

## Shapwick Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting on Zoom held on 15 September 2020 at 7.00pm

- 20/21/32 Present:** Laura Anderson, Martin Davies, Jerome Hayes, Nigel Phillips, Sally Richardson and Sue Sellick
- 20/21/33 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 20/21/34 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable  
2 Villagers
- 20/21/35 Apologies for Absence**  
There were apologies from Brian Norris.
- In the absence of Brian Norris Sally Richardson took the Chair for the meeting.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 20/21/36 Minutes of the Meetings held on 21 July 2020 and 1 September 2020**  
The minutes were agreed and duly signed.
- 20/21/37 County Councillor's Report**  
County Cllr. David Huxtable reported that he had spoken with Liam Gill – Assistant Highways Service Manager – regarding Northbrook Road. Liam Gill confirmed that the promised jetting process would take place in the next couple of weeks.
- Jerome Hayes said he did not think jetting would solve the issue as the culvert has collapsed and needs replacing.
- HGVs through the village – County Cllr. Huxtable said he felt that he was reaching the limit of options available to him regarding the matter.
- The recent traffic survey carried out by SCC does not show a dramatic increase in vehicles movements on the 2018 survey. However, it can be said over a number of years the traffic has increased and it will not get better while the plant continues to operate.
- Other options such as weight limits and traffic calming come with their own issues particularly when the rural farming nature of the community is taken into consideration.
- Jerome Hayes said he felt that all villages affected should bear the burden while the plant continues to operate. He said he did not believe that it was fair for one village to expect immunity over others.
- The clerk said she had spoken to MDC Planning Department regarding the operation of the plant.  
In 2018 a specialist enforcement planner investigated the operations and concluded that there was no justification to take any enforcement action.  
More recently, following the concerns raised by an elected member, the operations have been re-evaluated by a council solicitor who drew the same conclusions.  
The apparent increase in operations does not necessarily mean an infringement on permissions.

**20/21/38 HGVs through Shapwick**

Sally Richardson asked Councillors if they have anything else to add.

The Clerk said she was also waiting for a response from SCC planning on whether it considers the plant is operating within the permissions granted.

Councillors agreed that the recent parishioner conducted traffic surveys had provided valuable data but felt that a different approach is now needed.

Martin Davis said there is a need to be mindful that the day to day business of the agricultural community is not hindered should traffic claiming measures be considered.

Councillors agreed that the HGV traffic is a symptom of the cause and that efforts need to be concentrated on whether or not the plant is operating outside the granted permissions.

**20/21/39 Communications with Villagers**

In the current climate when face to face meetings are not being held and there is no Shapwick News Councillors discussed how best to communicate with the villagers.

It was agreed that the Shapwick Residents Facebook page has worked really well in keeping villagers connected over recent months.

Sue Sellick said the Facebook page could be used to keep villagers informed as long as the posts remained neutral but Facebook is not the place for discussions to be held. Sue Sellick also suggested increase use of the Parish Council website.

Jerome Hayes said he thought Facebook was not the right vehicle for the PC to engage with villagers and that advice from SALC should be taken.

Sally Richardson said that Facebook would not be used for discussion but as a noticeboard to signpost villagers to the PC website where villagers could find more information.

Nigel Phillips said that if the Facebook page is used as a noticeboard then a wider audience can be reached.

It was agreed the Shapwick Residents Facebook page would be used to only as a noticeboard in relation to PC matters – signposting that more information can be found on the PC website.

**20/21/40 On-Going Matters**

**a) Dog Fouling Signs** – Thank you to Nigel Phillips for his work in putting up the signs around the village. More signs have been purchased to enable the completion of the project.

**b) Northbrook Road Culvert** – Jerome Hayes reiterated that he thought the jetting offered by Highways would be a waste of time and money. He urged Councillors to get on and carry out the necessary remedial work.

Martin Davis reminded Councillors that accidents had already occurred at the location and injuries had been sustained.

Martin Davis said he and Jerome Hayes had the knowledge to carry out the necessary works – it would be a straightforward replacement with either a 1 or 3 pipe system.

**20/21/40 cont'd**

The PC would carry out the works with the exception of the tarmacking.

It was suggested that the cricket club are contacted as they too are having tarmac work carried out and it might be beneficial to have both works completed at the same time. It was noted that road grade tarmac would be needed in Northbrook Road. The work needs to be completed as soon as possible before the weather changes.

Jerome Hayes suggested a visit in person to the Highways yard at Dunball would aid the process. Sally Richardson said she would try and liaise with Liam Gill.

**20/21/41 Housing Needs in Shapwick**

SDC have be asked to rerun the HNS. Due to technical issues there has been a delay in the HNS being posted out. Clerk keeping in regular contact with SDC.

Laura Anderson asked if it would be the same as the previous survey. The Clerk confirmed that the HNS would be asking the same questions as the survey carried out in 2018.

**20/21/42 Verges and Hedges**

**a) Verges** – Laura Anderson and Graham Croucher are liaising on this project. The aim is to make the verges in the village more attractive whilst supporting and promoting wildlife diversity.

Initially will concentrate on a couple of small areas to see how it progresses with the potential to include other areas at a later date. SDC have been contacted and are in principle in agreement. Further contact with SDC will be required to discuss verge cutting etc. Nearest neighbours to the areas will also be consulted.

Sally Richardson commented she thought this was a lovely idea that would have a positive impact on the village.

**b) Hedge Cutting** – The PC had been contacted by a farmer who expressed concern that his hedges were being cut by a villager out of season. Councillors agreed that this was a private matter and the farmer should contact the villager involved.

**20/21/43 Polden Neighbourhood Watch Group Co-ordinator**

A volunteer is still being sought. Another message to be posted on residents Facebook page.

**20/21/44 Ashcott Playing Fields RLT3 Application – Improvement of Car Park**

Sally Richardson asked those present for comment.

Martin Davis said it was a natural further development of the playing field.

Sally Richardson said it would be an improvement and make the facility more accessible.

Jerome Hayes said it will improve the site. The facility is used by the wider community as well as Ashcott villagers and it is important to encourage participation.

Councillors unanimously agreed support. Clerk to contact SDC.

**20/21/45 Finance**

**a) Cheques for Signature** Mrs S E Williams £417.51 (Chq 896, salary and expenses) and HMRC £143.00 (Chq 898, PAYE). Cheque 897 cancelled.

**20/21/46 Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next PC meeting will be 17 November 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....