

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON WEDNESDAY 25TH
SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30pm**

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

Present: Andrew Wiley (Chair), Paul Williams, Julia Hunter, Jay Bunyan (Clerk), Robin Bastable (District Councillor) and 1 members of the Parish.

Before the formal proceedings the Chairman welcomed Jay Bunyan as the new Parish Clerk. A presentation was made to Margaret Bowden, the outgoing clerk, who was thanked for all her hard work over a long period.

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Anna Groskop, County Councillor, Oliver Dowding and Richard Reed, PCSO Tim Russell.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Speeding:** The speed gun has not been recalibrated. **Action:** Clerk to chase up.
 - **The Newt in Somerset:** A 'No Access to The Newt' sign was needed at the top of Cattle Hill to keep motorists on the A371. **Action:** Clerk to write to Sue Seager.
 - **VE Day:** A piper will play at 3pm and the bells would ring at approx. 7pm,
 - **Planning Application 190/01133/FUL.** The plan for access to the B3081 had been withdrawn and access will now be via the recommended southern route.
 - **Traffic in Higher Shepton:** Somerset Highways agreed that this road was not suitable for HGVs and have now signed accordingly. AW reported a significant improvement.
5. **Update on Planning Applications:** no new applications have been received. RB reported that the new online system for filtering applications by parish was not working correctly. JB was unable to attend the course to learn how to do this but would seek information. **Action:** Clerk to follow up, distributing information to Councillors.
6. **Update on finger post project:** AW reported that 6 fingerposts were complete and a further 4 in hand. The Newt in Somerset had offered to pay for Fingerpost 1 (Cary Edge Lane) and this offer had been gratefully accepted. 5 new arms had been ordered from Somerset Forge at a cost of £350 each. There is now a balance of £287.62 in the Fingerpost Fund and it is anticipated that the total expenditure will be c£4500.
7. **Telephone Box:** JH explained the system in place elsewhere for using a telephone box to store a defibrillator. RB raised the following points:
 - Training is required in the use of a defibrillator
 - BT has to agree to hand over the telephone box (often with a notional fee)
 - Cost – approximately £1,800 to lease/buy defibrillator
 - Location – the telephone box is slightly outside village centre
 - Response time for paramedics – any request is taken off the priority list if the defibrillator is used

JH shared the literature from the Batcombe defibrillator project

Action: AW to peruse and summarise Batcombe literature. Clerk to note for next

agenda

8. **Closure of Castle Cary ambulance station:** There appears to be a misunderstanding in the purpose of the original communication as this is not actually an ambulance station but a garage for storing ambulances etc. at a cost of £7,000 per year. **NFA**
9. **Policy briefing – 5G mobile coverage in rural areas:** Although feelings run high over this, there is not sufficient information in the briefing to comment effectively at this stage. **Action:** Clerk request more information on height of mast, size of base etc. and cc AW
Following on from the above, PW mentioned that Wessex Internet had invited residents of Stoney Stoke to show interest in linking to their high speed internet.
It was felt that Wessex Internet need to step back and concentrate on their existing customers rather than trying to extend further. It was noted that this offer applies to Stoney Stoke only – the rest of the parish comes under the government scheme so would be prevented from getting a grant if using another provider. **Action:** AW to check. Clerk to add to next agenda.
10. **Route 60+ Driver awareness training.** An offer of a training course had been made but it was felt that Shepton Montague was too small to support it. **Action:** Clerk to respond suggesting that we are informed if a course takes place elsewhere locally
11. **Correspondence:** Tim Russell, PCSO, provided a brief report. No crimes had been reported in the past 3 months.
12. **A.O.B.**
 - PW raised the issue of proposed charges for parking in Wincanton. It was noted that part of the Memorial Hall car park may be exempt due to a covenant. RB explained that income was needed to reimburse South Somerset District Council. **Action:** AW to draft a response to SSDC stating the Parish Council's concerns.
 - PW asked if the Clerk had been reimbursed for the training course on 19th September – she has not yet received an invoice (£25)
 - PW reported on the chaos caused by the theft of all the signs for an art exhibition at Lower Rock Farm last weekend.
 - RB asked if any assistance could be given to make life esier for the very allergic lady living without water or electricity. It appears that SSDC has spent money trying to assist but every effort had been turned down. It was felt that the problems are of her own making and little can be done to help. **NFA**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.42 pm.

Chairman_____Date_____