

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 17 September 2019
at 7.30pm at Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick

19/20/62 Present: Brian Norris, Martin Davies, Jerome Hayes, Nigel Phillips, Sally Richardson and Sue Sellick

19/20/63 In Attendance: Sue Williams (Clerk)

19/20/64 Also Present: 3 members of the village

19/20/65 Apologies for Absence
 Apologies were received from Laura Anderson.

19/20/66 Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 July 2016 and 24 July 2019
 The minutes were agreed and duly signed.

Villagers' Open Period

19/20/67 District and County Councillors Reports
 None present.

19/20/68 Housing Needs Project
 The Clerk had contacted Othery PC to arrange a meeting with some its Councillors to discuss the process of carrying out a housing project as Othery PC, working with Sedgemoor DC and South West Housing Society, has recently completed one. Clerk to liaise with Chair and Vice-Chair to arrange a suitable date.

19/20/69 Shapwick News
 When the News was first produced it was run by a community group of editors each taking responsibility for three or four editions a year with the Parish Council funding the printing costs. As time has progressed people have come and gone from the group but in the last two and a half years this has dwindled to just one person. Despite several requests for editorial help only one other person has come forward to assist in the production of the News.

The number of organisations regularly contributing articles has also fallen to three main contributors – the church, the WI and the cricket club.

Therefore, the Parish Council posed the questions – Has the news, in its current format, had its day? How many people actually read the News? And, at a production cost of £82.00 per issue, is it value for money?

Jerome Hayes said compared to other village newsletters the contents is poor. Others have a much broader content.

Brian Norris said that the news is only as good as the articles received. The editor has tried sending monthly reminders asking for contributions but this has not altered the content received.

19/20/69 cont'd

Brian Norris asked whether use of the community Facebook page and the Parish Council website would be more appropriate.

Sally Richardson suggested canvassing opinion from villagers.

Open Session

A villager said they thought the money used on printing costs could be better used elsewhere in the community.

A villager said the village noticeboards could be used more effectively to advertise events.

Closed Session

Sue Sellick said she would put a post on the Shapwick Community Facebook page to see if there are any responses.

The general consensus from Councillors present was that, in its current format, the News has become obsolete and that use of online platforms and village noticeboards is the way forward. Clerk asked to write a notice for the October edition of the News.

19/20/70**Planning Application 43/19/0004 - Mendip View**

The application remains under review.

Jerome Hayes asked why the decision was taking so long.

It was agreed that if no response has been made by the end of the month the Clerk would contact the case officer for an explanation.

Since the PC meeting this application has been withdrawn.

19/20/71**Village Sign**

The slate sign on Main Road has been damaged. A quote of £495.00 has been received from Fine Memorials.

In the interests of good practice it was agreed to obtain two more quotes.

19/20/72**Truespeed Presentation**

For the record Truespeed broadband providers made a presentation to the village on 22 August 2019. No contact was made with the Parish Council.

Meare PC advises that if any projects are agreed with Truespeed to ensure all agreements regarding extent of installation should be agreed in writing.

19/20/73**Councillors' Reports**

Highways – Limekiln Junction- There has been another bad accident in recent days. The damaged Give Way has been reported three times. Additionally the road markings have been worn away. Members of PC asked clerk to contact highways to get sign replaced and enquire about 'SLOW' being painted on the road. Other highways issues to be reported are Northbrook Road and Buscott Lane – potholes. Fingerposts – posts across the county are being restored Clerk was asked to see if Shapwick would be included in this programme.

19/20/73 cont'd

Highways – Roadside willows are growing over the carriageway by the Hawk and Owl Trust – Clerk to report. Main Road – Some time ago Highways has agreed to clear debris build up at side of road this is still outstanding. The state of the abutting wall is a concern.

Verges – Several verges around the village have fly tipped rubbish. To be reported to SDC.

Neighbourhood Watch – Ken Wade has decided to resign from his role as village co-ordinator. A new co-ordinator to be found. Jerome Hayes asked the Clerk to send a thank you to Ken for the time and commitment he made to the role.

19/20/74

Finance

a) Requests for Funds Clerk asked PC members to consider the amount of the grant of be made to the St. Mary’s PCC this year. Brian Norris said the churchyard is looking much tidier and proposed that the grant be £500 again this year. Seconded by Sue Sellick. Unanimous.

b) Cheques for Signature Walton Press £164.00 (Chq 871, News printing), HMRC £143.00 (Chq 872, PAYE), Mrs S E Williams £496.24 (Chq 873, salary and expenses, Shapwick Community Playing Field Company Limited £10.00 (Chq 874, hire of pavilion), Shapwick Village Hall £300.00 (Chq 875, donation) and St. Mary’s PCC £500.00 (Chq 876, donation).

19/20/75

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting will be Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....