

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON THURSDAY 5th MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM

(Draft minutes subject to approval at next meeting.)

Present: Paul Williams (acting Chair), Richard Reed, Janet Robinson, Andrew Wiley M Hill (Clerk), Mike Beech (District Councillor), Anna Groskop (County Councillor) and four members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Richard Ellis (Chairman)
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Checking of fire hydrants: The clerk had looked into this and reported that the Fire Brigade rent the fire hydrants from Wessex Water and would notify them of any problems. Wessex Water would then fix them. Fire hydrants are checked at regular intervals by the Fire Service who had advised that this would be done again before the end of the year (2015).
 - It had been reported that sewage was flowing into the open ditch which crosses the field directly behind the carpark in the village. The clerk had subsequently established that the authority responsible for dealing with pollution depends on whether it is a watercourse or just a ditch. In this case it is a watercourse so the Environment Agency have to deal with it rather than the Environmental Health dept. Dave Sharp at the Environment Agency advised that pollution of this watercourse is an ongoing problem (since before Xmas 2014) as 3 or 4 properties go into one septic tank which overflows. He was dealing with the issue. Council was advised at the meeting that this problem is now resolved.
 - Milk tankers using Verrington Lane and East Street and attempting to make the turn into the village high street: The clerk had written to Wincanton firm and received apologetic reply by email saying it was a replacement driver and usual drivers know about weight limits.

4. **Parish Council Chairman's report 2015 – 16**

As Richard Ellis was abroad and unable to be present at the meeting, Paul Williams read out the Chairman's annual report:

Chairman's Report 2015-16

Planning: there have been few planning applications this year. The main ones of note were to demolish and build new houses on the site of the cottages at Townsend and another application to vary the conditions put in place at Stoke Farm in Stoney Stoke. The council felt that the four bedroom houses proposed at Townsend were unlikely to be attainable by young working families who we would like to encourage into the village.

Finance: the parish precept having been reduced last year has been kept at the same level again this year despite a drop in the support grant from the CTRGS. This grant is also destined to be cut further for next year. Finances were felt to be adequate to meet our current needs.

Highways: Action by the highways department to improve signage in the village have not materialised despite assurances. This is being chased up again. However after a series of crashes on the B3081 improvements have been made to the signage on the corner at Stoney Stoke.

We continue to monitor the speed of cars through the village and the average is above the legal speed limit. The improved signage alluded to above is intended to help reduce this, but we remain frustrated by the lack of action on behalf of the council.

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 village notice board have been repaired and replaced .

One significant improvement in the village has been the work done by Peter Gane on the Parish website to keep us all better informed of what is going on.

Chair: once again it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Parish Council. I would like to thank them for their time, their hard work, their help and their good advice. I would also like to thank Mike Beech and Anna Groskop for their invaluable help and guidance and for their work behind the scenes. 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 job would be impossible.

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

The clerk distributed copies of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 showing that the balance in the Parish Council bank account stood at £3,134.32 with one cheque for £100 and one cheque for £20 remaining unrepresented, leaving £3,014.32 to be carried forward to 2016-2017.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016

INCOME	2015/16	EXPENDITURE	2015/16
Bal B/F	£ 2,709.31	SALC	£ 51.45
Precept	£ 1,935.00	Village Hall	£ 100.00
Council tax reduction support grant	£ 65.00	CAB	£ 20.00
		Clerk annual pay	£ 450.00
		Zurich Insurance	£ 243.80
		Audit	£ -
		Churchyard	£ 700.00
		Noticeboard repairs	£ 129.74
Total	£ 4,709.31	Total	£ 1,694.99
		Income minus Expenditure equals	£ 3,014.32
		Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March 2016	£ 3,134.32
		less unrepresented cheques (£100 and £20)	£ 120.00
		Balance as per cash book @ 31st March 2016	£ 3,014.32

6. Open discussion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.44pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____