**SHALBOURNE**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at the Kingston Room,**

**Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7.30 pm.**

**Minutes**

1. **Introduction**

Mike Lockhart, Chairman, welcomed those attending. The deeds of the village green were produced for inspection. He thanked Polly and Deena Roberts from the Shalbourne Stores for providing refreshments. He also congratulated Polly on her recent BEM award. He remarked that it was poignant that the recommendation for the award had been initiated by the late Martin Truran whose loss will be felt by the whole Shalbourne community.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Kelly Elliott, PCSO Jonathan Mills, Lesley and Jane Woodroffe.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were approved and the Chairman authorized to sign them.

1. **Council Report**

Councilor Wheeler informed the meeting that a key local issue this year has been the poor state of the roads. There is a general lack of investment in East Wiltshire which he will seek to address. Councilor Wheeler also extended his congratulations to Polly.

Councilor Wheeler was asked whether Wiltshire Council might invest in larger pothole repairing machinery, he replied he will recommend it to the Council. He also noted the need to augment the turning into southern Shalbourne for northbound vehicles to aid access to the winery when it has been built.

1. **Shalbourne Club**

It was confirmed that Knight Frank had agreed to sponsor this year’s Classic Car Show. The various factors that led to no village bonfire and fireworks last year (difficulty in refunds for fireworks if weather forces cancellation, insurance, growing opposition to firework displays, changes in farming practices) are still relevant and it was noted that there would be no display again this year.

1. **Neighbourhood Watch and Police**

There was no report. It was noted that the police are attending meetings more frequently. Our PCSO had attended the January Parish Council meeting, but his shift pattern precluded him attending this meeting.

1. **Church Report**

It was noted that the congregation had increased, especially due to the efforts of Colin Heber-Percy the minister. The PCC would miss the presence and support of Martin Truran who was a positive and problem solving member. The Chairman thanked the PCC for continuing to support the Parish Magazine, especially as advertisers were becoming fewer.

1. **Shalbourne Connect Report**

This was delivered by Robert Green in the absence of Lesley Green. It was noted that all were welcome to attend the sessions. The PC were thanked for the early and generous grant for purchase of craft materials.

1. **Parish Council Report**

Attachment 1. The Chairman thanked the villagers who regularly attended PC meetings.

1. **Village Hall Report**

The progress on refurbishing the Hall was noted. It was noted that the Hall is now 100 years old.

1. **School Report**

It was reported that Ofsted are not increasing school grades. The reason there is a current cap on Ofsted grades being raised is because the grades were generally getting too high. It was noted that historically the school roll has been as low as 20 and as high as 58. It is currently 30. Generally, local demographics mean there are too few children to fill the schools in the area.

1. **Shalbourne Activities Group**

Villagers are encouraged to attend the various meetings and contribute ideas for future meetings.

1. **Village Charities Reports**
   1. Shalbourne Community Fund, Attachment 2.
   2. Shalbourne Relief Fund, Attachment 3.
2. **AOB**

It was noted that Dramsdon would like to participate in the Assembly. The Chairman confirmed attendance was open to all and they would be expressly invited to attend next year. It was suggested there might be a Sunday litter pick organised. It was confirmed that the PC could assist with equipment for this.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman for his work during the last year.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Parish Council Report**

The Parish Council is now halfway through its term in office.

You will have noticed that one tree on the green has been pollarded and another has cut down. This follows a survey of trees on both the Shalbourne and Oxenwood greens which was done in the early 2022 year. Thanks to the work of Emma Verey and Susan Jamieson, we have a new oak which, in time, have a plaque remembering the late Queen. The original plaque which commemorates the gift of the green by Ms Beaumont to mark the Coronation of George VI is currently being refurbished.

Speeding through the village continues to be the subject of much debate! The 20 mile an hour limit, which was originally only planned for around the school, led to a reduction in average speed of about 2 mph which is in line with the national average.

The problem is enforcement. We are eligible for Speedwatch and Jay Wood is looking to put a group together but it is slow work! Most of the offenders probably live locally and nobody wants to dob in their neighbours.

