

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Paul Williams, Richard Reed, Janet Robinson, M Hill (Clerk), and two 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:** The Chair pointed out that the precept had been reduced for 2014-15 as it was considered that there was an adequate balance in the account.
4. **Parish Council Chairman's report 2014-15**

Chairmans report 2014-15

Planning: despite the changes made to planning laws at National level the impact has been slight in Shepton Montague. The only 'Prior Approval' planning request was for the development of a Dutch Barn at Higher Farm. Although the Parish Council do not have the same remit regarding prior approval applications, we nevertheless felt local knowledge of the area would help inform planners decisions. We duly discussed the proposition and forwarded some general thoughts to the planning office.

An application for the restoration and development of the Gardener's cottage at Hadspen House and the development of barns at Lilly were also received and supported. Other applications were for the most part to with minor alterations, such as those at Welham.

Finance: the parish precept was reduced this year as the parish finances were felt to be adequate to meet our current needs.

Highways: agreement for action on the following points was made last year .

1. 30 mph signs at crossroads to be moved back towards Bruton by approx 50 yds. Village name to be attached. 'Roundel' to be placed in road.
2. Weight limits signs to be renewed on crossroads.
3. White lines at junction to be repainted.

4. White lines at edge of road, emphasising narrow section, running from bus shelter down towards the old post office to be repainted and extended, roundel 'slow' to be placed in road
5. White lines at junction of Verrington lane to be repainted
6. 30 mph sign to be moved 75 yds towards Welham at point where slip road branches off towards Wincanton. Recently there has been reports that the council have been out to make detailed preparations ,but as yet no action has been forthcoming.

The heavy traffic caused by the closure of the bridge at Cary now seems to have diminished.

SID results still show a fairly constant flow of traffic through the village on a daily basis with most vehicles staying below forty mph, though sadly less than 50% adhering to the 30 mph speed limit. The improved signage should help and we can review this going forward.

The improved signage at Park Wall cottage has been installed and seems to have made a difference.

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.

Chair: once again it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Parish Council and I would like to thank them for 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 and patience as Parish Clerk, without whom the job would be impossible.

Lastly I would like to thank Peter Costen for all his hard work and dedication to the life of the village, as he is stepping down this year after the best part of 25 years on the parish Council. I would like to wish him the very best in his new home in Kilmington.

Richard Ellis, Chair.

Paul Williams also gave a vote of thanks to Peter Costen on behalf of the Parish Council, for his many years of hard work and contribution as Parish Councillor. Peter has had to stand down as he has recently moved out of the village.

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015**

INCOME 2014/15

EXPENDITURE 2014/15

Bal B/F	£1,904.08	SALC	£50.97
Precept	£2,285.00		
Council tax reduction	£85.00	Village Hall	£100.00
support grant		CAB	£20.00
		Clerk annual pay	£450.00
		Zurich Insurance	£243.80
		Audit	-
		Churchyard	£700.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£4,274.08</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,564.77</u>

Income minus Expenditure equals  
£2,709.31

2015 £2,809.31 Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March

£100.00 less unrepresented cheque for Village Hall

2015 £2,709.31 Balance as per cash book @ 31st March

The clerk distributed copies of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 showing that the balance in the Parish Council bank account stood at £2809.31 with one cheque for £100 being unrepresented, leaving £2709.31 to be carried forward to 2015-2016.

## **Open discussion.**

- Jeremy Collyer raised the issue that the fire hydrants in the village should be regularly checked. **Action:** Clerk to find out who is responsible for this and when it was last done.
- It was reported that sewage has been observed flowing into the open ditch which crosses the field directly behind the carpark in the village. Septic tank leakage was suspected but it was not known whose tank might be responsible. **Action:** Clerk to report to Environmental Health Dept.
- It has been noted that milk tankers have been coming along Verrington Lane and East Street and attempting to make the turn into the village high street. In a recent incident a parked car was severely damaged by a Wincanton Transport tanker trying to make a right turn from East Street. As well as being far too large for these roads, the tankers exceed the seven and a half ton weight limit that applies in the village. **Action:** Clerk to contact Wincanton Transport.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.11pm.