

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON TUESDAY  
13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AT 7.30pm

***Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting***

**Present:** Mr. R Ellis (Chair), Mr P Williams, Mr. R Reed, Mrs J Robinson,  
Mrs. M Hill (Clerk) and Anna Groskop, County Councillor

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mike Beech, District Councillor
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**

EE: Richard Ellis no longer had the contact details for EE and requested these again from the clerk.

Co-option of councillor: the legality of the co-option of the fifth member of the council had been confirmed by Roger Quantock, Monitoring Officer at SSDC.

Traffic in Shepton Montague and along B3081: Paul Williams had supplied the clerk with dates and details of the latest spate of accidents on the B3081, Stoney Stoke and the clerk had written to Highways. The clerk read out the reply received from Colin Fletcher in which he stated that he was waiting for a police report on the latest collisions which may contain 'relevant observations and recommendations to consider' and also that improvements to the signage would be included in this year's traffic management programme. Action: Clerk to confirm with him.

Broadband/BT signal: The clerk had written to the CEO of BT and received a telephone response the following day from the Executive Technical Complaints Dept. who were now taking steps to improve the Clerk's broadband connection. An engineer had visited and confirmed the line itself was OK (though Stoney Stoke is the farthest point from the exchange), and the same engineer had recently visited other houses in Stoney Stoke and dealt with problems as separate issues. A different department at BT would appear to be dealing with the broadband and telephone problems at Lushes Farm and BT seem to respond only to individual complaints and not a general problem with the area connection. Anna Groskop advised that David Hall at Somerset County Council was responsible for the 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' programme and that council could ask for an explanation as to why Stoney Stoke is specifically excluded from the areas to be provided with superfast broadband in the future, and ask if they could now be included in the final project in 2016, as well as Charlton Musgrove and bordering properties. Action: Clerk to write to David Hall.

5. **Planning Application: 15/04325/DPO and 15/04321/DPO Hopkins. Application to discharge S106 agreement in relation to planning application 01/01765/FUL and 96/00855/FUL Land at Stoke Farm, Stoney Stoke, BA9 8HR (S106 obligation to allow the land to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of separately from the dwelling house.)**

Following discussion, it was agreed to send the following comments to Planning:

*The Parish Council feel strongly against this proposal.*

*Stoke farm is an agricultural unit comprising 300 acres, a farm house and 2 agricultural worker's cottages. Separating the land from the dwellings or separating out parcels of land prejudices the ability to use the unit as a farm at all. Releasing agricultural ties on the dwellings would inevitably lead to a further application to build a farm house for a worker to work the land. (The current house was supposed to be a replacement farm house following the physical separation of the former farm house by the B3081.)*

*The Parish Council therefore regrets the potential loss of the farm, farms being a feature of the local landscape and our countryside and would wish for this community to remain sustainable.*

*Council considers that this proposal amounts to asset stripping and to release the obligation under the S106 agreement goes entirely against the spirit of the original agreement as planning permission for the bungalows was only given as they were tied to this land.*

6. **Finance:** A cheque was signed for Mr. Hibberd for £700 as payment for mowing and strimming the churchyard March – October 2015. Members agreed next year's price of £750.

7. **Correspondence:**

An offer of bags of de-icing material had been received from County Highways. Richard Ellis agreed to collect the allocation of 10, 20Kg bags on 21<sup>st</sup> November between 9am and 1pm from South Somerset Area Highways Depot.

Notification had been received of the date of the Planning Appeal hearing concerning the application for a Wind Turbine at Gilcombe

Farm (Planning application 14/03105/FUL). This is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 10am at Wincanton Committee Room, Churchfield, Wincanton.

8. **a.o.b** None
9. **Open discussion**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.