

## SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm

#### In the Vic Day Hall at the Memorial Hall

**Present:** Cllr Richard Bartle, Chair (RB), Cllr Stu Coffey (SC), Cllr Julia Jones (JJ), Cllr Gerard Pearson (GP), Cllr Elaine Ware (EW), Cllr Lucy Brown (LB)

**In Attendance:** Julia Evans, Lyn Frape

**County Councillor:**

**District Councillors:**

**Public:** 7 Members of the public

24/230	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Districts Cllr Foxhall and Patel, Cllrs Howell, Sheldon, Watson, Winfield and Woodhouse.	
24/231	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None.	
24/232	<b>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR</b> Cllr Coffey was appointed vice-chair for the meeting.	
24/233	<b>PUBLIC REPRESENTATION</b>  The landlord for houses in the vicinity of the car park complained about the man living in the car park, who had been there for over a year. He stated that he was using the area as a toilet, and that he was loudly vocal at night. He insisted that the Parish Council obtain a court order to evict him.  A resident of Bowler's Green had spoken to a police officer today. She had witnessed drugs being sold to the main in the car park and believed that he was suffering from drug induced psychosis. She had seen him talking to invisible people and believed him to be dangerous. The police had told her that if the man is seen acting in this way, she should call 999.  A resident of Highworth Road complained that the man could see the activity in their house from his position in the car park. They could hear him shouting at night from their home. A police officer had visited her today. She was frightened of the man and worried about the situation. She wanted to know what action the Council was taking. Cllr Bartle asked what action she had taken. She replied that she didn't think it was her responsibility.  Another resident of Bowler's Green stated that he had been monitoring the man for 2 years. He believed the man had been involved in a prostitution ring in the past. He had noticed drug drop-offs since September. He had opened cases with the police about cars and people. Cllr Bartle asked what the police were doing about the cases. He replied that they were not doing anything although he had been visited by a police officer in April. He was concerned about drugs and worried for his family.  The landlord complained about the smell of urine in the area.	
24/234	<b>ROUGH SLEEPER IN MARTENS ROAD CAR PARK</b>  Cllr Bartle explained that the Parish Council had been in touch with a number of agencies to offer help to the man living in the car. They included housing officers, charities and the police. The man had refused all help.	

## SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm

### In the Vic Day Hall at the Memorial Hall

	<p>Cllr Coffey explained that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) the Environmental Health team had assessed the area and had found no sign of urination or defecation therefore neither they nor the police could act on these grounds. Another assessment will take place shortly on the grounds of fly tipping. This report would be sent to the police.</li><li>b) The Parish Council had escalated the anti-social behaviour with the police who had not mentioned drug drops. One of the residents argued about this. Cllr Coffey stated that residents must report this activity to the police, and they must call 999 if they believe the man is having a psychotic episode. Witness statements will help to build evidence.</li><li>c) The Parish Council had contacted the Fire &amp; Rescue service because of oil spills and reports of fires. They will come and carry out a fire risk assessment.</li><li>d) The person is a Shrivenham resident who has fallen on hard times. The Council needs to help him move on although he has refused all help so far.</li><li>e) The Council had taken legal advice and had been informed that there was no point in evicting the person unless we can restrict access to prevent his return.</li><li>f) The Council intends to write to the person informing him that we intend to take enforcement action. While this could lead to a full possession order it will not work unless we can prevent his return.</li><li>g) The car park is an alternative parking place for the High Street and the school. Restricting access would have a serious impact on the wider community. It would be better to deal with the matter in a holistic way.</li><li>h) The letter will give the person 2 weeks to leave the car park after which enforcement action would be taken.</li><li>i) Court action will take a minimum of 8 weeks and then another 5-10 weeks if he does not move.</li><li>j) The Council would not be able to fund this action unless it could be sure that the person would not return.</li><li>k) He asked the resident for the case numbers of the reports he had filed.</li></ul> <p>The landlord complained again about the smell of urine and of a dead bird. A resident asked what evidence was required for the Environmental Health team. He had tried calling 999 but had been cut off as the matter was not considered urgent.</p> <p>Cllr Coffey explained that the staff had been clearing up in the area but would stop doing so. He also explained that non-urgent matters should be reported on 101 but if a psychotic episode was witnessed people should call 999.</p> <p>A resident reported that the police had told them not to take photos or videos of the man as this was an infringement of his rights.</p>	
24/235	<b>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION</b>	
20/236	<p><b>TOWNSEND ROAD – SEWAGE SYSTEM</b></p> <p>A letter from the EA had been circulated. The lack of consultation was questioned. The definition of a water course was discussed. It was pointed out that a seasonally dry watercourse was still was watercourse. However, the ditch into which part-treated sewage was to be discharged was not a watercourse. Cllr Bartle had written to the landowner over which the proposed connection to the canal was to be made. He had sent it via an agent. Cllr Ware suggested writing to Savilles at Cirencester.</p>	

## SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm**

### **In the Vic Day Hall at the Memorial Hall**

	<p>It was agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letter and inform the EA that we would be challenging the regulatory decision. It was noted that the challenge would be reviewed and if we were not satisfied, we could go to the Ombudsman.</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter would be written to The Times and to our MP. We would also look at getting an independent quote for connection to the main sewer. Proposed Cllr Bartle, Seconded Cllr Jones. RESOLVED.</p>	RB
<b>24/237</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm.	

The meeting closed at 20.23