**SHACKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting held 6 July 2009 in the Village Hall**

**Present** – Bridget Carter-Manning (Chairman), Fran Nowlan (Vice Chairman), Diana Kirkillo-Stacewicz, Fred Bourne, Jon Scott, David Preston (Clerk), P.C. Vanessa Privett, Tony Rooth.

**Members of the Public** – Roger Bunnett, Mike Butt, Chris Christensen, Jean Francis, Ian Gowers, Peter Herbert, David Kennington, Tom Kitson, Jane Nicol, Philip Randall, Jane Smith, Neil Smith, Mark Sprake, David Swinburne.

**Issues raised by the Public**

None

**Council Meeting**

**14/09 Apologies for Absence** – None.

**15/09** **Election of Officers** – The Clerk apologised that he had overlooked this matter at the May meeting. Jon Scott proposed Bridget Carter-Manning as Chairman for 2009/10 and Diana Kirkillo-Staciewicz seconded. Fran Nowlan was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Diana Kirkillo-Staciewicz and seconded by John Scott. Both ladies were elected unanimously.

**16/09 Minutes of the Meeting held 11 May 2009** – Approved and signed by the Chairman.

**17/09 Matters arising** – None.

**18/09 Declarations of Interest** – The Clerk reported that Diana Kirkillo-Stacewicz had declared an interest in the planning application for redevelopment of Eashing Service Station and had taken no part in the Council’s deliberations and subsequent objection to the application.

**19/09 Community Safety** – P.C. Privett reported a number of garage and shed break-ins, and the theft of a number of garden ornaments, garden machinery, and a bicycle. She strongly advised the securing of outbuildings and the marking of owners’ names and postcodes on belongings.

**20/09 County and Borough Issues** – no separate report given, but Cllr. Rooth joined in discussions on several agenda items.

**21/09 – Highways and Byways** – David Kennington, Property Manager for the National Trust, spoke about the future of Eashing Bridges. He said that the oak parapets were in poor condition, not improved by lorry strikes. Insurance claims had been made in respect of these, and it would be possible to reinstate the damaged sections with the funds received. However, the Highways Authority had indicated that they regard the existing parapets as unfit for purpose, and it was probably the case that they were insufficiently strong to prevent a vehicle toppling into the river. His view was that the Trust was responsible for the structure of the bridges, but not for the highway. Since the bridges were listed structures, any alteration would require planning consent and the input of English Heritage. Mr. Kennington was meeting the Highways Authority shortly, and was taking legal advice prior to that meeting. He promised to report back to the Council after the meeting. An open discussion took place, and whilst views varied there was a general feeling expressed that the bridges should remain open to traffic, but more stringent restrictions were needed to prevent unsuitable traffic using them (with proper enforcement), and, whatever was decided on the future of the bridges, it should form part of a comprehensive traffic management scheme for the village. It was agreed that consideration would be given to the establishment of a small working group to liaise with the Trust and S.C.C.

The Chairman reported that she had had a meeting with S.C.C about the 10 or more missing traffic signs in the Parish. She was not hopeful that all the issues would be resolved.

It was noted that local parishes were working with the Highways Authority on problems with HGV’s with ‘O’ licences which entitled them to use minor roads from which they would usually be banned. It was not a major issue in Shackleford, and the Council decided not to become actively involved in the deliberations.

Fran Nowlan reported that she had attended a meeting of a group of interested local bodies to consider traffic problems on and around the A31 over the Hog’s Back. Anne Milton M.P. was chairing a working group to look at ‘rat run’ problems, and especially the poor links between the A3 and the A31.

Problems with visibility at the junction with the northbound A3 slip road and Elstead Road at Hurtmore were mentioned. These were caused by the illuminated bollard at the end of the slip road, which restricted visibility to the right, and a post and chain fence on the verge outside Whistlers Hill which affected the view to the left. Fred Bourne had already taken up the latter issue with S.C.C.

**22/09 Finance** – The payment of £20.00 hall rental, £546.00 for the Clerk’s salary and £107.19 for the Clerk’s expenses were approved, and the payments already made of £1799.75 for the War Memorial works and £636.61insurance premium were noted. The Clerk reported that a refund of the VAT paid on the War Memorial invoice had been received, as had GBC’s contribution.

The 2008/9 returns had been sent to the External Auditors for final approval. No issues had arisen on the internal audit.

**23/09– Planning –** The list of current planning applications and decisions was noted.

Eashing Quarry – Tom Kitson presented a report from SSHAC, and a copy is appended.

Mushroom Farm – It was noted that Wates had withdrawn their application, and it was understood informally that they would be resubmitting the application but for a smaller number of units.

**24/08 – Next Meeting Date** –7 September 2009.