

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30pm

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Present: Richard Ellis, (Chair), Richard Reed, Janet Robinson, Andrew Wiley, Margaret Hill (Clerk). Also present were Anna Groskop, County Councillor, Mike Beech, District Councillor, Emma Reeve P.C.S.O and two members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Williams, Tim Russell P.C.S.O.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - A reply had been received from David Hall at County Hall regarding superfast broadband. It referred to the Wessex scheme which the Chair had already brought to the attention of the last meeting. Richard Ellis added that he had been in contact with Wessex and they would definitely be bringing a service to Shepton Montague.
 - The clerk had heard from BT regarding adoption of the payphone in the village. They had requested confirmation that the payphone was not on private land. Mr. and Mrs. Barrowman had stated that they believed it was on their land but with a way leave and this information had been passed to BT. We are now waiting to hear further from BT.
 - Parish Plan: Andrew Wiley had been in contact with Tim Cook, Development Officer, who had provided a couple of copies of questionnaires used by other parishes. The next step is to decide on the format and content of a questionnaire for Shepton Montague and form a working group. Tim Cook is happy to help us work towards a Parish Plan. **Action:** Clerk to add to agenda for next meeting.
5. **Planning Application: 16/05525/FUL Demolition of single-storey lean-to extension and erection of new part single, part two-storey extension on the side and at the rear of the property. Change of use of land from agricultural to residential. Southdown Farm House, Southdown Farm, East Street, Shepton Montague.**

Members reviewed the proposed plans and considered the change of use. The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. March-Smith were present at the meeting to answer any questions and clarified that it was only a small area of land to which the change of use applied, in order to enlarge the garden of the house. There were no objections to the proposals.

Action: Clerk to return this comment to Planning.
6. **Speed Indicator Device:** Andrew Wiley had studied the recent data from the S.I.D. and his analysis showed that although the average figure may be around the 30 mph mark, this does not reflect actual driving behaviour as the average speed is being biased by some extremely slow moving vehicles (e.g. 1-15 mph). In round terms 57% of traffic is exceeding the speed limit. 6% is travelling at 40-50mph. This means that roughly 145 vehicles are speeding through the village each day, one of which regularly comes through at over 50 mph at about the same time each day. This distinct pattern may well

indicate an individual or possible couple of offenders.

P.C.S.O Emma Reeve suggested that a Community Speed Watch was a possible way of trying to catch these offenders as the police themselves cannot resource this work. Anna Groskop mentioned that unfortunately in other areas this has had the effect of setting one neighbour against another as it is generally local people doing the speeding. Members felt that we need to get the registration numbers of the few regular speeders. It was resolved to continue to monitor the S.I.D. data and also to endeavour to identify regular offenders.

Some discussion followed on the danger of mud on the roads and recent complaints of mud left on East St.. Emma Reeve reported that the police had already spoken to the farmer concerned who had agreed to clear up the mud.

The state of the surface of the main road into the village between Cary Edge Lane and East Street, leading into the 30mph zone was also of concern. This has not been resurfaced for 20 years and is thought to be hazardous. **Action:** Clerk to ask Highways for surface improvement here in view of the number of speeding vehicles highlighted by Andrew's analysis of the S.I.D. results.

Discussion followed as to the need for an additional salt/grit bin at the junction of the high street and East Street. Members felt it would be a good idea for the Parish Council to buy one if SSDC would fill it as they do with the others in the village. **Action:** Agenda item at next meeting.

7. Correspondence: The clerk handed out the Crime Report for Wincanton North for the last month, as supplied by P.C.S.O Tim Russell prior to the meeting. There were no crimes reported in Shepton Montague.

8. A.o.b.

- Unfortunately the 'Pies and Puddings' evening at the Village Hall planned for February 3rd has had to be postponed.
- Mike Beech advised the meeting that the District Council precept will be going up by at least 3% so residents should be prepared for an increase in their Council tax bills.

9. Open discussion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____