

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2022 at 7pm in the VILLAGE HALL**

Draft minutes for approval at the next meeting

Present: Paul Williams (PW) (Chair), Julia Hunter (JH), John Sykes (JS), Margaret Bowden (MB)(Clerk),

Also present were 5 members of the Parish

1. **Apologies for absence:** Oliver Dowding (OD) Robin Bastable (RB)(District Councillor), Anna Groskop (County Councillor)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 27.1.22 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Horns Lane:** PW had met with John Nicholson of Highways. This lane is impassable to traffic. Clerk to request it be re-classified.
 - **Dog attack incident:** PCSO Tim Russell is on long term sick leave so this matter has been referred to 'an officer', since when nothing has been heard. Clerk to follow up yet again with PCSO William Mortimer.
 - **Village website: Covered in item 6**
 - **East Street T junction** PW had met with John Nicholson (JN) at the corner where large vehicles have hit the house there. JN offered to install bollards but there is a drain in the way. More signage was suggested – with one outside MoorHayes Farm directing traffic away from the village. PW to follow up with Gary Warren at County whose is responsible for signage.
5. **Co-option of new Council member:** PW proposed Richard Ellis (RE) to be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Council. Seconded by JS. All in favour. RE completed the Acceptance of Office form.
6. **Village website:** A most useful zoom meeting had been held at which Peter Gane Webmaster, Rod Banner, JH, JS and MB participated. Following this Peter Gane had sent out a request to villagers for suggestions and ideas for the village website and asking for anyone interested in taking over his role to make this known. Rod Banner offered to research alternative platforms and participants are to reconvene at a later date. Peter has offered to continue as Webmaster for a year after he moves out of the village this month.
7. **Planning Application: 22/00495/FUL Stokeford Farm, Stoney Stoke, Wincanton Somerset BA9 8HR. Application for retrospective planning permission for earthed banks.**

The clerk read out an email received from the occupants of Manor Barn, Stoney Stoke objecting to the earthed banks on the grounds that the height of the mounds opposite their

home are excessive and transfer road noise directly into their property. They ask for the earth banks opposite Manor Barn to be removed or every substantially reduced.

The occupants of adjacent Dairy Cottage, who were present at the meeting, echoed these objections and said they were also adversely affected by noise deflecting from the banks (bund D) into their home.

Council noted that an enforcement notice was in place relating to the earth banks.

The Applicants advised that the banks had been created partly to close off the entrances at this point, partly to hold flooding on the land and because earth cannot be taken off site. They had received expert advice that the earth banks would have no effect on noise and had taken acoustic readings which showed the banks made it no noisier. Woodland planting is planned and they understood that hedgerow absorbs/breaks sound. However they did not wish to upset their neighbours.

After discussion, including Council noting that the disc shape of the bank at the contentious point may be contributing to the deflection of noise towards the properties opposite, the Applicants agreed that they would reduce the height of the bank at Bund D by half and instead double its width, but would be unable to carry out this work at this time of year. This was felt by all to be an acceptable potential resolution to the noise problems experienced by the complainants. However Council had to respond to the Application before them and so resolved to send the following comments to Planning:

Council object to the earthed banks as outlined in this Application and as already in existence.

However, the objection relates only to the area of bank identified as 'Bund D' on the plan. Bund D is directly opposite Manor Barn and Dairy Cottage and due to the height and shape of the earth bank at this point, it is having the effect of reflecting traffic noise back towards these properties, adversely affecting the residents' living conditions.

Please note that this matter was discussed at a Parish Council meeting at which some of the affected residents and the Applicant were present. After hearing residents' complaints, the Applicant agreed to reduce the height of the bank at Bund D by half and instead double its width, in order to reduce the amount of noise deflected back towards the houses opposite. This was felt to be an acceptable way of ameliorating the problem experienced by the residents of Manor Barn and Dairy Cottage. The Applicant explained that it would not be possible to carry out this work at this time of year but would do so when possible.

8. Correspondence: Election: The clerk had received election nomination forms, which she distributed, and information on the elections in May and the nomination process and timetable had already been circulated to members.

Police Partnership: Clerk was still following this up.

9. A.o.b. Mr. Heath of Dairy Cottage said that the speed of the traffic on B3081 was hazardous and made the exit from their property dangerous. PW said he would discuss speed limits/signage with Gary Warren.

Sarah Maude thanked JH for posting useful items on the Village Whatsapp. She also noted her appreciation for The Newt giving advance warning of their fireworks and had thanked them directly.

10. Open discussion

9.3.22

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____