

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD on TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7.30pm**

**Present:** Paul Williams (PW), Ali Willasey-Wilsey (AWW), John Sykes (JS), Margaret Bowden (Clerk), 7 members of the Parish and Lucy Trimnell (Unitary Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Julia Hunter and Richard Ellis.
2. **Election of Chair:** AWW proposed Paul Williams. This was seconded by JS and carried unanimously. The new Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office and other councillors present signed their acceptance of office as Council members.
3. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last Parish Council annual meeting held on 9.5.22 and the last Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23 – Exemption**  
The Certificate of Exemption was duly completed and signed by the Chair.
6. **Risk Assessment and approval of Annual Governance Statement**
  - 6.1 **Internal Audit:** Council considered the report of the Internal Audit which had been carried out on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
  - 6.2 **Annual Governance Statement:** Council completed the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023 and this was signed and dated by the Chair.
7. **Finance:**
  - 7.1. **Approval of Accounting Statement:** Members approved the accounting statement for 2021-22 and this was duly signed by the Chair.
  - 7.4. **Insurance renewal:** Policy renewal is due on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The annual premium for 2023-24 is £214, a slight increase on last year. A cheque for the premium was signed by PW and AWW.
  - 7.5 **Approval of refund to clerk of cost of photobook for Peter Gane.** On approval, a cheque for £41.76 was signed by PW and AWW.
8. **Noticeboard repairs:** The main noticeboard is in need of attention. The main problem is condensation collecting within it so notices cannot be read. It was decided it could be repaired and JS, PW and John Hill will tackle this between them.
9. **Earth banks on B3081 at Stokeford Farm, Stoney Stoke:** PW explained that the earth banks are subject to an enforcement order. The farm owners (Sarah Beeny and Graham Swift) have since applied for retrospective planning permission. The earth banks were objected to by the residents of Manor Barn and Dairy Barn who live opposite a section, and they and residents of Charlton Musgrove have complained to Planning and to LT at Unitary Council (formerly County). The farm owners had agreed at a Parish Council meeting last year to reduce the height of the bank opposite Manor Barn and Dairy Cottage but had

not done this. This had therefore been followed up by the Parish Council a few times and the clerk reported that she had received responses from Sarah Beeny some time ago, and again more recently that they were trying to arrange a meeting with Planning and other interested parties to reach a resolution but that Planning had still not responded. LT said she had not had the opportunity to investigate all this yet, but would.

- 10 **Planning Consent 19/01133/FUL – condition relating to demolition of existing farm house at Stoke Farm.** It was noted that the condition to demolish the original farmhouse has not been complied with. Also, some of the original farm entrance lanes have not been blocked up as required. The owners of Stoke Farm have recently been granted Prior Approval Planning Permission to convert barns into 5 houses. As this is the same farm as Item 9. LT will investigate the position.
- 11 **Robin Bastable – former South Somerset District Councillor:** Council wished to formally note its appreciation for all the work done by Robin Bastable as our District Councillor. **Action:** Clerk to email Robin to express thanks.
- 12 **Correspondence:** None.
- 13 **A.o.b.** The chair expressed condolences on behalf of Council to all those residents who were affected by the recent flooding.
- 14 **Open discussion:**
  - Sarah Maude enquired as to whether the previously suggested informal planning arrangement whereby local parishes keep each other advised of developments at The Newt had been set up. As JH had been dealing with this the position is not known at the moment. Paul Rawson from The Newt was present at the meeting and said that they always try and inform the adjacent parish as well as the one any development might fall into.
  - Paul Rawson advised the meeting that there were now plans for Lily Farmhouse and curtilage which The Newt would like to share with local residents at a drop in session on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June between 3 and 6pm in the Village Hall. Paul would be there with his Estate Manager and their Planning Consultant to answer any questions. The plan is to create guest accommodation at Lily Farm. Maps and information would be available and comments gathered with a view to putting in a planning application. **Action:** Clerk to advertise this session via the website.
  - JS requested that any development at Lily Farm took consideration of the flood catchment area to prevent exacerbation of any potential flood risk.
  - Re the recent flooding in the village: LT offered to contact County/Unitary authority on behalf on anyone who is needing help. Help with funding, disposal of furniture or temporary accommodation may be possible. It was noted that LT had already been notified of issues with road tarmac having been undermined, stone having been washed into the drains and that Horns Lane is now completely impassable.
  - Thanks were expressed to Jack Dowding for doing an amazing job in the village clearing rocks etc. from the roads following the flood.
  - LT reported that the Local Community Networks were due to start soon (June/July). It was not known whether the meetings would be in a real venue,

virtual meetings or a hybrid. The first meetings will be to discuss remit, set the future agenda and elect Chair.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

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