

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 21 January 2020
at 7.30pm at Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick

- 19/20/93 Present:** Brian Norris, Laura Anderson, Martin Davies, Jerome Hayes, Nigel Phillips, Sally Richardson and Sue Sellick
- 19/20/94 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 19/20/95 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable
3 members of the village
- 19/20/96 Apologies for Absence**
There were no apologies.
- 19/20/97 Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 November 2019**
The minutes were agreed and duly signed.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 19/20/98 County Councillors Reports**
County Cllr. David Huxtable reported that he had met with Katherine Tyson (Highways dept.) and the road markings will be repainted once the weather improves.
- HGV movements – County Cllr. David Huxtable enquired about HGV movements in the village – issue has not gone away and vehicle are getting larger – not suitable for rural roads. County Cllr. David Huxtable said that there is currently little that can be done but it would appear that Shapwick is not as badly affected as other local villages.
- 7.45pm Cllr. David Huxtable left the meeting.
- 19/20/99 Ditch and Drainage Maintenance**
Ditch maintenance works have been carried out and water remains free flowing. Access was granted to the Jenkins' field which enabled the clearance of one of the most significant ditches in the village drainage system. Clerk to write letter of thanks for permitting access.
- High Lane – during the clearance work it was noted that household waste water appeared to be entering the ditch. Clerk reported to environmental services but had received no reply at the date of the meeting.
- 19/20/100 Dog Fouling**
Whilst the PC wait for the dog warden to visit the village it was agreed to investigate possible signage and bins. Nigel Phillips agreed to source signage and bins and report back to the council.
- 19/20/101 Planning Application 43/19/0004 - Mendip View**
District Cllr. Duncan McGinty replied to the letter asking for action on the above. SDC has been working with the agent to get another application submitted. This has not happened therefore the case officer is considering enforcement action. Jerome Hayes questioned how enforcement works within district councils.

19/20/102 Housing Needs Project

Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk will be meeting with members of Othery PC to gain an insight into their experience of running a housing project,

19/20/103 2020/2021 Precept

Councillors reviewed the previously distributed precept calculations.

It was agreed that given the 2019/2020 precept had been sufficient to allow for the continuance of the drainage maintenance work alongside other annual commitments that there was no need to make any increase in the precept for the forthcoming year.

Brian Norris proposed that the precept be kept at £9,000. Seconded by Sue Sellick. Unanimous. Brian Norris signed the precept request paperwork. Clerk to inform SDC.

19/20/104 Memorial Bench

Enquiries into the siting of a memorial bench on the verge adjacent to Tracey Lockyer's field have thrown up a number of issues. A licence to site the bench is required as well as one for carrying out installation works close to the highway. Additionally, the process assumes the PC would be the owner of the bench and take full responsibility.

As a solution Brian Norris suggested that it is put to Tracey that she manoeuvres her fencing so that the bench sits on her land. Clerk to liaise with Tracey.

19/20/105 Fingerpost Restoration

Somerset County Council has facilitated a scheme whereby PCs can, under the guidance of SCC, carry out condition surveys and undertake certain maintenance and refurbishment of fingerposts using volunteers who have attended a training workshop. Any specialised works have to be carried out by qualified contractors with the work being paid for by the PC.

Volunteers need to be sought and registered for the workshop by 31 March 2020.

19/20/106 Village Sign

Quotes received were considered as well as advice given on type of stone. It was unanimously agreed that the maximum expenditure would be no more than £495. Chair to contact Ian Hale and discuss type of stone and costs and agree a way forward within the limit set.

19/20/107 Discussion on Replacement for the Willow Man

Jerome Hayes put before the Council a suggestion that Shapwick PC initiate a discussion within Sedgemoor and possibly beyond about seeking a replacement for the Willow Man sculpture which is in a poor state of repair.

Councillors were in agreement that this is a good idea – 'a gateway to the South West installation'. Brian Norris proposed that the Clerk write to District Councillor Duncan McGinty to put forward the idea. Seconded by Laura Anderson.

19/20/108 Litter Pick 2020

Date selected Sunday 2nd February 2020. The Pavilion has been booked – meet at 10.00am. Equipment and rubbish collection organised through Clean Surrounds. WI will provide refreshments. Clerk to put out signage prior to start. Jerome Hayes will collect rubbish on the day and leave at end of Orchard Way for collection by SDC.

19/20/109 Councillors' Reports

Highways – Northbrook Road - flooding on the section of road close to Sunflower Cottage continues. Highways have inspected and said that the drain is not a highway asset but a land drain. Landowner states it is not on their deeds. During in the recent freezing conditions at least two people have come off their bikes at this stretch of road. Clerk to alert Highways to this safety issue. High Lane – Clerk to chase Environmental Services regarding the household water in the ditch.

NHW – Two suspicious vehicles have been sighted in local villages and are possibly linked to a spate of burglaries. White Transit – partial plate VA16. Orange Honda CRV R445 YEE. Request to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.

Shapwick News – Has a new Facebook page – Shapwick Live and an Instagram page. Hoped to get an edition out in March/April – will initially be delivered to every household followed by copies to those who request one.

Telephone Telegraph Pole – Church Road – near Manor Farm entrance. Knocked down in a car accident. Has been reported and will be replaced.

19/20/110 Finance

a) Requests for Funds - None.

b) Cheques for Signature Shapwick Village Hall £28.00 (Chq 879, hall hire), HMRC £143.00 (Chq 880, PAYE), Mrs S E Williams £397.37 (Chq 881, salary and expenses), Cheque 882 CANCELLED and Spratt Plant Hire Limited £1,998.00 (Chq 883, Drainage maintenance work).

19/20/111 Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting will be Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....