

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Present:** Ian Cannock (Chair), Fiona Crockett, Fred Chaytors, David Cradock, Mary Bon and Jean Fossaceco (Clerk)

**Also Present:** Fiona Gourley (Ward Councillor) together with members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Tricia Wastvedt and Lisa Coles
2. **Declaration of Interests for this meeting:** None.
3. **10 Minutes public participation:** After questions from members of the public it was clarified that the VHMC was established to manage the assets and operate in line with its constitution and objectives of the Trust. The VHMC is accountable for its activity and decisions to the trustee i.e. the Parish Council. However, it is overseen by the trustee to ensure compliance with the Trust governing document in line with Charity Commission rules. Plans and costings for tasks and routine maintenance have been discussed at the last VHMC with the Council receiving copies of both the minutes and the actions proposed. These will be discussed further at the 10<sup>th</sup> October VHMC meeting.
4. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** All in order.

<b>5. Clerk's Report</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
As distributed. The Finger Post installation is complete and the PC has received the invoice from Somerset Forge - further details under Item 11. Three suggestions regarding the location of the Metal Miner have been received together with a message from Camerton PC – see Item 14.	JF	
<b>6. Ward Councillor Report</b>		
FG congratulated the Council on the success of the Finger Post installations. The diversions to the traffic as a consequence of the A36 road works are resulting in increased traffic in areas that are not designed for this level is proving to be an issue. The D2 buses are being re-routed through Radstock. There are new guidelines on housing development numbers with consultations to be re-issued. Villages could consider whether more homes could benefit their village.		
<b>7. Financial Matters</b>		
<b>Dunkley's Payroll</b> - £47.88 (already paid) <b>Village Hall</b> half price booking fee for Table Top Sale - £25.00 <b>Final Confirmation of Finger Post</b> Somerset Forge Invoice £5,550.00 received. This will be settled once an inspection has taken place. Proposed – IC & seconded – MB – all in favour. Milestone & The Pilgrim Trust are still to transfer their grants - £250.00 & £1000.00 respectively. JD will contact them. <b>Funding Request</b> – VHMC - £500 towards Management of the Recreation Ground – this is made up of 2 x £250.00. One as a 'one off' for the purchase of items and the cutting back of brambles/nettles and hedges and one as an annual additional cost for ongoing maintenance which would be added to the yearly grass cutting of the Rec/Play area and maintenance contract which goes out to tender in Feb/March. *** <b>Agenda Item</b> . Proposed – FCh and seconded – IC – 3 in favour, 1 abstention and 1 against. <b>Money received:</b> HMRC VAT Refund £1,191.60 - Finger Post/Table Top Sale - £52.00	JF  JD  JF	Pay invoices and grant ASAP Factor in additional £250 to renewal of grass cutting contract ***Agenda Item Noted
<b>8. Planning</b>		
<b>Consultation of Creating Sustainable Communities in North East Somerset, " and the "Active Travel Masterplan"</b> – MB produced comprehensive drafts of the two questionnaires which were circulated to councillors before the meeting. Following discussions, it was agreed she would submit these by the deadline of	MB	By 15 <sup>th</sup> September

