

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2015 AT 8.15PM

(Draft minutes subject to approval at next meeting)

Present: Mr P Williams, Mr R Reed, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs M Hill (Clerk), and two members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mr R Ellis
2. **Election of new Chair and declarations of acceptance of office:** Paul Williams nominated Richard Ellis to serve another year as Chair and this was seconded by Janet Robinson and Richard Reed agreed. Declarations of acceptance of office were duly signed by the councillors present.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting (8.5.15) were approved as a correct record. It was noted that the meeting to consider the Hadspen Estate planning application and the Village Hall opening for viewing of plans, had been well advertised and had attracted a good number of villagers whose views had been taken into account. Paul thanked the clerk for organising this.
4. **Matters Arising:** The clerk had been in touch with Highways regarding the preferred location of the dog poo bin and Highways had requested a cross on a map to indicate the exact spot. A map was duly marked up. It is still unsure who pays the installation costs.
5. **Co-option of councillors.** A vacancy exists on the council as a result of Peter Costen not standing for re-election as he has moved out of the village. Members considered who they might co-opt to fill the vacancy and an approach is to be made by Richard Reed to a possible candidate.

6. **Risk assessment and approval of Annual Governance Statement:** Council considered the details of the Annual Governance statement as required by the annual audit. The Statement was approved and signed by the Chair.
7. **Finance: Approval of Accounting Statement (Annual return for 2014/2015)**

Members approved the accounts to the end of the financial year as a correct record and these were duly signed by the Chair.

Renewal of insurance: A cheque was signed for £ 243.80 to renew the existing policy with Zurich.

A cheque for the SALC affiliation fee for 2015/16 was signed for £51.45.

8. **Correspondence:** The clerk had received an email from EE concerning mobile phone coverage in the Parish and suggesting that we

might benefit from a pilot scheme they are running. This would require the Parish to find some suitable sites to host their equipment (3 or 4 boxes about the size of a few hardback books), external and close to a power supply, perhaps on a community building. Council considered this was worth following up as O2 seems to work in the village and in Stoney Stoke but Orange and EE do not. The Village Hall was suggested as a possible site or else Richard Reed may have a suitable farm building. Richard offered to talk with EE to explore this further. **Action:** Clerk to respond to EE accordingly and send EE contact details to Richard.

9. **a.o.b.** Richard Reed asked if the Parish Council is usually notified of Planning Applications in Bratton Seymour. The clerk receives weekly notification of Planning applications and results for Shepton Montague and Charlton Musgrove but offered to add Bratton Seymour to these for the future.
10. **Open discussion**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.