**Minutes of Shalbourne Parish Council Meeting**

**Held on Thursday 12 October 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Mike Lockhart (Chairman), Carole Fisher, Nicola Hartman, Dianah Shaw

1. **Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Carolyn Bartholomew, Susan Jamieson, Emma Verey, Bob Walker and Andy Dolan.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Formal Business**

None

1. **Closure of Shalbourne School**

The Council agreed that its response the Wiltshire Council Consultation would be as set out in Attachment 1.

1. **Finance**
	1. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay £123.60 for the playground inspection;
	2. The current account balance after this transaction, Attachment 2, was noted.
2. **Planning**
	1. PL/2023/08251 was considered. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that no comment should be made.
3. Any other business
	1. None

The meeting ended at 8.05pm. The next full meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 16 November at 7.30pm

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Response to Wiltshire Council’s Consultation on the Closure of Shalbourne School**

**Consultation Response Form**

**Proposal to close Shalbourne C of E Primary School**

Please give us your views. Please tick/mark the boxes that best show what you think about the proposed closure and also give us any comments you have. You can write on the other side of this sheet if you want more space to write comments.

1. **Do you agree with the proposal to close Shalbourne C of E School on 30th April 2024?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agree  | Yes | Don’t know |  | Disagree |  |

1. **If Shalbourne C of E Primary School were to close, do you agree with the proposal to extend the catchment area of Great Bedwyn C of E School to include the current Shalbourne catchment area?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agree  | Yes | Don’t know |  | Disagree |  |

1. **Do you have any further comments or suggestions that you would like Wiltshire Council to consider on this matter?**

|  |
| --- |
| The Council recognizes the inevitability of the school closure but would make the following points:1. There should be a ‘lessons learnt’ investigation into the precipitous decline in numbers this year with a view to avoid it happening elsewhere;
2. The diocese should be asked to liaise with the village through the Parochial Church Council or the Parish Council with a view to either finding uses of the building which align with the terms of the gift from the Ailesbury Estate possibly in conjunction with either a pre-school provider or the Outdoor Centre at Oxenwood;
3. Wiltshire Council should similarly liaise with the village before any decisions are taken on the remaining land;
4. Consideration should be given to the preservation of the original school building and the rain garden on the site;
5. The land now claimed by Wiltshire Council was a gift to the school by the late Mr and Mrs. Ennion then living at the Mill House. The terms of that gift should be made available.
6. Provision for places at schools in Berkshire should be investigated.

In summary, the school and playing field are located in an area central to the village and the conservation area. The Parish Council requests that both the diocese and Wiltshire Council engage with the village before any decisions are taken on the future of the site. |

1. **Please tick/mark the box(es) that apply to you.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A parent/carer of a child at the school |  | A Governor of the school |  |
| A parent/carer of a child in an Early Years setting |  | Someone who works at the school |  |
| A parent/carer of a child at another school |  | Local Resident  |  |

Someone else with an interest – please give details:

|  |
| --- |
| Shalbourne Parish Council |

**Thank you for completing the response form.**

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Current Account Balance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Balance after meeting 21 September** |  |  | 22583.17 |
| 12-Oct-23 | Payment for playground insp | 123.6 |  | 22459.57 |
|  | **Balance after meeting of 12 Oct** |  |  | **22459.57** |