



SHENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

SHENLEY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022, AT 6.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, 108 LONDON ROAD, SHENLEY

(DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ONLY COUNCILLORS
WERE ABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE ABLE TO
VIEW VIA ZOOM) REMOTELY, VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillors Nicky Beaton, Annie Keen, Gavin O'Sullivan, Natalie Susman and William Susman

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Justine Ash, Rosemary Gilligan (who attended the meeting via zoom, due to having to shield because of Covid), Sharon Madsen, Anthony Spencer and County Councillor Morris Bright.

Councillor Nicky Beaton, Chair of the Parish Council formally opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody present. 5 local residents/electors were present via Zoom. 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 2 March 2021 had been distributed together with copies of the audited accounts for the year 2020/21 and the Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2021. 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 her report on the activities of the Parish Council for the past year as follows: -

I consider it a great honour to have been invited to be Chair of Shenley Parish Council last year and I immediately determined to do everything possible to ensure that the Parish Council worked together as a team to tackle things residents are most concerned about. Some of the key issues are very difficult and hard to solve completely mainly because of historic decisions outside our control. We have been left with some tricky problems. What everyone has to bear in mind is that despite our best efforts when one is dealing with other bodies i.e., Hertsmere Borough

Council and Hertfordshire County Council things do take time. It can be very frustrating, but perseverance is the order of the day.

The key things we are trying to do:

- *Everything we can to protect Shenley Parish Green Belt which includes defending the Adopted Shenley Neighbourhood Plan to the best of our ability.*
- *Trying to alleviate the parking issues around L'Italiania Restaurant in Rectory Lane*
- *Seeing if more can be done about speeding through the Village and down Black Lion Hill.*
- *Dealing with Parish litter and trying to do what we can to stop fly tipping happening so often.*
- *Working with the Community Payback Team and ACS Ground Works to keep our greenery in check.*
- *Liaising with the Police and the PCSO team particularly Suzy Tether to control anti-social behaviour.*
- *Have Morris Bright our County Council representative attend our Parish Council meetings frequently.*
- *To ultimately improve Parish Council facilities – The Parish Hub is now too small, and we need to see what we can do to get a larger office/community facility.*

Hertsmere Borough Council's Draft Local Plan & Shenley Neighbourhood Plan

We are pleased that Hertsmere Borough Council have taken note of all Hertsmere's residents' feedback, over 20,000 comments but we are concerned that the plan has been shelved as we believe it makes Shenley Parish extremely vulnerable to speculative developers. We now look to Hertsmere Borough Council to robustly defend the Green Belt in planning applications until a new Local Plan is adopted. We are now having monthly meetings with the Head of Planning which we hope will help resolve some of Shenley Parishes Planning issues. We are still not confident that the Shenley Plan is being followed so we have more work to do, and we may need Morris Bright's help with this. We are very grateful to Michael Ward for his hard work scrutinising Shenley Parish planning applications. The Planning Committee is working well and is more informed than it has ever been. Many thanks to Cllr Gilligan for all her hard work.

Parking problems in Rectory Lane caused by L'Italiana customers

Inconsiderate parking by L'Italiana patrons continues to be a problem for residents and Rectory Lane Road users. We are working with Herts.County Council (HCC) to try see what can be done to alleviate the situation. We fully support L'Italiana. They do not have their own car park. There are eleven spaces in front of the restaurant, but the land is actually owned by HCC. To try and help the situation Shenley Parish Council has installed some signage at the junction of Pound Lane and Rectory Lane to discourage parking on the Junction (Thank you Cllr Madsen). A large sign has also been installed on the triangle of grass in front of the restaurant advising clients that additional parking is available at Andrew Close/Tesco Express.

We are in discussions with Hertfordshire County Council with regard to installing double yellow lines along part of Rectory Lane near L'Italiana. In order to get yellow lines installed there has to be a full consultation which is likely to take about a year to complete. Residents will be required to give feedback. We hope to approve the costings later and will keep you posted as to progress. HCC didn't realise the extent of the problem and thought it was mainly an evening issue which is not the

case. They asked for photos which were duly sent, and a site visit was made in February.

We are also trying to see if anything more can be done about other traffic issues in Shenley and hope we will have news for you soon though there are limits as to what we can do.

Overgrown greenery problem

We had a real problem with overgrown greenery all-round the Parish last summer. Residents were understandably unhappy. Many complained to both to Hertsmere and to Hertfordshire County Council, as did we. At our meetings with HCC, we were told the unprecedented growth was causing major issues together with staffing shortages due to Covid. Contractors had to prioritise work and of course focus on keeping highway. We got our contractors to do some work and also enlisted ACS Ground Works help. I am pleased to say that lately verges along Bell Lane and from the London Colney roundabout up to Clore Shalom school have been cut and looks neat again. To our great relieve since October we also have had the Community Payback Team back again with us. Firstly, they sorted out the overgrown hedging and pavements along Porters Park Drive and are now working on the pavements down Black Lion Hill. Do let us know if there is work that needs doing. It really is great to have them back with us.

Litter bin and Dog waste bin issues

Last Autumn we had quite a problem with overflowing litter and dog waste bins which took some time to sort out. A great deal of lobbying by our Clerk and Councillors worked in the end! We are keeping a close eye on the situation. Cllr. Ash managed to get a much-needed new bin installed at a bus stop along Porters Park Drive.

Parish Litter and Fly Tipping Issues

Shenley Parish Council has been working hard to try and alleviate the issues by: Putting posters around the village – thank you Cllr Madsen and Cllr Keen Installing three cameras to discourage fly tipping. The first is being trialled in Woodhall Lane. The other two will be installed soon. Thank you Cllr William Susman. 3 councillors have volunteered to run a camera each.

