

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY AT 7.30pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Draft minutes for approval at the next meeting

Present: Paul Williams (Chair), John Sykes (JS), Ali Willasey-Wilsey (AW), Richard Ellis (RE), Margaret Bowden (MB)(Clerk). Also in attendance were Lucy Trimnel (LT)(County Councillor) and one member of the parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Julia Hunter, Tom Power (County Councillor)
2. **Declarations of interest.** None.
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting on 28.11.22 were approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Earthed banks along B3081:** Clerk had yet to contact Graham Swift to enquire on current position.
 - **Community Speed Watch:** JS reported that several of the team had been away for periods but that he hoped to start the speedwatch soon. AW noted that drivers caught speeding received a warning letter from the police.
5. **Village website:** The new village website had been launched in January having been built and now hosted by VCS websites. They will be posting information and sending out email alerts for 3 months during which time the clerk will be shown how to do this, with a view to deciding whether this is something she is willing to take on. VCS had quoted £25 per month to continue to do this for us. JS is also willing to do this training.
Council considered and decided upon a suitable 'Thankyou' gift for Peter Gane for his work as Webmaster for the old website.
6. **Finance:**
 - **Cheques** were signed for VCS websites Ltd- £300, Village Hall - £100, SALC subscription for 2022-2023 - £53.96 , clerk's annual salary - £495
 - **Internet banking:** Forms were signed to apply for internet banking for the PC account, giving the clerk full user access.
7. **Litter:** JS reported that a villager had proposed a litter-pick in the village and cleaning of the road signs. RE recalled that this had been proposed before and that making it a parish council led initiative involved formalities including health and safety training etc. It was agreed that an informal village approach was the way forward. JS and RE will organise volunteers on an unofficial basis. LT advised that equipment could be borrowed from SSDC.
8. **Footpaths:** RE and JS had walked the parish footpaths. They reported that most, if not all the stiles require repair work. RE had spoken with Oliver Dowding as some are on his land. OD has 2 gates that need installing which he is considering doing in the spring. PW reported that the previously blocked entrance to the footpath across Sarah Beeny's land from the B3081 has now been replaced with a new access.

JS reported that footpath signs are also in need of re-instating or else are obscured. He said some footpaths are not used because they go nowhere/are dead ends. Some footpaths are indicated on old maps but not current ones. The clerk said she thought there was currently a nationwide drive to get old footpaths back onto the current OS maps. RE looked this up and found that the final deadline is 2026.

All footpath/stile issues should be reported on the Somerset Rights of Way website map though it was noted that issues reported here are largely not followed up, so a local project is needed to tackle them. JS and RE to walk the paths gain, mark up a map, take photographs and make a plan of action.

13.2.23

LT suggested that James Hood, Bruton councillor, may be helpful as has worked on Bruton footpaths. Eve Wynn is the County Footpaths Officer.

- 9. Correspondence:** The clerk had forwarded information LT had sent about Local Community Networks. LT explained the current situation regarding LCN's. These have been approved and will be going ahead in June though with still no definition of how they will 'look'. Our pilot area was called S.E.Somerset (and possibly has a new name now) and includes 35 Parish and Town councils, all of which will have voting rights. The remit of the LCN's will not include planning or licensing but it is not clear what their remit will be exactly. They will meet at various locations.

AW had attended a LCN meeting about youth provision but youth numbers in Shepton Montague are very low and the parish is not in a position to contribute financially to any schemes.

10. A.o.b

11. Open discussion.

Future meeting dates: May 15th, August 14th and November 13th. These are all Mondays at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____