

# SHELFANGER PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 pm at All Saints Church, Shelfanger.

**Councillors Present:** Cllr S Groom (Chair), Cllr M Paines (Vice Chair), Cllr P Ross, Cllr M Paines.

**In attendance:** Elaine Tinsley (Clerk),

**Member of the public:** Mr Keith Day

**1. Chairman's Introduction & apologies for absence:**

Apologies received from Cllr D Leeder.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 & 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 –** Were approved and signed.

**3. Recorded Declaration of Interest -** None were noted.

**4. Reports –**

**Boyland Common Report –** was presented by Cllr P Ross and is attached to the Minutes. A discussion took place about the noticeboard in the bus shelter and what should be displayed here.

**Village Hall Report –** No-one was at the meeting to present a report.

**5. Financial Report – The Financial report had been circulated with the Agenda**

– Queries were raised about the cost of hiring the church and whether it would be possible to move back to the Village Hall – SG confirmed following discussions with DL, this was likely dependent on finding a suitable day/time. Also MP queried the raise in Employers contribution which ET explained was to compensate a slight underpayment recently.

**6. Correspondence –** none had been received.

**7. Highways**

**Obscured Road Signs on Main Road –** MP raised the query concerning the obscured signs on the main road and that the hedges should be cut back. ET confirmed she would contact the relevant people at the end of August when the nesting season had finished. Concerns were also raised about other hedges in Shelfanger which needed cutting back (Druids Lane, Wash Lane, Allotments & Rectory Road). ET also to contact The Rangers to help in this regard.

**Water Courses –** MP raised concerns that the grill had been replaced on the watercourse at the base of the Council Houses on Common Road. Three times in recent years, blockage of this grill has caused the cars

parked there to be written off when the water level raised quickly and flooded. A discussion took place about who should be contacted. The Grill was replaced by Highways due to Health & Safety concerns. Adam Mayo and the Environment Agency were both to be contacted to request it's removal (ET).

**Grips** – also the Grips on the side of Common Road have not been cleaned out – ET to contact Highways.

8. **Village Sign** – MP reported that the Village Sign needed some maintenance work and it was agreed that the previous contractor be contacted to request a quotation for maintaining the Noticeboard, pump and Village Sign.
9. **Planning** – No planning applications need attention at this time.
10. **Pride in Place Community Grant** – SG reported he had attended a Webinar about a possible grant for bettering the village. There are various rounds of applications during the next couple of years.
11. **D-Day – 80 – 04.06.24** – A discussion took place regarding this important event and it was agreed consultation was needed with the Church and Village Hall. Parish Council could claim grant and pass on to Village Hall/church. More discussions to take place.
12. **Matters Arising** – no new matters arising, but it was brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk that Matters Arising should be incorporated on the Agenda going forward to ensure all matters previously brought to the attention of the Council are dealt with. ET confirmed this would be done in future.

**Meeting closed at: 20:30**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 @ 19:30  
(date and venue tbc after consultation with Shelfanger Village Hall)

## Shelfanger Parish Council Current Account

		Net	VAT	
	<b>Opening Balance</b>			<b>£910.68</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>			
28.04.23	SNDC			£2,520.00
22.06.23	HMRC VAT			£136.98
	<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>£2,656.98</b>
	<b>Payments</b>			
20.04.23	Employer contribution	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
20.04.23	Footpath Mowing	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
24.04.23	Stationery	£6.65	£1.33	£7.98
24.04.23	Auditor	£58.00	£0.00	£58.00
24.04.23	Church Hire	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
24.04.23	NALC - Annual Sub	£151.26	£0.00	£151.26
02.05.23	Zurich	£452.12	£0.00	£452.12
17.05.23	Church Hire	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
17.05.23	Employer contribution	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
05.06.23	Outgoing Clerk Final Wages	£362.28	£0.00	£362.28
15.06.23	Church Hire	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
26.06.23	Parish Clerk Wages	£144.94	£0.00	£144.94
26.06.23	Employer contribution	£38.60	£0.00	£38.60
29.06.23	Footpath Mowing	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>£1,465.18</b>
<b>21.07.23</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>			<b>£2,102.48</b>

## **Boyland Common Report for Shelfanger Parish Council meeting 31.7.23**

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Chris Batey, Boyland Common's 'Owl Man' visited the Common to check the Owl Box.

The Friends of Boyland Common had asked if he could give his opinion as to whether the owl box was still fit for purpose, it having been installed in late December 2015. His answer was yes, it was still OK, and there were 3 barn owl chicks in the box at the time of his visit, two he was able to ring, the third was too young and he will make a return visit to ring that one.

Later in the year we will look to trimming the branches of the nearby tree to improve flight access to the box, but at present there is always the chance that the barn owls may have had a second brood, so the trimming will have to wait.

The information board situated near the seating on the Common has now weathered to the point of being completely blank. The board has now been removed, and the 'Friends' are in the process of considering its replacement. It has also been suggested that a smaller information board be placed near the gates, inviting people to visit, and giving some information about the history and biodiversity of the Common. In 2012, the District Council designed and funded the original information board, and Pam Ross, as Chairwoman for the 'Friends' has contacted District Councillor James Easter to ask if the District Council might fund the replacement.

Also, there has for some time been concern over the state of the access points at the gates to the Common on both sides of the road. Pam has contacted District Councillor James Easter to see if any progress has been made following a request for help from the District Council in this matter. Once again, we are reminded that the District Council is deemed to be 'The Owner' of Boyland Common, the 'Friends Group' act as caretakers, noting what needs to be done, and undertaking conservation tasks within their capabilities at the appropriate times.

James has approached SND Council with the suggestion that they might fund a replacement board, and there does seem to be a distinct possibility that that will come to pass. The 'Friends' now have quite a bit of work to do to put together and cost out an appropriate design.

Early in 2023, in her capacity as Clerk to the Parish Council, Lois Easter had created and arranged a display of information about Boyland Common for the notice board in the Bus Shelter. This display had then provided a backdrop for the 'Boyland Common' themed installation created by members of the Shelfanger Knit and Natter group for the Shelfanger Open Gardens weekend.

The original display on the notice board is to be updated and refreshed, drawing attention to the asset that is Shelfanger's Boyland Common, and drawing visitors attention to both the history and the biodiversity of the this important County Wildlife site.

Pam Ross, Chairwoman of the 'Friends of Boyland Common' group