

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr Sarah Brunt
Cllr Andrew Rowswell Cllr Angie Joy
Cllr Ed Wakely Cllr David Bourn
Cllr Tim England

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were 2 members of the public in attendance

District/County Councillors in attendance: SCC Cllr Jo Roundell Greene (arrived at 7.40 pm & left at 8pm)
SCC Cllr Adam Dance (arrived at 7.40 pm & left at 8.25pm)
SSDC Cllr Crispin Raikes (arrived at 7.35 pm & left at 7.55pm)

SDDC Cllr Raikes reported they recently held a full council meeting and the new Code of Conduct was discussed. The accounts were signed off and they had received the auditor's report.

SCC Cllr Roundell Greene said she was leading on the cost-of-living crisis with work going on to make sure that people were OK in the cold with the energy crisis and they will be launching an interactive map showing where the food banks and warm spaces would be. The village agents will be involved in this. Children's services at the council have been rated good by Ofsted. She also mentioned the LCN consultation.

SCC Cllr Dance reported that finances are looking bad with a protection of a £44m deficit. There will be savings needed as there is £100m of internal borrowing inherited from the previous council. All services will need to be looked at to find savings. Adult social care takes a large proportion of the budget and is overspent. Children's services are also overspent. He produces a quarterly public health report which he will forward to the Clerk for distribution. The County Council will withdraw from the lease of Dillington House when it runs out.

He asked what had been done about the hedge on Lambrook Road that he had been contacted about and the Clerk said she had e-mailed SSDC in August about getting specialist equipment in, but had heard nothing. It was suggested that the Clerk chase SSDC and copy Cllr Dance into the email. **Action – Parish Clerk**

Public Session:

A member of the public mentioned that there was a pedestrian accident the corner of Robin's Lane where a builder's bag had been left. The Councillors said that it had been reported to the Ranger and that this had now been removed by the highways department.

They also mentioned that there were no dog poo bins near any of the footpaths going through the fields around the village and suggested that they could be purchased and these areas were particularly bad with dog poo not being picked up by the owners.

Ser Item

764. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (working) and Cllr Lillywhite (personal commitment)
Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

765. Declarations of interest – Members to declare any interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)
There were no declarations of interest.

- 766. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th July 2022** (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).
Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th July 2022 be signed as correct.
- 767. New Somerset Council Local Community Networks (LCNs)**
 To note the public consultation period 5 Sep – 17 Oct 2022
Resolved. The consultation period was noted, although we will not hold a Parish Council meeting before 17th October and so cannot make any comments as a council, although there is an option to comment as an individual. There will be on-line presentations held on various dates in September and an in-person all day event at SSDC. There is also a day-conference on 4th October at Westlands in Yeovil, which the Chairman and the Clerk are attending. Details of all these dates will be forwarded to the councillors.
Action – Parish Clerk
- 768. Unoccupied/derelict property in the village**
 To resolve what action can be taken to resolve the current situation
Resolved. Cllr Dance said he had tried to contact the owner with little success. He asked the Parish Council to send an official letter to him making a formal complaint about the state of the property and the fact that there were rats in situ.
Action – Parish Clerk
- 769. Recreation Field Advisory Committee**
 To resolve to approve the Terms of Reference for the Recreation Field Advisory Committee
Resolved. That the Terms of Reference be approved.
- The Clerk mentioned that she knew of two villagers who would be interested in getting involved and would forward the names to Cllr England
Action – Parish Clerk
- Two councillors were appointed to sit on the advisory committee – Cllr England and Cllr Wakely. Cllr England will liaise with Cllr Joy regarding the booking of the village hall for the meetings.
Action – Cllr England
- The former Chairman of the Rec Committee was present at the meeting and reported that the lottery monies had been returned as the project had not been completed within the timescale. They were getting the accounts up-to-date for the handover. He also mentioned that he had told the football club that their fee would remain the same (£400) for this current season. Neither he nor the current treasurer would be available to sit on the new committee, but would be happy to advise where necessary.
- The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked him and the Treasurer for all their hard work in the past.
- 770. Climate Emergency Working Group**
 As the CEWG can no longer continue in its current form to resolve which option to move forward with:
- (a) Respond to issues and opportunities as and when they arise
 - (b) Establish a Climate Advisory Committee of the Parish Council
- Resolved.** That option (a) be approved and that the council would respond to issues and opportunities as and when they arise.
- Cllr England mentioned that LCNs could be a useful vehicle to link up with other parishes to have any influence.
- 771. Staffing Committee Terms of Reference v2**
 To approve and re-adopt the terms of reference and resolve to appoint another councillor to the Committee in accordance with the TOR
Resolved. That the Staffing Committee Terms of Reference v2 be approved and re-adopted and it was proposed that Cllr Lillywhite be appointed as the additional councillor. The Clerk to contact her for her agreement.
Action – Parish Clerk

772. Parish Council Newsletter

To approve the October Parish Council Newsletter to be printed for distribution with the October 2022 issue of The Web at a cost of £79

Resolved. That the October Newsletter be approved for printing at a cost of £79.

