

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON MONDAY 19TH
FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30pm**

(Draft minutes, subject to approval at the next meeting.)

Present: Richard Ellis (chair), Paul Williams, Richard Reed, Janet Robinson, Margaret Hill (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor) and four members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Andrew Wiley
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Traffic through village:** Clerk had emailed Dave Grabham but Anna advised that Colin Fletcher's successor is Gary Warren (GaryWarren@somerset.gov.uk) **Action:** Clerk to follow up.
 - **Fingerpost restoration:** see item 6 below.
 - **Drains from Welham along Cattle Hill:** Clerk had notified Highways who had responded to say this would be attended to, but nothing has been done and drains are still blocked. Anna Groskop offered to take this up.
5. **Planning Application 18/00100/S73A: Application to vary condition 5 (Grasscell surfacing) of approval 10/01885/FUL to replace soil/grass infill in ecogrids with gravel in the areas of daily use. Location: Kingslea, Shepton Montague, BA9 8JW.** Members considered the plans and had no objections to the proposal. **Action:** Clerk to return this comment to Planning Department.
6. **Somerset Fingerpost Restoration Project:** Andrew Wiley is following up on obtaining the App so that Parish fingerposts can be surveyed. No further information was available as he was not able to attend the meeting. No work can be carried out on the fingerposts without attending the training first. Notification had been received that the initial date for training no longer had any places. The next date is 16th May. Paul Williams volunteered to attend along with John Hill. **Action:** Clerk to register their names for the training.
7. **Termination of Speed Indicator Device programme:** Council had been informed that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) Programme would be terminating with effect from 31st March. The reasons are that the current council stock of SIDs is rapidly reaching the end of its serviceable life and substantial new investment would be required to replace it. The county council does not have the money to do this so is inviting Parish/town councils to contribute to a revised scheme, funded entirely by contributions from participating councils. The cost of this would depend largely on how many councils participated but would be in the region of £500 to £800. It was felt that the SID had not made a significant difference to speeding in the village and there were still a few individuals who regularly raced through at over

50mph despite the obvious danger. Council resolved to ask our P.C.S.O. Tim Russell to arrange a speed test. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Tim Russell.

8. **Rural Services Network – Survey.** It was resolved not to complete the survey.
9. **Broadband:** The clerk had circulated an email from Jo Whale containing a link to the video where Tim Adams from Blackford explains how his village will be getting fast broadband. This involves paying OpenReach a substantial sum (approx. £32,000) for provision of the service. Anna Groskop advised that BT and Openreach are currently in dispute in the High Court so no progress is being made in the meantime regarding the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme. Richard Ellis observed that he was not particularly impressed with Wessex Internet and felt they were no better than BT. Richard Reed mentioned previous overtures from EE which had come to nothing. Council expressed their appreciation to Jo Whale for bringing the developments in Blackford to their attention but thought it best to wait to see what happens in the future with Connecting Devon and Somerset.
10. **Finance: Cheques for outstanding 2017-18 expenditure:** Cheques were signed as follows:
 - SALC affiliation fee £51.11, donation to C.A.B. £20,
 - Clerk's pay for 2017-18 £495, Village Hall fee £100
11. **Correspondence: South Somerset Electoral Review:** Views are being sought on the proposed new electoral arrangements for South Somerset District Council which involve Shepton Montague Parish (currently in Tower Ward) being included in the new Tower and Wincanton Ward with Wincanton. Council felt that as we are a rural area, we need representation as such and the needs and concerns of our parish may not be the same as those of Wincanton town. Tower ward at present seems to be made up of the smaller, rural parishes so the status quo would appear preferable to the proposed change, which does not seem confer any advantages. Oliver Dowding advised that he was making a personal response to the proposals and said he would let members see his comments. It was decided that the new boundary proposals should be posted on the village website. Council will then draw up its response before the deadline of 19th March. **Action:** Clerk to send details to Peter Gane for posting on website.
12. **a.o.b:** Janet Robinson raised the issue of the phonebox in the village. This has been recently acquired by the Parish Council but no decision has yet been made as to its future use. Suggestions so far received have included book exchange, housing a defibrillator, mini shop. All agreed it badly needs painting and Doug Barrowman had previously offered to do this. Council agreed to pay for the paint if Mr. Barrowman can source it and paint the box red. **Action:** Clerk to ask Mr. Barrowman if he is happy to do this.

13. Open discussion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____