

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Angie Joy Cllr Ed Wakely
Cllr Andrew Rowswell Cllr Tim England
Cllr Nick Howard Cllr Hugo Stearn
Cllr Sally Burwood

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

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

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Jo Roundell Greene (arrived 7.45 pm, left 8.00 pm)

Report from Somerset Councillors

Cllr Roundell Greene reported that the budget meeting would be held the following day. They have managed to balance the budget for FY 24/25, but after that it will be difficult. All precept requests have now been received. All the 110 councillors have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the budget, which has gone through scrutiny and been audited. One of the councillors asked why the government had not approved an increase close 10% and Cllr Roundell Greene said that they had not given a reason. They have asked the government for a capitalisation directive, but have not heard from them yet. This would help the council get in a better position for next year. Their portion of the council tax for FY 24/25 will be increased by 4.99%, which is the maximum that they can increase it. Notices of actual council tax due will go out after the meeting tomorrow. The threat of the 114 notice is in the background for the time being, but will not go away, as every day the cost of adult social care is increasing along with child services.

Before the meeting started, the Chairman welcomed the two new councillors – Hugo Stearn and Sally Burwood and urged them to undertake the initial training when they were able to. He mentioned two key issues for discussion in the meeting – the community review project and the staffing proposal. He also mentioned that the LCN meetings should be an agenda item in future. There is a free portrait of King Charles III available, which he suggested that we get, to hang in the village hall. **Actions – Parish Clerk**

Ser Item

1021. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Resolved. There were no apologies.

1022. 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)

Cllr Joy declared an interest in item 1026 and signed the book.

1023. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th January be signed as correct.

1024. Planning Application 24/00214/S73 Land Os 2689 Sheep Way Application variation
To review the application variation submitted

Resolved. The planning application variation was approved.

1025. Planning Application 24/00238/HOU Clovelly, Robins Lane
Single storey rear and side extension with new fenestration to original gable end wall
To review planning application submitted
Resolved. The planning application was approved.

1026. Grant Application – The Village Hall
To review the grant application received from the village hall and resolve whether to give a grant of £500
Resolved. The grant application for £500 was approved unanimously. The Clerk to make the payment.
Action – Parish Clerk

1027. Community Review Project
To review the documentation sent and resolve whether the council has the manpower, budget and time to sign up to the project.
Resolved. This was discussed in some detail and it was decided that we did not have the time to get involved in the project this year as there was a deadline of 18th March to set up a steering group and a November deadline for completion of the project, but that we could consider it for next year, if a grant was still available.

The Clerk is to write to the project lead to let her know that we don't have the manpower or time to sign up for this year, but that we may be interested if this was still available next year and also ask them if they had any completed projects from other councils that have been evaluated that we could look at.
Action – Parish Clerk

It was suggested that the Clerk writes to the groups within the village to see if they would be interested in getting involved in a village community plan, by being part of the steering group. This can then be discussed at the May AGM.
Action - Parish Clerk

The councillors said they would revisit the 2005 village plan which is on the website, to see if there are suggestions that could still be followed up within the new project. **Action – all Councillors**

1028. Ditch clearing
To discuss the build-up of water along Barrington Main heading towards Lopen Head and resolve what action can be taken.
Resolved. It was noted that this area is within the parish of Seavington. Cllr Wakely said he would speak to the landowner and ask if he could clear the ditch.
Action – Cllr Wakely

1029. Recreation Field Advisory Committee meeting. For information only
Cllr England reported that the last meeting was held on 5th February.
The new contractors appear to be carrying out the grass cutting to a good standard. There are still some left-over grass cuttings along the edge of the field and the committee asked if Cllr Wakely would be able to remove them when the ground was dry, which he agreed to. **Action – Cllr Wakely**

Maintenance of the play equipment – there are a few items that need to be looked at. There is going to be another working group which can look at that. The signage near the MUGA needs to be updated with the parish councils contact details. The MUGA is very rusty and the committee will try and re-paint these.

Maintenance of the pavilion – Cllr England has prepared a list of repairs. This needs to be prioritised by the committee and will then be brought to a parish council meeting. There is potential funding available from the Football Foundation and the football club are looking into this.

The temporary laminated notices need to be replaced with the permanent ones at some point.

The committee discussed various fund-raising ideas and also some available grants.

There will be another working party on 17th or 24th March and the volunteers from last time will be emailed. The dates will also be posted on the Facebook page.

The committee now has a new member, who was appointed at the last meeting.

1030. Recreation Field Income and Expenditure. For information only

The Clerk presented the projected income and expenditure relating to the recreation field. The income amounted to £8,020.67 and the expenditure amounted to £6,317.30 and so this means a surplus of £1,703.37. However, within the income there is an amount of £5,044.59 which we won't receive next year. Within the expenditure there is £963.27 which won't be incurred next year. If we discount these amounts then the recreation field would be making a loss of just over £2,000.

1031. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2024 (previously circulated).
To approve the schedule of payments totalling £1,019.86 (previously circulated)

Resolved. The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed as correct by a non-cheque signatory. The payments were approved.

1032. Report from Clerk/RFO.

The Clerk had nothing to report.

1033. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell said he had reported the potholes. He had reported the slippages of mud along Whitefield Lane which he thought may have been removed when they worked on the drainage, but this has not been done.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

There was nothing further to report

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that the new ranger had started. He is going to come every Friday. He has a list of routine tasks. Last week he was tasked with clearing as many of the drain tops that he could. He will be putting SID up this coming Friday. It was mentioned that there were numerous leaves in Great Lane and at the top of Love Lane.

Allotments

Cllr Howard reported that he looked at the allotments a couple of weeks ago and they were in the state that you would expect this time of year.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that it was very wet. They would be cutting some of the grass when it was drier. There is a quiz night in the village hall to raise some funds.

Footpaths

Nothing to report

1034. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

To resolve to exclude members of the press and public. To agree that item 1035 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. There were no members of the public still in attendance, as the two members of the public had left after item 1025.

1035. Staffing – in confidence

To discuss the proposal put forward by the Clerk/RFO and resolve what action should be taken

Resolved. The proposal was discussed. The Chairman confirmed with SALC that this proposal was permissible. He confirmed that the Staffing Committee would examine the relevant guidelines and put forward recommendations to the next meeting of the Parish Council for full council agreement.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick & Staffing Committee

Meeting closed: 8.55 pm