773. Use of Glyphosate by the Ranger

To discuss the concerns raised by a resident and to resolve what action is to be taken.

It was mentioned that it was used mainly to clear grass and weeds from the pavements and would be used before bee-attracting plants flowered. If the Ranger was to weed the areas manually it would take considerably longer and would mean a large increase in expenditure, which would have a knock-on effect on the villagers in the amount they had to pay on their council tax bills. It was very low risk and the amount used would only be only 1 – 2 litres a year.

Resolved. it was decided to continue using it at the present but to write to SSDC and ask them what their policy was on the use of glyphosate now and in the future. The Clerk to write to the resident to say we would continue to use it and give the reasons why, but we will ask SSDC what their plans are for its use in the future.

Action – Parish Clerk

774. Action Plan

To review and update the Action Plan

Unresolved – this item will be carried forward to the October agenda.

775. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliations to 31st July & 31st August 2022 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £4,179.26 (previously circulated)

Resolved. The Bank Reconciliations to 31st July & 31st August were approved and signed as correct by a non-cheque signatory. The payments were approved and cheques issued.

776. Quarterly Budget Report for Quarter 1 For information only

The Clerk presented the budget report for April – June, which was reviewed by the council.

777. Communications/Publicity Councillor

To consider appointing a councillor to be responsible for communication and publicity

Resolved. That Cllr England be appointed as councillor responsible for communication and publicity. Proposed by Cllr Wylie Carrick and seconded by Cllr Brunt. All agreed.

778. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

Clerk reported that she had contacted South West Heritage regarding adding the Fives Wall and it is on the national list, so it is already protected.

We have been sent an email from the Cowleaze group thanking us for the grant of £650.

There is a new Elections Act 2022 – the most significant change is that from May 2023 all voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations.

She has received a letter from a resident of Piece Lane who was concerned about the proposed development and the fact that there may be more water coming off the fields. She has let him know about the public event in October and suggested he speak to the developers about his concerns.

779. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell reported that some potholes had now been filled. He has reported the badger sett at the edge of the village.

Cllr Wakely mentioned that no statistics had been given to the councillors recently and asked for figures to be produced on a more regular basis (at least quarterly).

Action – Parish Clerk

It was suggested the Clerk contact South Petherton Clerk to see how they pull the data off. The Clerk to Initially send the councillors the graphs that were available from the system, instead of the extrapolated date that she had produced previously.

Action – Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that a response has been received from Highways about the adoption of Piece Lane. This could only happen using the “Private Street Works Code”. The costs would be apportioned to each home owner on Piece Lane. It would also include those who would benefit from making up the road. SCC would not make a decision until the following:

- There has been an approach through petition (at least 80-100%) of the residents
- There is an understanding and commitment from the residents to fund all works and associated legal, administrative and technical approval process, irrespective of outcome
- Those seeking adoption have legal title to the land over which the private road runs
- The private road links directly to an existing adopted street
- The private road complies or can be made to comply with SCC’s layout and constructional adoptable standards. With regards to Piece Lane there would need to be alterations to bring it up to an adoptable standard, which would likely be extensive

It is important that homeowners are fully aware that this mechanism can have significant costs, time delays, legal challenges and court action and uncertainties with the process.

Should the Piece Lane residents wish to go ahead, then the contact details for further information are: HighwaysDevelopmentControl@somerset.gov.uk

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England mentioned that the insurance for the recreation field was due in January. This is not within this year’s budget but the Clerk is to include this in the budget for next financial year.

Action – Parish Clerk

Environment

Nothing to report

Ranger

Nothing to report

Allotments

The Clerk reported that at the allotment inspection in August, there were 2 allotments which were not being maintained. They will be contacted about them.

Action – Parish Clerk

Cowleaze

A new battery powered mower has now been purchased. It is being recharged using solar power. They will need to arrange insurance for it.

Climate Emergency Working Group

Nothing to report in view of item 770 above.

Footpaths

Cllr Brunt mentioned that there was a lot of dog fouling in the crops, where dogs were allowed to roam from the footpath. There had been a complaint about the amount of dog fouling on the driveway to Cowleaze. A biodegradable spray has been used in the past to highlight the dog poo that was left. The Clerk is to put something on Facebook and in the next available issue of The Web. The Clerk will find out the cost of additional bins for use in the field areas and ask for the dog warden to re-visit the village and send us extra notices.

Action – Parish Clerk

780. Annex A – Deferred items register

There was nothing to update.

To resolve to exclude members of the press and public. To agree that item 781 below be dealt with after the public have been excluded as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved. The members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at this stage.

781. Tender for Lethbridge Recreation Field Leylandii felling

To review the tenders received and resolve which tender (if any) to accept

Resolved. The tenders were reviewed and one was accepted unanimously.

The Clerk to contact the successful contractor to arrange a start date, so that the football club can be informed.

Action – Parish Clerk

Cllr England will let the Clerk have dates of the football fixtures.

Action – Cllr England

Meeting closed: 9.25 pm