

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2022 AT 7.00pm

Present: Paul Williams (chair), Ali Willasey-Wilsey, John Sykes, Margaret Bowden (clerk), 2 members of the Parish and Lucy Trimnell (Unitary Councillor)

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Julia Hunter and Richard Ellis
2. **Minutes** of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Parish Council Chairman's Report for the year 2022-2023**

Paul Williams read out his report as follows:

With the lifting of Covid restrictions all our meetings reverted to the village hall.

PLANNING

As usual the main business of the council was to comment on Planning Applications

Alterations/additions to the windows at Welham House and Perham House were approved.

The earth banks at Stoke Farm alongside the B3081 are a continuing saga of inaction.

An application from Stoke Farm to convert existing steel frame barns into 5 dwellings was approved under 'Permitted Development' without reference to the Parish Council.

A revised application from The Newt to reduce the number of properties at Searts Farm to 3 long lets rather than the 6 holiday lets was considered much more acceptable and approved.

A further application from The Newt involved replacing the existing metal barns at Welham Farm with a single storage unit for The Newt Archive. After some minor alterations this was approved.

An application to build 3 new houses at Higher Farm. The original application was under 'Permitted Development' to convert the existing barns needed no planning permission but the applicant thought proper houses built from scratch was a more attractive proposal. The council agreed.

WEBSITE

As a result of considerable work by Margaret we now have a new website run by a commercial company.

Annual Parish Meeting 16.5.23

It is really well presented and is a credit to the village.
Posting on it is currently done by the provider but we are considering whether we could do so ourselves.
We are extremely grateful to Margaret for getting this organised.

SPEEDWATCH

John Sykes is currently organising a community Speedwatch programme for the village.

FOOTPATHS

Richard Ellis has volunteered to be our Footpaths Officer and we are hoping to begin work on stiles, signage etc this summer.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Following the establishment of the new unitary authority - SOMERSET COUNCIL which replaced both the County & District Councils there is a scheme to establish Local Community Networks.

Exactly how these will work has not yet been fully established but a lot has been done to consider their roll/function which should soon become clear.

FLOODING

The recent flood in the village on Tuesday 9th May was a serious event resulting in several houses being inundated and rendered temporarily uninhabitable.

The village rallied round in a remarkable display of community spirit, hopefully everyone affected got the help they needed. A wonderful demonstration of what a great village we live in.

Finally my ongoing thanks to our brilliant parish clerk Margaret who does such a great job interpreting our ramblings into clear responses and minutes and dealing with the inevitable paperwork and accounts etc.

Paul Williams
Chairman

5. Presentation of Parish Council accounts (unaudited)

| Shepton Montague Parish Council | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023 | | | |
| INCOME | 2022/2023 | EXPENDITURE | 2022/2023 |
| Bal B/F | £ 6,585.76 | Grant payment to VHC | £ 2,500.00 |
| Precept | £ 3,000.00 | Insurance premium - Zurich | £ 196.00 |
| Payment from Montague Inn (error) | £ 360.00 | PCC (return of payment from Montague Inn) | £ 360.00 |
| | | Goodings Accountants - payroll | £ 36.00 |
| | | Churchyard mowing | £ 715.50 |
| | | SSDC Election costs | £ 186.16 |
| | | Gooding Accountants - payroll set up | £ 90.00 |
| | | Condolence book HM Elizabeth II | £ 23.99 |
| | | Councillor training | £ 75.00 |
| | | VCS websites - build and host | £ 300.00 |
| | | SALC subscription 22-23 | £ 53.96 |
| | | Village hall fee | £ 100.00 |
| | | CAB donation | £ 20.00 |
| | | Clerk's pay | £ 495.00 |
| Total | £ 9,945.76 | Total | £ 5,151.61 |
| | | Income minus Expenditure equals | £ 4,794.15 |
| | | Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March 2023 | £ 4,848.11 |
| | | Less unrepresented cheque | £ 53.96 |
| | | Balance as per cash book @ 31st March 2023 | £ 4,794.15 |

The above accounts were signed by the Chair as a correct record with £4,794.15 being in the Parish Council account at the end of the financial year and carried over to 2023-24.

6. Open discussion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____