We are looking at Electronic Speed Indicators aka smiley face/frowney face. If we went ahead, we would get on machine and have it moved between two locations. One problem is that they need a clear 200-yard line of sight which probably limits significantly the places where they can be deployed, it particularly rules out round the school and most of Kingston Road. Also, they add to street clutter and there is limited evidence as to their effectiveness. The PC hope to take a final decision at their meeting on 18 May.

We have looked at speeding on Carvers Hill. We were advised that we would be unlikely to get the 20-mph limit (or any limit) extended to cover Carvers Hill. We plan to discuss this with the winery when their plans are more advanced with the idea of perhaps something like a ‘Village gate’ which might calm the traffic down.

I cannot leave this subject without commenting on the absence of construction traffic despite all the work being done at Carvers Hill winery. It is cheering when a developer takes such care.

The inability of Wiltshire Council to tackle problems such as potholes in a timely manner reflect the lack of money available for roads - we think this problem will only get worse. The budget for speed limits, signs etc available to the area board is committed for the next two years at least. In the past Parish Councils have been expected to contribute between 10 and 15% to road projects now the figure is more like 25% it would be unfair to blame Wiltshire Council as central government is expecting local councils to do more with less money from the centre.

I would like to say something on dog dirt … I despair!

I would like to encourage everyone to come along, at least once, to a PC meeting. It is your village and we need your input. A lot of people have moved into the village in the last few years and it would be good to see you. We try to keep the meetings at under an hour and it is perfectly acceptable to leave early (unless you are chairman).

I would like to thank all councillors for their contributions. A mention also to our auditor, Nick Shaw Hardie, who although no longer living in the village continues to provide a free service to us, I would also like to thank all who come along to our meetings, you bring a depth of village knowledge and experience which is much appreciated. A light spring evening in April is one thing but discussing the budget on dark rainy nights in November and January is a different world.

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Shalbourne Community Fund**

The Community Fund was set up constitutionally in 2009 with the aim of providing a defibrillator for the village. We now have 3, triangulated through the village. We facilitate CPR courses and First Aid training.

We've had a very stable year maintaining the defibrillators in the village.

A defibrillator and cabinet has been replaced as it came to its end of life. We’ve also replaced batteries and pads in various defibrillators in the village.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued financial support which helps cover the cost for these items.

Fundraising events in the village such as the May Day Fair and the Classic Car Show have also helped our finances.

The committee took the decision to dispose of our medical equipment as they became an unnecessary overhead.

This year we are planning to facilitate a certified First Aid course and an evening CPR course.

We are fortunate to have an energetic and enthusiastic committee, who look forward to another year of checking the defibrillators weekly and their yearly upkeep.

**Jane Woodroffe (Chairperson)**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**Shalbourne Relief Fund**

The Shalbourne Relief Fund is registered with the Charity Commission and is the amalgamation of three charities:

1. Thomas Henshaw’s Gift from 1752;
2. Parish Stock;
3. Poor’s Allotment from 1805.

[1] and [2] were combined in 1923. All three were combined in 1998 under the name of “The Shalbourne Relief Fund”.

Their objective is the “relief of poverty”.

The trustees are appointed by the Parish Council, the Parochial church council and the third is appointed by the other two. The trustees are Micky Bird, Ann Currie and Mike Lockhart.

Their assets are:

* the allotment behind Kew Gardens
* approximately £700 invested in charity bonds with M&G and
* £2100 in cash at the Newbury Building Society.

We are very grateful for again receiving a donation from a kind person who wanted to share with charity what they had saved during lockdown.

We also received a donation from the Shalbourne Club from the proceeds of the Car Show – it’s a relief in all sorts of ways to see that back!

We made a small surplus in 2022 to counter our deficit in 2021.

In 2022 gift vouchers from the Shalbourne Stores worth £40 each were given to eight parishioners. Also, we contributed £40 to the hamper which the Buxton’s very generously donate to Dramsdon each year.

We welcome any suggestions of those who might benefit from the charity but it is a sad fact that the old and the bold are getting fewer by the year.