

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON  
MONTAGUE PARISH HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON  
MONTAGUE ON WEDNESDAY 30TH MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM**

*(Draft minutes subject to approval at next meeting.)*

**Present:** Richard Ellis (Chairman), Paul Williams, Andrew Wiley, Richard Reed  
M Hill (Clerk) and Anna Groskop (County Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Janet Robinson after the meeting.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Parish Council Chairman's report 2017-2018**

Richard Ellis gave his report for the year:

**Planning:** once again there have been few planning applications this year. The role of Parish Councils in decisions regarding developments continues to diminish. We have however been able to support individuals in their quest to improve the built environment as well as advise the planning department where developers have made applications not best suited to the village.

The evolution of the Hadspen House estate continues and village concerns regarding the exit from the car park onto Cary hedge lane seem to have been taken into consideration.

**Finance:** the parish precept has been kept at the same level again this year, and parish finances meet our current needs.

**Highways:** As yet the outcome of discussions into the possibility of creating a roundabout at Grove Cross have not been finalised; however we wholeheartedly supported the idea.

We continue to monitor the speed of cars through the village and despite the new signage the average is above the legal speed limit. There seem to be one or two particularly irresponsible drivers that go through the village far too fast. The SID (speed indicator device) is no longer going to be provided free by SSDC and the cost of paying for one does not seem to be a good use of parish funds as the results we have received over the past couple of years paint a very consistent picture.

Salt and grit for the roads was once again collected and hopefully came in useful when the snow hit us in March.

**Improvements :**

Andrew Wiley and Paul Williams and John Hill are now enabled to carry out work on the fingerposts around the village and we hope to get some of them painted in the coming months.

**Boundaries :** Having replied robustly to a local government survey looking at the possibility of some rural parishes to be removed from Tower Ward and

amalgamated into Wincanton ward which is largely urban, we are to remain in Tower ward and will continue to be represented by councillors who understand the issues facing rural villages.

My thanks must go to those diligent members of the parish who made their thoughts clear to the Electoral committee on the subject.

**Chair:** It has been a pleasure, as always, to be able to give something back to this delightful and special place. A significant section of the community give their time generously so that we can continue to live in a small village that brings people together rather than it becoming a pleasant dormitory where people sleep but don't actually interact.

The real work of the Parish Council, largely the reading and sorting the endless communications from Yeovil and Taunton is carried out by Margaret Bowden, thank goodness.

I would like to thank the rest of the council for their time, their hard work, their help and their good advice. I would also like to thank Anna Groskop and Mike Beech and for their invaluable help and guidance and for their work behind the scenes in trying to make our voices heard at council level.

Anna thanked the Parish Councillors for their hard work for the benefit of the local community, especially as they are volunteers.

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

The clerk distributed copies of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 showing that the balance in the Parish Council bank account stood at £2988.94 to be carried forward to 2018-19.

#### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Bal B/F	£ 3,155.19	SALC	£ 51.11
Precept	£ 1,935.00	Telephone box	£ 1.00
Council tax reduction support grant	£ 10.00	Village Hall	£ 100.00
		CAB	£ 20.00
		Clerk annual pay	£ 495.00
		Zurich Insurance	£ 257.60
		Audit	£ -
		Churchyard	£ 750.00
		Grit bin	£ 225.80
		Paving slabs for grit bin	£ 10.74
		Village hall donation	£ 200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£ 5,100.19</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£ 2,111.25</u></b>
		<b>Income minus Expenditure equals</b>	<b><u>£ 2,988.94</u></b>
		<b>Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March 2018</b>	<b>£ 2,988.94</b>

**Balance as per cash book @ 31st March 2018**

**£ 2,988.94**

Expenditure had been slightly higher in 2017-18 than the previous year due to an increase in clerk's pay, purchase of an additional grit bin for the village and the donation to the Village Hall improvements.

**6. Open discussion.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_