

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH
AUGUST AT 7.00pm in the VILLAGE HALL**

Present: John Sykes ((Chair - JBS), Paul Williams (PW), Julia Hunter (JH), Tom Power (TP) Somerset Councillor, Lucy Trimmell (LT) Somerset Councillor, Joe Leach (JL), clerk.

1 Apologies for absence: Ali Willasey-Wilsey

2 Declarations of interest. None.

3 Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising:

- Still problems with changes to the Parish Council bank account (signatories etc.) JL to liaise with MB (former clerk and named person on the account). **Action JL**
- PW raised the issue of a potential merge of Shepton Montague Parish Council with Bratton Seymour (parish meeting only). The procedure for merging is a legal one but was unclear and needed researching. SALC to be consulted for advice. The views of residents would also need to be established.
- Co-option of an additional councilor not yet resolved. **Action JBS/JL**

5. Finance:

5.1 Discretionary spend budget The clerk reported that the Council bank account currently had a healthy sum of just over £11,000. JS requested sight of a spreadsheet to show the commitments for the year and therefore the amount available for discretionary spending. **Action JL**

5.2 The following payments were approved: SALC Annual Subscription 22/23 £53.93 and SALC Annual Subscription 24/25 £56.01.

6. Planning Applications:

6.1 Appeal from Mrs S Beeny (Application no. APP/E3335/D/24/3344586) Mrs Beeny has appealed against the planning condition requiring the demolition of the original farmhouse, having built the new one. Planning approval for the new farmhouse was granted on condition that the old one was demolished. Council had already stated their view that planning conditions should be adhered to and that the Applicant is currently in breach of this condition. Council maintains that planning conditions are there for a reason and should be enforced fairly across the board. This view to be re-iterated to the Planning Department. **Action JBS/ JL to send response**

13.8.2024

6.2 Prior Approval Application from Mr S Dimond (Application no. 24/01765/PAMB) The Applicant explained that they had originally been granted a change of use of outbuildings from agricultural to commercial use as this was allowed under Permitted Development Rights. Since then planning law has changed so that the buildings can now qualify for change to residential use under Permitted Development Rights. Thus the current approval being sought is to convert the buildings into two residential bungalows.

6.3 Prior Approval Application from Mr and Mrs Read (Application no. 24/01693/COL) PW explained that this application relates to the lifting of an agricultural tie on the bungalow that Mr and Mrs Read have been living in for the last 10 years. They breed horses which does not count as an agricultural use so wish to have the agricultural tie removed. Council saw no objection and took note of the potential change.

7. Shepton Montague Emergency Plan

James Gasson-Hargreaves has been asked by Council to produce an Emergency Plan for the Parish. He gave a presentation on the concept of the Emergency plan and what needed to be done/information to be gathered, to achieve it.

The attached draft document (work-in- progress) follows the structure of the Proposed Emergency Plan that would be sent out to all residents.

Thus:

Emergency Plan Yet to do list:

- **Complete the Resource Matrix** - JGH will start compiling this at forthcoming village events when he will have the chance to talk to villagers. He may then have to go door to door (and recruit helpers to do this) to gather this information.
- **Generate Emergency Plan Map Graphic**
- **Create Flow-chart which captures main tasks to perform when managing / leading in a generic scenario**
- **Identify central location which can provide independent shelter and warmth**
- **Issue an agreed plan to the village and stakeholders including 'in case of emergency' poster for inside pantry doors**

Members wholeheartedly supported this Plan and thanked James for his work so far.

13.8.2024

8. Community Speedwatch Initiative:

Vanessa Stubbs, Co-ordinator, gave her report on activities so far, as attached

Comments:

County Cllrs present at the meeting advised that at new 20mph limit would involve changing road signage and therefore considerable cost so the Parish would have to find the money as County had done. This was likely to run into the thousands.

9. Recycling; JBS advised that any problems with collections etc. should be reported directly to Somerset Council via their website as they deal with this and not the Parish Council.

10. Information Commissioners Office registration: The clerk had noted that the Parish Council are not registered with the ICO and this is a requirement as Council holds data. There is no penalty for failing to register. Registration will be at the reduced rate of £35 per annum. Council agreed this should be done so clerk will attend to it.

Action JL

11. Shepton Montague Parish Council website: JBS stated that it would be helpful to know how many people use the website and will ask the hosting organization for statistics on this. To reduce the work of the clerk on the website Robert Mitchell has been given access to post 'social' information (e.g. village events). Information of this type should therefore be sent to RM in future rather than the clerk. JBS will establish whether RM is happy to have his contact details on the website.

Action JBS

12. Footpaths: Richard Ellis (RE) is willing to remain as footpaths officer for the parish. LT/TP advised that Somerset County no longer have a Footpaths Officer and this is an area where parishes have to take over. JH had discovered that equipment and training may be available to parish volunteers. She will pass this information to RE.

Action JH

PW asked LT/TP that stock/materials not be discarded by County but be passed to parishes to use.

13 Flooding matters – John Sykes gave a presentation entitled **Flash Flood Management** as attached.

Links to flood warning sites:

<https://cfh.aquaticinformatics.net/AQWebPortal/Data/Map/Parameter/Precip%20Incrim/Statistic/LATEST24HR/Interval/Latest>
<https://thingsboard.cloud/dashboard/43410250-be02-11ee-b668-aba54510403b?publicId=5dd47bb0-194c-11ef-bf00-a758a0264872>

Discussion:

Sandbags- VS has a few left – 4 currently available to residents who request them. These do degrade with time and sandbags should be used in conjunction with a polythene sheet. VS is aware that not all residents are prepared for potential flooding. JBS advised that a grant for equipment (sandbags or similar, toilet blockers etc.), can be obtained once the Emergency Plan is in place.

13.8.2024

Members expressed their grateful thanks to JBS and VS for their work on rainfall and flooding.

Unfortunately no information had been received from Emily Estates/The Newt as to measures they are taking.

PW proposed that the cost of 'ThingsBoard' (\$10 per month) be reimbursed to JBS from the Parish Council. All agreed.

14. Reports:

- PW had provided the clerk with a report on the fullness of the grit bins in the parish, as requested by Somerset Council. (All are full except the Stoney Stoke one which is only half full.) Clerk to advise Somerset. **Action JL**
- The clerk had received TP's report which he would circulate. It mainly concerned asset disposal and other money-saving measures being taken by Somerset Council. **Action JL**

15. Correspondence: The clerk read out an email received from a couple whose car had broken down and who had been abandoned by the RAC in Shepton Montague. The couple wished to express their gratitude and appreciation to local villagers who were extremely kind in offering help and hot drink and food whilst they waited in vain for the RAC to rescue them. They said that the kindness of the local people restored their faith in humanity.

16. A.O.B. JBS reported that there was concern that there had been no movement on the blocked drain at Horns lane. JBS to contact to John Nicholson at Highways. There are other blocked drains in the parish so JBS to try and give him a list. **Action JBS**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

Appendices

Flash Flood Management

Shepton Montague Emergency Plan Presentation

Speedwatch Report

13.8.2024