

Shapwick Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting on Zoom held on 19 January 2021 at 7.00pm

- 20/21/69 Present:** Laura Anderson, Martin Davies, Jerome Hayes, Paul Rogers and Sue Sellick
- 20/21/70 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 20/21/71 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable
12 Villagers
- 20/21/72 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Phillips.
- 20/21/73 Parish Councillor Vacancies**
a) Vacancy for one Parish Councillor to be filled by Co-option
 Martin Davis reminded the meeting that there was a vacancy for one parish councillor. He was pleased to see two people had expressed an interest. Application forms from Lesley Gaskell and Paul Rogers had been circulated prior to the meeting. Martin Davis asked the candidates to introduce themselves to the meeting. Martin Davis called for nominations for co-option. Lesley Gaskell decided to withdraw her application until the next vacancy arises. Laura Anderson nominated Paul Rogers. Seconded by Sue Sellick. Unanimously agreed that Paul Rogers be co-opted to the Parish Council. Martin Davis welcomed Paul Rogers to the Parish Council and thanked Lesley Gaskell for her interest. Paul Rogers joined the meeting. Papers to be completed.
b) Resignation of Sally Richardson
 Sally Richardson has tendered her resignation from the Parish Council. The Returning Officer's notice of the vacancy has been posted. Should no election be requested the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Last date for such a request to be made is 28 January 2021.
- 20/21/74 Election of Vice Chairman**
 Martin Davis called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Laura Anderson put herself forward. Jerome Hayes proposed Laura Anderson. Seconded by Sue Sellick. There were no other nominations. Unanimously agreed that Laura Anderson is elected as Vice-Chair.
- 20/21/75 County Councillor's Report**
 David Huxtable said that the County Council is heavily involved in the Covid vaccination programme. 700+ staff have been deployed away from their usual roles to help with the programme. This means some services have reduced manpower at the moment.

 David Huxtable said he would chase Liam Gill of the Highways department on the Northbrook Road culvert matter.

 7.25pm David Huxtable left the meeting.
- 20/21/76 Minutes of the Meetings held on 17 November 2020 and 15 December 2020**
 Jerome Hayes asked what the outcome of the planning application considered on 15 December 2020 was. The application is under consideration with several consultee comments filed.
 The minutes were agreed and duly signed.

Villagers' Open Period

20/21/77

RLT3 Application – Shapwick and Polden Cricket Club

Shapwick and Polden Cricket Club has made a RLT3 Application to purchase a cylinder mower for preparation of the wickets for matches and are seeking a letter of support from the Parish Council.

Jerome Hayes declared an interest being a member of the cricket club and left the meeting. Paul Rogers declared he had been a member but had not been involved with the club for more than 18 months. Martin Davis asked councillors for comment – he said he was in favour of supporting the application as the cricket club has a wide catchment area and provides outdoor sports facilities from which many benefit. Martin Davis proposed a letter of support is written. Seconded by Sue Sellick. Unanimous. Clerk to write to Shapwick and Polden Cricket Club. Jerome Hayes re-joined the meeting.

20/21/78

Highways

a) Ditch and Drainage Maintenance Work

The agreed ditches and drainage courses have been cleared and the water is free flowing. Jerome Hayes reported that one issue had come to light during the recent work. When clearing the ditches near the Limekiln junction it was noted that one of the drains off Lippetts Way had concrete discharged into it. Back in the early Autumn a visual sighting of a Tor Concrete operative washing out their lorry had been noted in that area. Councillors agreed, due to the time lapse, an informal approach in the first instance is required. The chair agreed to contact the business and remind them of their responsibilities.

b) Northbrook Road culvert

Following a recent email from Liam Gill (Highways) stating the road was being monitored and that there had been no flooding the clerk has sent photos from 28 December and 16 January showing that the road is still flooding. The clerk has also asked for the matter to be escalated to FWAG. David Huxtable will also chase Liam Gill.

c) Fingerpost Restoration

One set of quotes had been obtained in the first instance. This is specialised work and the quote reflects this. Martin Davis said he thought a minimum of three quotes should be obtained. Laura Anderson said that consideration needed to be given to i. whether the Council wanted to recast the modern fingers or not and ii. the fingerpost in the village has other signage attached to it and what becomes of this signage needs to be taken into account.

d) Other Highway Matters

Northbrook Road/Buscott Lane has been reported to Highways as in a poor state of repair.

