

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD via ZOOM ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY at 7.30pm**

Present: Andrew Wiley (Chair), Oliver Dowding, Julia Hunter, Paul Williams Jay Bunyan (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor), and 9 members of the Parish

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Richard Reed
2. **Declarations of Interest :** none
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed to be a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising that are not agenda items:**
 - **Speed checks:** Not aware that any had been carried out **Action:** keep under review
 - **Parking in Wincanton:** temporarily on hold
 - **Grit Bins** – all are full
 - **SSDC policy and questionnaire** - Ongoing
 - **Buckingham Palace Garden party** – this has been cancelled
 - **Village Website and accessibility** – Peter Gane had confirmed that the Shepton Montague site is not sponsored by the Parish Council.
 - **Neighbourhood plan** – ongoing
 - **Budget & Precept** – signed
 - **Village Notice Board** – John Sykes has this in hand.
5. **Accounts**
 - A cheque will be drawn for Zurich Insurance (£257.60)
 - Clerk to check if a non audited copy of the accounts should be placed on the website.
6. **Planning**
 - Premises licence – Oliver Dowding. This was not so much a planning issue as a licence for moving alcohol. OD explained that this was a licence to move cider off the premises when bought for delivery or collection. There was no intention to run a bar, shop or hold parties. AW felt that it would have been helpful if this information had been available earlier to allay peoples' concerns and informed the meeting that SSDC Planning were aware
 - 20/01156/S73A. Change to materials used at the Museum site (Newt in Somerset). AW had examined the plans in detail and felt that this would have little impact on what was considered a high quality project. Agreed
 - **Action: Clerk to inform SSDC**
 - 20/00735/HOU Alterations/additions to car port etc. at Stoke Farm. Graham Swift and Sarah Beeney were invited to comment. They felt that that the original car port design had been rushed and they had never liked it. The new design works better and provides a better line. PW was concerned about the increase in floor space and asked if a 2 storey extension would be better. GS explained that this extension would improve the look and provide space to grow. Only the west side was different. This was more fitting as well as cheaper. A new planning application was not required. AW called for any further comments – none.
 - **Action: Clerk to inform SSDC**
7. **Fingerposts.** AW reported that all but 2 of the fingerposts had now been replaced and a further one had been destroyed by traffic. The fingerpost by the Montague Inn lacks a further arm which has been lost. The Montague Inn had previously offered to sponsor the sign but AW felt it was not appropriate at

present to ask for payment for the repair, at this time, although this is probably the most important signpost in the village. JH asked if the arms were interchangeable – they are not, as cast specifically. The original budget is nearly exhausted and although there is a very small part of the precept allocated, fund raising should be considered. Work cannot currently be undertaken because of social distancing.

8. Correspondence

- JB reported that most of the recent correspondence had been Coronavirus related. Where appropriate this had been forwarded to councilors/website. Jeremy Collyer had provided information for the burial places survey.

9. Broadband – Wessex Internet

AW reported success! Members of the whole Parish are entitled to claim government grants. There had been several meetings with Wessex Internet, who had been very helpful and overall, landowners permission had been forthcoming. (Robin Bastable) planned to walk the entire route with them sometime this year. AW – Wessex Internet can now crack on and all properties, who signed up, should be linked up within 12-18 months. Although impressed with Wessex Internet, the Parish Council is not in a position to endorse any particular supplier. PW reported that there had been problems with rocky ground in Stoney Stoke and some rerouting is necessary.

10. Highways

- Pitcombe junction. Highways need to be made aware that this is an unsafe corner. Most of the road signs have been destroyed by a significant number of accidents, including the historic fingerpost. Anna Groskop suggested contacting Gary Warren at Highways for a site visit. **Action: AW (Afternote. AW emailed Highways requesting a visit on 7 May 20)**
- Although Highways (Eve Wynne) acted very promptly following the last meeting ideally a volunteer is needed to survey the local footpaths. OD had started clearing some paths of overgrowth and asked who has responsibility for stiles. Not known. **Actions:** AW to send map of footpaths to OD who had volunteered to become Footpaths Officer and conduct the survey. John Sykes to send data regarding his concerns to AW

11. VE Day celebrations - AW confirmed that a lot of events had been moved to the VJ weekend 15/16 August and confirmed that the piper had been rebooked, JB confirmed that the bells would ring if restrictions had been lifted. Sarah Maude reminded the meeting of the speeches by the Queen and Winston Churchill on Friday 8th May.

12. Rail to Trail update – Sonia Kundu reported a positive response in some areas but there were still concerns about grants and adoption by SSDC. Points raised:

The feasibility study was on hold. There are challenges to funding. There is only a short distance where the proposed track is not close to a road and it does not connect with other cycle tracks. There is more interest from the Bruton and Wincanton ends. SSDC cannot assist because their HLF funding was exhausted but there may be grants for landowners via environmental land management.

In conclusion AW felt that firm support could not be given without an outline project plan and budget.

13. AOB

- Next Door app – JH explained that this was like FaceBook but for small communities. Sarah Maude felt that the village had a wonderful website and didn't need anything else while Mike Bowman pointed out that this app was run as a multimillion pound international project. In conclusion AW stated that it was not compulsory.
- Bus shelter. Several tiles had fallen off. PW will do the repairs and Sarah Maude gave access from her garden to facilitate this.
- Robin Bastable reported that he had been informed by a member of the Parish that there were a lot of tyres in a field near Pitcombe and the matter had been reported to the Environment Agency. AW – this had come up some years before and action is needed. Robin Bastable agreed to pursue the matter in SSDC. Who is the landowner? **Action:** Robin Bastable.

14. Date of next meeting – the first week of August had already been proposed and Tuesday 4th was agreed. JH asked about the Parish Council Annual meeting as the Village Hall was traditionally on the same day. PW asked if they had to be on the same day – no, but traditional. **Action – clerk to check with SALC on the amount of leeway given under present circumstances**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm. AW was thanked for setting up the meeting

Chairman _____ Date _____