic Chanukah Candle lighting event which saw about 100 members of the Shenley community enjoy an evening of candles and donuts.

A huge thank you must go to all of the people who make our Village such a fantastic place to live. Our Clerk Amanda works tirelessly to look after us Councillors and attend to the red tape that is imposed upon us from above. In addition, she virtually single-handedly organises all the community activities that we enjoy. Mr & Mrs Gough who have for many years attended to all our grass and hedge cutting and all those other odd jobs we can find them. They also help at all our events. The members of the allotment committee who ensure the smooth running of the allotments. Guy and Nicky Beaton who prepare, edit, liaise with the printers and arrange distribution of our local Parish magazine Shenley Village Matters and Dayaram Nakrani (Dee) who looks after our website.

I would like to end by mentioning a very special person who has lived her whole life in Shenley; Beryl Mackay MBE. She reached the great age of 100 in November and was presented with a certificate honouring her with the position of an Honorary Freeman of The Parish of Shenley in respect of the huge contribution that she has made over the years to the Village. The last time this was awarded was in 2012 to Stuart Hunter.

Once again I have had a really enjoyable year and have great expectations for the next and look forward to seeing you at one or all of our events.

The meeting received the report on the Sir Richard Cox's charity.

The Chairman then went through the accounts.

There were no questions asked under 'Questions and Matters of Local Interest'.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and everybody for attending.

The meeting ended at 7.25p.m.

March 2020

Chairman