

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD via ZOOM ON TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Paul Williams (Chair), Oliver Dowding, Julia Hunter, Richard Reed, John Sykes, Jay Bunyan (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor) Robin Bastable (District Councillor) and 4 members of the Parish

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from PCSO Tim Russell
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** (12th January 2021) were agreed as a correct record
3. **Matters arising**
 - a. **Wessex Internet.** It was noted that the present grant scheme is due to end on 31st March though it is anticipated that this will be extended. RB is very happy with WI. OD reported delays due to the need to reroute.
 - b. **Unitary Authority.** RB reported that the Secretary of State had started the process. In 6 month time the consultation will close and he will decide between the 2 options. Following a shadow period it is anticipated that the new authority will be formed in 2023.
 - c. **Notice board by bus stop.** If CIL money is not used for fingerposts it could be used to repair or preferably, replace the notice board,
Action – clerk to get prices for preferred option
4. **Planning Applications**
 - a. **21/00346/HOU Nobles, Shepton Montague** Tim Willasey-Wilsey confirmed that this was not a permitted development. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. **Action – clerk to notify Planning**
 - b. **21/00422/HOU Summerhill, Welham** There is already a lot of work going on in the vicinity. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. **Action – clerk to notify Planning**
 - c. **Update on 20/03675/S73A – pseudo Roman Villa/museum** PW outlined the current application to amend the original noting that the site is actually in Pitcombe not Shepton Montague. The Parish Council had objected on the grounds of increased traffic, unnecessary importation of vast quantities of soil and potential damage to the water table. Planning had responded to our comments and will insist on a traffic management plan should the application be approved (as anticipated).
5. **Highways matters**
 - a. **Horns Lane** John Nicholson from Highways will inspect this week
 - b. **Cattle Hill** Paul Rawson from The Newt expects that there will be an improvement in the situation in about 3 months time. Hopefully the traffic management plan in 4c may help.
 - c. **Footpaths** PW, OD and JS have walked the footpaths at the eastern end of the parish and found that several paths, stiles and gates are poorly maintained. OD has contacted Eve Wynne at SCC who is offering new/replacement gates. James Read has put in a lot of work on his land. Some work is needed on Sarah Beeny's estate as there is now difficulty accessing the path from B3081 which formerly

had a metal gate and a pedestrian gate (see Google Street View). These should be replaced. RB had opened an enforcement notice following complaints about the whole bund. This is being followed up by SSDC with the Beenys. RB has also had a meeting with Graham Swift about lowering the height of the bund. **Ongoing action - OD**

6. **Update on Fingerpost project** JS had already supplied an update. It was agreed to use Somerset Forge again and they will supply a fully finished arm (£450) and 2 x filials (£660). He has approached the Elliots to confirm sponsorship of the post arm next to the Montague Inn. If they agree, an order will be placed with Somerset Forge which leaves £660 to be found from our own resources. **Action - JS**
7. **Dog fouling bins** In view of the costs involved, site visits and general lack of positive feelings, JS felt it was not worth going ahead. PW felt that a second bin may be more bother than it is worth. OD asked what proportion of dog mess was actually picked up – not known. OD will speak to Eve Wynne about signage RR voiced concern over the risk of disease to cows and sheep if dog mess got into silage. PW suggested a reminder on the website. **Action – RR to draft something for the website via Clerk**
It was agreed to put the matter on hold in view of the financial implications and to see if notices made any difference.
8. **Accounts – bills for payment** PW had yesterday signed cheques for Citizens Advice Bureau and Village Hall as agreed at the previous meeting. He also signed the cheque for the Clerk’s salary in anticipation of approval at this meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should be paid.
9. **Correspondence** PCSO Tim Russell had submitted his report stating that apart from a car fire in Stoney Stoke, there had been no crime in the parish in recent months.
10. **Any Other Business** JS mentioned that the Plant Sale would take place on 29th May in the Car Park at The Newt.
11. **Date of next meeting** Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM on Tuesday 4th May via Google Meet

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed Date