The other thing that makes a huge difference is that the Parish Council sponsors the Action for a Cleaner Shenley Litter picking team which now numbers 30 members and picks up huge amounts of litter each month. Unfortunately, we will never stop people littering so ACS's work is invaluable.

Rectification of Hillcrest Field Damage

What a saga!! We received an email from Hertsmere on 9th December telling us that the film company was required to make good the site once they had finished filming. They did have a contractor lined up to do the job and the Hertsmere Parks and Amenities Manager had met representatives on site to agree what was required to make the field good again. Thereafter there have been a series of failures and issues. The contractor did not turn up to carry out the work, further delays were cited including fuel crises and Covid. The Company made efforts to secure another contractor and failed. Hertsmere ended up agreeing that their own grounds maintenance contractors will do the work. In the meantime, the scale of

the job has increased significantly. What could have been achieved relatively simply at the end of the summer is now a larger and more expensive job. For example, what could have been achieved through seeding in September must now be done with turf. The cost will be passed back to the film company. Hertsmere apologises to everyone who lives in the area that this has become such a protracted issue. They assure us that the field will be made good soon but hope you will understand the reasons why this has taken so long.

We will keep an eye on the situation and chase if the work does not get done soon.

Shenley Park

Residents continue to contact the Council with issues relating to Shenley Park which Shenley Parish Council's nominated Shenley Park Trustees then raise with the Shenley Park Trust. To try and deal with some of the issues Shenley Parish Council and Shenley Park Trust held a meeting on 18th February. Whilst some progress was made, and we thought it had been agreed that 6 monthly meetings would take place it seems that disappointingly we are only to have an annual meeting going forward.

County Councillor Morris Bright

Cllr. Morris Bright attended the November Parish Council meeting and is attending tonight's meeting. We hope that he will be able to come to our meetings quarterly going forward. That is the aim.

Shenley Primary School Playing Field

For its size, the school does not have a big enough playing field. The under-provision issue has not been forgotten. We have just had a meeting with Hertfordshire County Council, Morris Bright and the new Shenley Primary School Head Teacher Rachel Amos and the School Office Manager Sharon Lang to see what can be done. It has been agreed that the school will be able to use Harris Lane Playing Field if required for things like Sports Day, football matches where a full-size pitch is needed and maybe after school activities. For it to be possible to make use of the field the Parish Council needs to be able to sort out funding to replace the Pavilion with a new building with suitable toilets. The Parish Council is seriously considering the proposal.

Bus Shelters on Shenleybury Lane

They are scheduled to be replaced on 24/25th March – next week. We are sorry it has taken rather a long time to sort out, but we are in the hands of the contractor whose work has been hindered by Covid. You will have noticed that the bus shelter opposite Andrew Close has been repositioned. Thanks to Cllr William Susman for sorting that out.

Senior Outings and Events

We are planning to have a summer outing and theatre trip at Christmas. It will be great to be able to resume our trips. More news in a few months we hope.

Covid 19

The last few years have been extremely difficult for us all. Thanks to superb vaccination programme Covid restrictions have eased and though infection numbers are still rather high life is easier. We are now more focused on the devastating situation in Ukraine and looking at what we can all do to help.

Many thanks to all the Parish Council team and our lovely Parish Council Clerk Amanda for all your hard work last year. Continued thanks to Jeremy Leboff for helping prepare the monthly Parish Council accounts, Dayaram Nakrani (Dee) for all his work looking after the Village website, Guy Beaton for editing Shenley Village Matters and Michael Ward for all his support to the Planning Committee. Keep safe. Very best wishes
Nicky

The meeting received the report on the Sir Richard Cox's charity. Thanks were given to the trustees.

The Chairman then went through the accounts.

Councillor Natalie Susman updated the meeting on the Community Governance Review. Until the engagement period has ended there are no figures to be distributed. Hertsmere hosted 2 presentations in Ridge where over the 2 meetings 20% of Ridge residents attended.

Councillor William Susman updated the meeting with regards to the Christmas lights. 2021 was an expensive year for Christmas Lights as many of the columns needed the electrical sockets updating as they were unsafe, this was in addition to hiring extra lights as some of the older lights were no longer usable. The 2 emails received from residents about the Christmas lights were noted. Cllr W Susman informed the meeting of the options available which include not having Christmas lights, limiting Christmas lights just to London Road and extending the Christmas lights to every other lamp post on Porters Park Drive (this would incur an additional cost of £6,500). It was agreed that more quotes would be received for the electrical upgrade of the columns.

Councillor Natalie Susman updated the meeting with the Queens Jubilee. A committee of volunteer residents along with Cllrs Susman and Beaton has been set up. The community event will take place on Thursday 2nd June starting at 3.30/4pm in Harris Lane playing Field. The committee are currently booking entertainment for the event along with seeing what refreshments can be arranged. The committee are also looking into Jubilee benches and a memorial book.

There was a question asked in advance of the meeting under 'Questions and Matters of Local Interest', which was: -

"Since the last Annual Shenley Parish Meeting the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by an overwhelming majority. How has the Plan affected the way in which Planning Application are assessed and decided by Hertsmere Borough Council and is the Parish Council satisfied with how the Plan is being used?"

The Chair responded by saying that they were not 100% happy as it is not felt that Hertsmere refer to the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Chair highlighted that she is now having monthly meetings with the head of Planning and is hoping this will help.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Mr Michael Ward for all his help in ensuring the Neighbourhood plan is adhered to by Hertsmere. The Chair also

commented that it is hoped the plan will be looked at together by the Parish Council and Hertsmere Planning. The Chair also noted that it is likely that County Councillor Bright may be needed to help moving forward. The Chair thanked his fellow Councillors and everybody for attending.

The meeting ended at 7.06p.m.

March 2022

Chairman