

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE
PARISH HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 AT 7.30pm**

Draft minutes for approval at the next meeting

Present: Paul Williams (chair), Julia Hunter, Oliver Dowding, John Sykes, Margaret Bowden (clerk) and 1 member of the Parish.

PW suggested that before the meeting proper, a few moments be taken to remember Jay Bunyan, former Parish Clerk, who had died suddenly in March. Jay's diligence, competence and hard work as Clerk to the Parish Council for the last two years had been much appreciated. A few moments of quiet reflection followed.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Robin Bastable, District Councillor.
2. **Minutes** of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Parish Council Chairman's Report for the year 2020-2021**

Paul Williams read out his report as follows:

Due to Covid restrictions all our meetings were via Zoom and our Annual Meetings took place in August rather than the usual May. I would start by thanking our previous chairman Andrew Wiley who resigned from the PC at the AGM as he was moving out of the village. He did an excellent job and we wish him well in his new chapter in Dorset.

NEW MEMBER

John Sykes was co-opted onto the PC at our meeting of October 6th 2020 to replace Andrew.

PLANNING

As usual the main business of the Parish Council concerned planning issues several of which have proved controversial.

The cider production barn has had a few issues relating to access and external lighting which seem to have been resolved with collection of product restricted to the applicant's house.

The tyre pile is still an undesirable situation but it is now established little can be done to enforce their removal.

Stoke Farm, Stoney Stoke has created concern over the establishment of large earth banks inside the hedge along the B3081 boundary. Considerable tree/hedge planting has taken place to mitigate the situation but enforcement action is ongoing.

The Newt developments have caused problems with parked vehicles at Welham Farm while construction work goes on there but this has now been resolved with off road parking.

Annual Parish Meeting 4.5.2021

The issue of the vineyard at the Roman Villa site has proved controversial as it involves the importation of very large quantities of topsoil and the use of geotextile membrane all of which has an environmental impact. Our concerns do not contravene planning laws so we have few grounds to object. Other minor alterations to domestic properties have been approved.

HIGHWAYS

A scheme to improve signage at the Pitcombe junction has been agreed. The chevrons on the B3081 at Park Wall Cottage have proved successful with no accidents reported there. The Newt have agreed a traffic plan with Highways to route all vehicles to their sites at the Roman villa & Welham via the A371 and not through the village.

FINGERPOSTS

The project to renovate all the village signposts is almost complete with just the one at the crossroads by the pub to do and finials to fit to 2 others. One new arm and the finials are on order.

FOOTPATHS

Oliver Dowding has been checking on the condition of the paths and members of the PC have walked the less used paths around Stoney Stoke. A programme of improvements is being prepared.

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Wessex Internet has been active in the village connecting properties to their network providing much improved speeds. Our thanks to Oliver & Mike Bowman for helping with this.

JAY BUNYAN

Finally and very sadly we must record the sudden and unexpected death of our clerk Jay Bunyan on March 14th. 2021. Jay had been our clerk for two years and had proved very competent in managing the affairs of the council. She had the necessary skill to produce pertinent reports from the various inputs from council members. She is sadly missed but we are extremely grateful to her predecessor Margaret Bowden for stepping into the breach to pick up the reins again which has minimised the difficulties this loss could have created. Thank you Margaret.

Paul Williams
Chairman

5. Presentation of Parish Council accounts (unaudited)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2021

INCOME	2020/2021	EXPENDITURE	2020/2021
Bal B/F	£ 2,624.09	SALC	£ 50.36
Precept	£ 2,090.00	SALC Training	£ 30.00
SSDC CIL grant	£ 1,356.00	Village Hall	£ 100.00
		CAB	£ 20.00
		Clerk annual pay	£ 495.00
		Zurich Insurance	£ 257.60
			£ -
		Churchyard	£ 800.00
		Fingerposts	£ 70.84
			£ -
			£ -
Total	£ 6,070.09	Total	£ 1,823.80
		Income minus Expenditure equals	£ 4,246.29
		Balance as per bank statement @ 31st March 2021	£ 4,861.29
		Less unrepresented cheques	£ 615.00
		Balance as per cash book @ 31st March 2021	£ 4,246.29

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 had been previously circulated to members. £4246.29 was carried over into the financial year 2021/22. The accounts were signed off as a correct record, matching the balance in the bank account.

6. Open discussion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.38 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____