20/21/79

Front Foot Shapwick

Members of the Parish Council recorded receipt of the minutes from the Front Foot Shapwick meeting and that results of the survey carried out by the group have been distributed to all members of the village.

Open Session

Mike Beale confirmed every household has received a copy of the survey results. He said he would welcome the Parish Council and Front Foot Shapwick working together and invited members to attend the next meeting of the group on 20 January 2021.

Teresa King said the group had received a good response to the survey and was now considering next steps. She said she would like to see the Parish Council and group working together.

Closed Session

20/21/80

Villager Requests/Village Projects**a) Planting of Verges**

Laura Anderson reported that the Parish Council had received a 25kg sack of bulbs which have been planted around the village. The verge in Main Road opposite the school has been earmarked for planting with wild flowers. Currently working out a plan of action to include consideration of watering requirements. The clerk asked for confirmation that SDC, as owners of the verge, have been consulted. Laura Anderson said approval has been given.

b) Defibrillator for the Village

A villager has offered a donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the village. Sue Sellick reported that when allowed to do so the British Heart Foundation will come out and give advice. Sue Sellick she had contacted other villages who have defibrillators for advice. Jerome Hayes asked whether specific training is required – although some training is given a defibrillator can be used by members of the public using instructions given by the machine. The clerk reminded councillors previously Shapwick and Polden Cricket Club had been interested in having the defibrillator in an outside cabinet at the clubhouse and she would contact them again. Paul Rogers said he would contact Woolavington village as he knew they have defibrillator.

c) Request to find Land for Allotments

The Parish Council has received a request from villagers to find land for allotments. Laura Anderson and the clerk outlined previous attempts to source land and the barriers that were faced. Jerome Hayes asked whether Messrs. Gibbons had been contacted last time as he thought they may have suitable land. He said allotments would create a positive community feel/focus. It was agreed that Messrs. Gibbons would be contacted first before considering landowners previously contacted.

Open Session

Jo Wright thanked Jerome Hayes for his positivity and said that allotments would have a real impact on the community. She said she could provide the Parish Council with rules on allotments.

Ben Ruffell asked whether the previously offered land on the other side of the A39 had been considered. Jerome Hayes said he thought use of this land would be problematical. Geoff Ballard asked the Parish Council to consider approaching the Estate for land that could be let on a commercial basis.

Closed Session**d) Polden Neighbourhood Watch Group Co-ordinator**

As no volunteer had come forward Sue Sellick said she would put her name forward as the contact for the time being.

e) Litter Pick

Due to current lockdown rules it is not possible to carry out the annual group village litter pick. It was agreed that Clean Surroundings would be contacted to ask to borrow some litter pickers so that villagers could be persuaded to do their bit. Parish Council to provide black bags.

20/21/81

HGVs through Shapwick

The clerk reported that no further correspondence has been received on this matter. Portfolio holders at SCC are not engaging/responding to letters/emails sent. It was agreed that, with all avenues having been explored, to take the item off the agenda for now and see what the next few months bring.

20/21/82

Frequency of Meetings

Martin Davis asked Councillors to consider, for the time being, to hold meetings more regularly to maintain momentum on some of the agenda items. Sue Sellick proposed the Parish Council meet once a month with a review in the summer. Seconded by Paul Rogers. Unanimous.

20/21/83

Councillors Reports

Sue Sellick reported that a stile on the footpath at High Lane needs repair. Clerk to report.

Paul Rogers noted that there has been an increase in fly tipping on the periphery of the village. Jerome Hayes said not to approach any fly tippers but to take number plate details if possible and report to SDC. It was agreed to put a note on the Shapwick Residents Facebook page to make villagers aware of where they can report an incidences of fly tipping.

Potholes on Chestnut Lane to be reported to Highways.

20/21/84

Finance

a) Precept 2021/2022

Councillors reviewed the previously distributed precept calculations.

It was agreed that given the current economic climate and that the 2020/2021 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.

Sue Sellick proposed that the precept be kept at £9,000. Seconded by Jerome Hayes. Unanimous. Clerk to inform SDC

b) Cheques for Signature HMRC £143.00 (Chq 903, PAYE) and Mrs S E Williams £504.74 (Chq 904, salary (Parish Councillors unanimously agreed the NALC 2020-2021 national salary award be applied) and expenses (includes Christmas tree)).

20/21/85

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting will be 16 February 2021.

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

Signed.....

Date.....