

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON TUESDAY 24TH MARCH AT 7.30pm

Present: Mr. R Ellis (Chair), Mr P Williams, Mr. P Costen, Mr. R Reed, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs. M Hill (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Grit bins:** All bins have been filled.
 - **Road signage:** Surveying has been carried out in the village so this hopefully presages some improvement work.
 - The chevrons and the Kimber's sign at the Stoney Stoke bend on B3081 are still in place.
 - **Hadspen:** Richard E., Paul, Richard R. and Peter had all attended the meeting at Hadspen House on 5th December and heard about the development proposals which had proved very interesting and useful.

5. **Dog poo bins:** The clerk reported her telephone conversation with the Dog Warden concerning dog poo bins. The current position is that the Parish Council would have to buy a suitable bin (approximate cost £150) and the County Council would empty it. A location would have to be agreed with County/Highways. It was not clear who pays for installation. Action: Clerk to find out.
The Dog Warden had advised that some areas had experienced problems e.g. bins that had been subject to vandalism with the contents being emptied everywhere or bins being set alight.
Janet proposed that Council should purchase a dog poo bin and this was seconded by Richard and unanimously agreed. A suitable location was discussed and it was agreed that the lane from the church to the pub crossroads, at the bottom of the dip, would be the best place. Action: Clerk to seek approval from County/Highways.
6. **Planning Application: 15/01145/S73A Dr R F Whale. Application to vary conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission 13/02951/FUL for changes to materials and the substitution of approved plans 13/067/2 and 13/067/3 with 2 revised plans numbered 15/02/1 for the insertion of an additional window in the west elevation at Rosebank, Southdown, East St, Shepton Montague.**
There were no objections to the proposal. Action: Clerk to return this comment to Planning.

7. **Finance:** Cheques were signed for £450 for clerk's pay for 2014-15 (the tax having already been paid directly to HMRC) and £100 for Village Hall.

8. Viridor Waste Transfer Station plans. These were discussed and noted.

9. Election – May 7th All Councillors stated they would be standing for election. The clerk distributed nomination forms and details of the election timetable.

10. Highways issues:

• **Grove Cross Junction:** Details of the forthcoming (2015/2016 financial year) road safety improvements at this junction (as part of a much wider Road Safety Scheme for the A371 from Wincanton to Rodney Stoke) had been obtained and distributed by the clerk having been notified by Pitcombe PC. Members noted and agreed with the comments sent to the Traffic and Transport Development Group at County Council.

• **Shepton Montague - Lineage and signage:** See above (matters arising)

11. Neighbourhood Planning: The clerk had attended an information session at Compton Dundon Village Hall on Community and Neighbourhood Planning in order to find out if the Parish should have a Neighbourhood Plan. It had been explained that a Neighbourhood Plan is a Statutory Development Plan i.e. a Planning Document with real teeth in that it can guide future development and conservation at a local level and can put the 'neighbourhood' in the driving seat. However it must fit with the national and strategic planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plan) and it has many limitations e.g. it cannot reduce planned development, it cannot reduce traffic speed. Setting up a Neighbourhood Plan is a lengthy process (1 – 2+ years) and would cost up to £10,000 although some grants are available to assist with costs. In view of these factors it would not appear to be an appropriate road to go down.

12. Date for annual meetings: The annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings will be held on Tuesday May 12th, assuming this date is also suitable for the Village Hall Committee. Action: Clerk to liaise.

13. Correspondence: A request had been received from Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit for details of 3+ trusted people who can be used as a first point of contact when an emergency is happening in the area. As members of the Parish Council would be the logical people it was decided to wait to respond to this request until after the election. Action: Agenda item for next meeting.

14. a.o.b. Council had received notification of a large area/pile of tyres in a field between Chequers and Sheepwash (at grid ref 679322). Action: Richard Ellis to investigate further.

15. Open discussion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.44pm.