

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON MONDAY 15th MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Richard Ellis (Chairman), Paul Williams, Andrew Wiley
M Hill (Clerk) and Anna Groskop (County Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mike Beech (District Councillor). Apologies were received from Janet Robinson after the meeting as she had had to attend to a last minute emergency.

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved as a correct record.

3. **Matters arising:**

- Improved signage in the village has been completed.
- Stoke Farm has been sold.

4. **Parish Council Chairman's report 2016-17**

Richard Ellis read out his Chairman's annual report:

Planning: there have been few planning applications this year. The Southdown Farm (Red House) is now being given new life by a couple with a young family that have come into the village and the rectory is currently undergoing development. Along with these there have been various smaller developments within the village.

The evolution of the Hadspen House estate continues and hopefully the end product will provide employment opportunities for the community and not just more traffic.

Finance: the parish precept has been kept at the same level again this year despite yet another drop in the support grant from the CTRSG. This grant will also be cut further next year. However finances were felt to be adequate to meet our current needs.

Highways: Finally the highways department have upgraded the signage in the village and it is now much better. Sadly, and perhaps predictably it has had very little impact on the speed of drivers going through the village. Andrew Wiley did a detailed analysis of the data recorded on our speed indicator device that showed clearly that a 57% of drivers (145 vehicles) exceeded the speed limit when passing through the village with the addition of one or perhaps two individuals who drive in excess of 50 mph on a regular basis.

We continue to monitor the speed of cars through the village and despite the new signage the average is above the legal speed limit. There seem to be one or two particularly irresponsible drivers that go through the village far too fast.

Salt and grit for the roads was once again collected but, due to the mild conditions this winter, do not seem to have been needed.

Improvements : the long awaited ' dog waste bin' has finally been put in place and will hopefully make it easier for all dog walkers to collect and bin their pet's waste. Dog fecal material being left on grassland and thus getting into silage and cow feed has been strongly linked to cows aborting their foetus'. Richard Reed has had to cope with this distressing situation on several occasions and is keen that the dog walkers of Shepton are aware of the issue.

We have also purchased another grit and salt bin that will eventually be sited on the junction of East Street and the main road running through the village.

BT offered the village the opportunity to purchase the red telephone box outside the old post office, for a nominal fee. This is being taken up and we are now looking for a possible use for it beyond that of being an essential landmark for the giving of directions to lost van drivers.

Future initiatives:

Andrew Wiley has also proposed the idea of creating a village plan to look at the current and future planning needs of the village.

Chair: I have continued to enjoy working with the Parish council team and I would like to thank them for their time, their hard work, their help and their good advice. I would also like to thank Anna Groskop and Mike Beech and for their invaluable help and guidance and for their work behind the scenes in trying to make our voices heard at council level. Once again I would particularly like to thank Margaret Bowden for her hard work most of which is dealing with a never ending flow of demands for information accompanied by reams of new procedures that rarely pertain to us but nevertheless need to be dealt with. Without her dedication the Parish Council would struggle to survive.

Councillors thanked Anna Groskop and Mike Beech for their attendance at Parish Council meetings and their invaluable information and advice.

Anna thanked the Parish Councillors as being volunteers on the Council for the benefit of the local community.

5. Presentation of the Parish Council accounts (unaudited).

The clerk distributed copies of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 showing that the balance in the Parish Council bank account stood at £3,155.19 to be carried forward to 2017-18.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

INCOME	2016/17	EXPENDITURE	2016/17
Bal B/F	£ 3014.32	SALC	£ 49.63
Precept	£ 1,935.00		
Council tax reduction support grant	£ 30.00	Village Hall	£ 100.00
		CAB	£ 20.00
		Clerk annual pay	£ 450.00
		Zurich Insurance	£ 251.85
		Audit	£ -
		Churchyard	£ 750.00
		Dog waste bin	£ 202.65
Total	£ 4979.32	Total	£ 1824.13
		Income minus Expenditure equals	£ 3155.19
Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March 2017			£ 3155.19

Balance as per cash book @ 31st March 2017

£ 3155.19

6. Open discussion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.50pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____