

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 7.30pm**

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

**Present:** Paul Williams (acting chair), Richard Reed, Andrew Wiley, Margaret Hill (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Richard Ellis, Janet Robinson, Tim Russell P.C.S.O.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 4. Matters Arising: Salt/grit bin:** The clerk had received approval from Highways for the proposed siting of a fourth grit bin for the Parish and will now proceed to order one (in green, similar to the others).

**Blocked gullies:** Richard Reed reported that these had been dealt with.

**Road surface between Cary Edge Lane and East Street:** Highways had advised that the condition is currently suitable but the section of road has been placed on a request for Surface dressing in the 2018 April – August season, subject to budgets and priority at the time.

- 5. Planning Application 17/00634: Application for erection of new dwelling, pavilion and outdoor pool, tennis court and associated fence enclosure and the extension of an existing access drive and all associated hard and soft landscaping works. Location: The Aviaries, Redlynch Road, Pitcombe, Bruton BA9 8JD**

The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Ashford-Russell were in attendance and outlined the proposal and answered questions. They explained they had received approval in 2009/10 for a previous application for a new house but now felt this was a pastiche and had decided upon a more modern design. They had been working with the architect and landscape designer to restore/improve the park. They felt that the new designs will mean the house will have a lesser impact on the landscape. After discussion, the committee resolved to send the following comments to Planning:

It is a novel design to which the Council can find no reason to object. However, these are significant new buildings set in a farming landscape.

Their low profile reduces the visual impact of the buildings and some are clad in weathered wood. But other than this, they present a series of featureless rectangular boxes constructed of poured concrete. As such it was felt they would be an unattractive feature on the otherwise unspoilt countryside surroundings.

Work to restore the landscape and park is commended.

- 6. Finance: Clerk's pay for 2016-17, Village Hall, CAB donation.** Cheques were signed for the clerk's annual pay in the sum of £450, for use of the village hall - £100 and a donation to the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau in the sum of £20. The clerk reported that she had completed the required Declaration of Compliance with the Pensions Regulator in connection with the Parish Council's responsibilities as an employer, and had received acknowledgment of this.

7. **Parish Plan:** Andrew Wiley said there was nothing further to report at the moment.

8. **Correspondence:**

- A crime statistics report for Wincanton North for February 2017 had been received from P.C.S.O. Tim Russell and this was circulated. It showed a total of 23 recorded crimes in the area during February and 134 'service calls'. The report states:

*'We are still being visited by opportunistic thieves who are looking for unlocked or poorly secured sheds and garages. Power tools, chain saws, mowers and similar are on the 'shopping' list. Please lock vehicles if left unattended. Heating fuel thefts have also started to occur again.'*

Tim Russell had advised that there had been no reported crimes in Shepton Montague during the month.

- Planning application 16/05525/FUL Southdown Farm House (the red house): Planning permission had been granted subject to the usual conditions including providing four parking spaces.
  - BT payphone in the village: The clerk reported that she had heard from BT who required written confirmation from the owners of The Old Post Office (Mr and Mrs Barrowman) that they consent to the Parish Council adopting the phone box after decommission, unless they wish to adopt it themselves as it is on their land. The clerk was now waiting to hear from Mr and Mrs Barrowman.
9. **A.o.b.** Elections for County Councillors are to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Anna Groskop said she was standing for election again.

10. **Open discussion.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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