

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY AT 7.30pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Draft minutes for approval at next meeting

Present: Paul Williams (Chair), Julia Hunter (JH), Oliver Dowding (OD), John Sykes (JS), Margaret Bowden (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor).
Also present were 2 members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Robin Bastable (District Councillor).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 29.11.21 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Horns Lane:** Reported to Highways, with photos. No response yet.
 - **Pothole:** at the junction of Cattle Lane with A371, has now been fixed.
 - **Dog attack incident:** Nothing further had been heard from the police despite a follow up email by clerk. JS and OD had been in contact with the person bitten and her daughter and both are anxious this matter is followed up and resolved. **Action: Clerk to pursue with police.**
 - **Thermal Imaging camera:** booked for end of February for one week.
 - **CIL expenditure:** No further details from VHC on costed plan for Village hall garden yet as had not had a meeting.
 - **Main noticeboard:** Thanks were expressed to John Hill who had renovated it.
5. **Finance: Precept 2022-23:** Council considered the budget for 2022-2023 and set the precept at £3,000. (See appendix) £500 was included for the Footpaths Project which can be match funded by County Council. A further £500 was included in the budget for potential Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This would leave a small reserve of just over £2,000 to be carried over to 2023-24.

A cheque was written to John Hill for £137.08 as reimbursement of expenses incurred in renovating the noticeboard.
6. **Co-option:** Sadly Richard Reed has had to be stood down as he has been unable to attend Council meeting for some time. Council decided to start the necessary process to co-opt a new member. The Chair expressed thanks to Richard for his efforts on the Parish Council over the years. **Action: Clerk to issue public notice of co-option and write to thank Richard Reed for his service.**
7. **Parish Footpaths:** OD reported that he had yet to establish contact with County re funding for the project and also organising volunteers, several of whom have come forward wishing to help. OD reported there are approximately 25 stiles in the parish. JS is to join forces with OD to help move the project forward.

8 **Correspondence:** The clerk reported that she had heard from Peter Gane, the village webmaster, that he was moving out of Shepton Montague but would kindly continue running the website for a year. A replacement would ultimately need to be found and it was decided to ask Peter to put a note on the website to see if anyone would be interested in taking over.

9 **Aob:**

- (County Councillor) reported that the Unitary Authority plans are plodding along, with vesting in 2023. The District Council will carry on for a year or so.
- There had been a request to fill the salt bins in the parish. PW volunteered to tour round them and see how full each of the 5 are. Clerk to report and get them filled as required.

10 **Open discussion:** Sue and Barry Hester of Higher Farm Cottages reported that their house had recently been hit by a bus/coach (for the third time in two years). Vehicles too large for the corner are failing to make the turn without hitting the house. On this occasion it was a coach from Cheltenham heading for Wincanton Races. From the other approach there is a sign saying 'Unsuitable for large vehicles' but nothing on their corner. **Action: Clerk to contact John Nicholson, Highways and arrange a site meeting with Council, Highways and Mr and Mrs Hester to find and implement suitable measures to prevent this happening.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

APPENDIX

SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET					
	2020/21	2021/22		2022/23	
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Bal B/F	£ 2,624.09	£ 4,246.29	£ 4,246.29	£ 4,085.76	
Precept	£ 2,090.00	£ 2,090.00	£ 2,090.00	£ 3,000.00	
CIL Payment	£ 1,356.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Lloyds Bank compensation payment		£ -	£ 80.00	£ -	
LloydsBank - clerk's expenses		£ -	£ 13.00	£ -	
SALC grant 1 Opening up Safely		£ -	£ 1,155.00	£ -	
SALC grant 2 "		£ -	£ 608.00	£ -	
Fingerpost restoration - Donation Sean O'Callaghan			£ 750.00	£ -	
Fingerpost restoration - Donation S & N Micklethwaite		£ -	£ 450.00	£ -	
Total Income	£ 6,070.09	£ 6,336.29	£ 9,392.29	£ 7,085.76	
EXPENDITURE	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
SALC	£ 50.36	£ 55.00	£ 53.34	£ 55.00	
Village Hall	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
CAB	£ 20.00	£ 20.00	£ 20.00	£ 20.00	
Clerk - J.Bunyan/M.Bowden	£ 495.00	£ 495.00	£ 495.00	£ 495.00	
Clerk M.Bowden Lloyds bank expenses + time			£ 50.00	£ -	
Insurance	£ 257.60	£ 275.00	£ 257.60	£ 275.00	
Churchyard maintenance/mowing	£ 800.00	£ 800.00	£ 800.00	£ 1,000.00	
Fingerpost restoration - expenses		£ -	£ -	£ -	
Fingerpost restoration - Somerset Forge			£ 1,110.00	£ -	
Fingerpost restoration - West End garage			£ 570.00	£ -	
Fingerpost restoration - ongoing maintenance	£ 70.84	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 200.00	
GDPR/clerk Training	£ 30.00	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	
Grant 1 expenditure			£ 1,105.51	£ 50.00	
Grant 2 expenditure			£ 608.00	£ -	
Noticeboard repairs		£ -	£ 137.08	£ 100.00	
Footpaths project				£ 500.00	
Spending of CIL (prior to 2025) Village hall garden				£ 1,356.00	
Queen's Platinum Jubilee				£ 500.00	
SSDC - Election charges				£ 250.00	
Total expenditure	£ 1,823.80	£ 1,895.00	£ 5,306.53	£ 4,951.00	
Income minus expenditure	£ 4,246.29	£ 4,441.29	£ 4,085.76	£ 2,134.76	
			Red = not yet paid		