<p>15<sup>th</sup> September. FCr will also make enquiries about the school's Sustainable Travel Plan. FCh expressed some concerns about planning applications – he will send round a report and this will be discussed at the November meeting.  <b>***Agenda Item November</b></p>	<p>FCr FCh JF</p>	<p>By next meeting ***Nov Ag/Item</p>
<p><b>9. Climate, Nature and Sustainability Working Group</b></p>		
<p>1. <b>Survey Application for Permission to access land for the England Ecosystem</b> – this involves the extraction of small soil samples to analyse plants, habitats and landscapes to enable governments and organisations to make better informed environmental decisions. The clerk will check if the VHMC have been consulted but the Council are in favour of this.</p>	<p>JF to consult with RR</p>	<p>In next 2 weeks</p>
<p><b>10. Councillor Reports – As distributed</b></p>		
<p><b>A) Village Hall</b> – VHMC July/August minutes and updates already distributed – the Council are being kept well informed of discussions and plan proposals for the Recreation Field. Some additional funds will be required to complete some proposals and these have been approved by the PC (see Item 7)  <b>B) HELAA/JSP/Local Plan</b> – IC - Ongoing  <b>C) Public Rights of Way</b> – FCh has been liaising regularly with Eddie Procter, our PROW officer at B&amp;NES. Work has taken place along many footpaths, however, progress this Autumn is likely to be slower than normal due to excessive growth. It was agreed the clerk would send a letter of thanks to Bath Ramblers for all their voluntary work in the Parish particularly recently on the Cinder Path steps.  <b>D) School-</b> FCr-Souper Tuesday continues with YR 6 pupils helping regularly. Enquiries will be made about the school's sustainable travel plan.  <b>E) Highways</b> – DC – with winter approaching, concerns were raised about the gritter route. It was suggested a route down White Hill be added with the vehicle turning around at Applecroft to go back up as access past the Apple Tree Inn has always been an issue due to parked cars and width of the road. Two hedging issues were raised; one on White Hill at the Y junction near the Stoney Littleton turning which is causing visibility issues as this is a blind corner with cars frequently on the wrong side of the road and the other issue further back towards the Wellow Lane/PSJ junction, on the left as you drive down or the right as you drive towards this junction. The clerk will contact George Bottin about these to ask if the landowners could address this and/or volunteers could assist with the landowners' permission. An issue with newly installed drainage by one resident was raised by another resident but not in time for the agenda; this will be discussed at the November meeting.  <b>***Agenda Item</b>  <b>F) Church/Burial Board</b> – FCr – a new clerk for Wellow PC has been appointed with the Burial Board accounts being overseen by the Wellow Chair. Enquiries could be made via the newsletter to contact former members of the 'Friends of the Cemetery' group or indeed new members to help with tidying of the area. FCh will investigate locating a list of grave locations. There could be a precept of £250 requested for the next financial year – 2025/26; this will be discussed at the January meeting. <b>****Agenda Item January 2025</b></p>	<p>JF  JF  FC  DC/JF  JF  FCh JF</p>	<p>ASAP  ASAP  By next meeting  Contact George Bottin ASAP  ***Nov Agenda Item  Jan 2025 Agenda Item ***</p>
<p><b>11. Restoration of Finger Posts/Table Top Event</b></p>		
<p>Work has been completed on the finger posts and an inspection will take place before the invoice is settled MB offered to do this. Any funds left over will be incorporated into an earmarked maintenance fund which will also include monies raised from the forthcoming Table Top sale. The finger posts will be added to the Asset Register.</p>	<p>MB JF</p>	<p>By the end of the week ASAP</p>

<p align="center"><b>12. Management of the Recreation Ground – Working Group – Updates from VHMC circulated</b></p>		
<p>As discussed under Public Participation. Further discussions will take place at the next VHMC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October.</p>		
<p align="center"><b>13. Record of people from the Village who have given their lives in wars</b></p>		
<p>FCh raised the potential loss of a picture frame which had been displayed in the school Chancel which listed those locally who had given their lives in wars. He will make further enquiries about this.</p>	<p align="center">FCh</p>	<p align="center">By next meeting</p>
<p align="center"><b>14. Request to Install a Metal Miner Figure in Shoscombe- Feedback</b></p>		
<p>The Council has received 3 suggestions to date about the potential location of this with the VHMC also discussing this. If a decision was made to have one installed near the Village Hall, it was agreed nothing would progress until any improvements/repairs to the parking area have been completed. Implications for maintenance and insurance would need to be considered. The installation of the suggested plaque could progress when the Council have received word back on wording from Bryn Hawkins.</p>	<p align="center">JF</p>	<p align="center">Ongoing</p>
<p align="center"><b>15. Siting of Bus Stop in the Village - MB</b></p>		
<p>Concerns have been raised regarding the siting of the bus stop at Applecroft. It is unsightly and in a poor position. It was suggested ownership of the sign would be looked into with a view to its removal.</p>	<p align="center">JF</p>	<p align="center">By next meeting</p>
<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b></p> <p align="center"> <b>18<sup>th</sup> September – Parish Liaison</b>  <b>7<sup>th</sup> November – Parish Council meeting</b>  <b>9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Parish Council</b>  <b>6<sup>th</sup> March 2025- Parish Council</b>  <b>19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Parish Liaison</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Parish Council Annual Meeting</b>  <b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Parish Liaison</b> </p>		