

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD via ZOOM ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Draft minutes for approval at the next meeting**

**Present:** Paul Williams (Chair), Julia Hunter, John Sykes, Jay Bunyan (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor), Robin Bastable (District Councillor) and 4 members of the Parish

- 1. Apologies for absence:** were received from Sarah Maude
- 2. Co-option of John Sykes as a Parish Councillor.** PW welcomed John as the replacement for Andrew Wiley
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** none
- 4. Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed to be a correct record.
- 5. Matters Arising that are not agenda items:**
  - **Wessex Internet** –Mike Bowman had been in touch with WI and everything should be signed up and started by the end of the year. It was suggested that he should be the contact with WI, liaising with OD. **Action: PW**
  - **Pitcombe junction**
    1. Still no positive response from Highways.  
**Action: Clerk to check if this is covered by our insurance**
  - Anna Groskop had been in contact with Gary Warren but neither were very clear on what needed to be done.  
**Action: PW to follow up with Gary Warren**
  - Demolished chevrons on B3081 (by Park Wall Cottage). JB had reported this to Highways (only contact is via e-mail) and requested a response. Nothing heard. **Action: clerk to follow up with Highways**
  - **Unitary Authority plans:** PW had been to one meeting (SSDC) and will join SCC's meeting next week, reporting back to the next Parish Council meeting
- 6. Stoke Farm update.** Graham Swift was welcomed to the meeting. He explained the purpose of the 'earthworks' which it is hoped will provide better soil conditions for all the trees that will be planted and help alleviate flooding problems. He answered queries from Debbie Hicks and Mark Hill on the height of the works and density of planting. PW suggested that they should meet to discuss/view and this was agreed
- 7. Rail to Trail:** Sonia Kundu was not present and no update had been received. Matter deferred to next meeting.
- 8. Applications for grants from the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund.** This had been advertised o/n the village website and completed application forms requested for consideration at this meeting (applications have to be made by Parish Council). An application on behalf of the Village Hall (Solar panels) had been anticipated and would be supported. **Action: JH to chase**
- 9. Footpaths:** As OD was not at the meeting his report was deferred to the next meeting. Anna Groskop had looked into the responsibility of landowners and in 75% of cases they were responsible for footpaths and stiles. Work is needed, especially on OD's land. PW suggested that this should be a village project, similar to the fingerposts.
- 10. Knotweed:** PW reported that a small amount of knotweed was growing at Knowle Rock and none was apparent at the Hollows end of Horn Lane. There are numerous shoots and he will monitor/take action.

- 11. Fingerposts.** JB will share her file with JS. JH has 3 signs plus other odd bits in her garage. It is thought that these signs are the wrong type. **Action: JH to pass signs and bits to JS**
- 12. Accounts – bills for payment:** Proposed by JH, seconded by JS that the bill for churchyard grass cutting be paid (£800). It was noted that Mr Hibberd does not intend to carry on. **Action: Clerk to pay bill and investigate other options for grass cutting**
- 13. Correspondence:**
- **Ninesprings Radio.** A request had been received for support to this FM local radio project. Whilst unable to help financially, the PC is happy to offer moral support. **Action: Clerk to inform contact.**
  - **Phone box.** A query had been received from Fyn Watch at the Old Post Office regarding ownership of the phone box. It was confirmed that this is the property of the PC. **Action: Clerk to inform**
- 14. AOB:**
- PW was delighted to inform the meeting that a new priest had been appointed to the benefice and would hopefully take up post in the New Year.
  - **Remembrance Day** Avon & Somerset police advise against parades and other gathering. Small wreath laying ceremonies would be permitted within current guidelines.
  - **Parking** JH reported that a silver people carrier was frequently parked opposite the bus stop making it very difficult for the bus to get past. It was thought that this belonged to James Gasson-Hargreaves and was parked there to slow own traffic. **Action: JS to ask for vehicle to be moved away from the bus stop.**
- 15. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 was proposed and accepted – hopefully this meeting will take place in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.06 pm. JB was thanked for setting up the meeting

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_