

Shaw Residents' Association

Minutes of meeting

4th March 2024

Present	Apologies
Kevin Fisher	Jeffrey & Ritva Bamforth
Andrew Snowden	Surresh Gattapur
Brian Parker	Claire Walker
Keith Williams	Liz Elstone
	Roger Ogle
	Cathy Thompson
	Junab Ali

Meeting held at Lower Shaw Farm

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Previous Minutes

Proposed by Brian Parker
Seconded by Keith Williams

2. Finance Balance

£301.04 is held in the current account.

3. Shaw Village Centre

There had been concern about the newspaper report about the Council selling off some assets including Shaw Village Centre car park. It was quickly clarified that this was not the case. The journalist had been misled by the asset classification and had not checked with the source.

4. Litter Picking

It was agreed not to schedule another group pick at this stage.

5. Skoda and Nissan Verge Parking

The recent new number plates date does not seem to have led to renewed verge parking (or the very muddy verge conditions?)

6. West Swindon Parish Update

No update was available about West Swindon Library.

7. Future of SRA

There was significant engaged discussion about what the membership wanted and the perceived need for a body like SRA in the current environment (Parish, Developers having greater levels of influence, West Swindon now mostly developed, Central Government approach to housing development, greater profile of social media).

The overall approach of SRA becoming dormant was universally agreed by the membership.

It was universally agreed that it was a matter of regret that we are having the discussion. SRA has been an active body and a point of focus for discussion with input given greater weight than that of individuals. The detail of what this dormancy entails was discussed extensively with much focus on the website and the sponsors.

The historical information of the past activities was felt to have value and it was recognised that the West Swindon Facebook group does sometimes refer to SRA for more detail of what has gone on before. Keith has carried out a proof of concept migration of the website to demonstrate that we can move the site to a cheaper location to preserve the content. Thanks extended to Keith.

Agreed that going forward after April's meeting that:-

- Interested existing members would meet informally in the Village Inn pub (or similar)
- Assuming all interested members have a WhatsApp account, we agreed a WhatsApp group would be a more efficient communication medium than email for coordinating our informal meetings and any follow up discussions. Kevin will poll members.
- There will be no Chair or other officers or formal membership
- There will be no constitution

Website

It was agreed to archive the website per Keith's proof of concept. The charge would be £1 per month plus £13 per year for the domain name (however, this is already paid up to September 2025). A new contact button will be added to the website, which will be protected from spam. The existing shawresidents@outlook.com account will be deleted by Kevin at the end of May.

Kevin will work with Keith to transfer our domain name from iPage/enom to a new registrar so Keith's website can use it.

Sponsors

Kevin will write to the sponsors explaining that we are moving away from our formal structure and activities which may influence their views about sponsorship. The website will continue to display their logo. We will not seek to renew and will offer a pro-rata refund or offer to donate that amount to charity.

Reflecting the web billing dates the official date for becoming informal will be 25th May 2024.

Charity

The charity was discussed and it was agreed that this would be the Lower Shaw Farm Children's Project in light of the fact that we have been meeting there.

This charity was also the preferred charity for our other funds if we conclude to close the bank account.

Litter Picking Tools

The litter picking tools will be offered to the existing members and any remaining will be passed back to the WSPC.

Review period

It was agreed to run the informal approach for 12 months before deciding whether to close the bank account and/or the website - subject to review closer to the time. Kevin and Adrew agreed to continue as bank account signatories and Fran to be asked if she is willing to continue as 'reduced role treasurer'.

April Meeting

The April 2024 meeting will address any 'loose ends' and formalise the move to the informal state. Kevin will produce a report reviewing our activities with Andrew reviewing the paper archive to assist with this. In this way we will be able to celebrate our achievements to help offset some of the sadness from having to make the above decisions. We will have a social event in the meeting room with members asked to bring some drink and small-scale nibbles.

Kevin will check with Matt to ensure he is ok with the above plans and that he will allow us to extend our meeting time by up to an hour.

Meeting closed 21:03

Next meeting Monday 8th April 2024 @ 20:00 with possible extension to 22:00