

Shapwick Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting on Zoom held on 16 March 2021 at 7.00pm

- 20/21/100 Present:** Laura Anderson, Graham Croucher, Martin Davies, Lesley Gaskell, Nigel Phillips and Paul Rogers
- 20/21/101 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 20/21/102 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable
7 Villagers
- 20/21/103 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Sue Sellick.
- 20/21/104 Vacancy for one Parish Councillor to be filled by Co-option**
Martin Davis called for nominations for co-option. Graham Croucher put his name forward. Laura Anderson nominated Graham Croucher. Seconded by Lesley Gaskell. There being no other nominations it was unanimously agreed that Graham Croucher be co-opted to the Parish Council. Martin Davis welcomed Graham Croucher to the Parish Council. Graham Croucher joined the meeting. Papers to be completed.
- 20/21/105 Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 February 2021**
The minutes were agreed and duly signed.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 20/21/106 County Councillor's Report**
David Huxtable said that the County Council continues to be heavily involved in the Covid vaccination programme. David Huxtable reported that there will be no County Council election this year – this is because the Secretary of State is currently deliberating over which type of authority is the way forward – One Somerset (single unitary council) or Stronger Somerset (two new councils).
- David Huxtable took questions from those present. Martin Davis asked for clarity on an email response David Huxtable had made to a parishioner containing the comment 'there will be some development on this site' (*school field*). David Huxtable confirmed that to his knowledge he is not aware of any proposals to build on the field and he clarified that his comment was stating that **IF** there was any development on the school field traffic calming measures would have to be put in place – any developer would be asked for an infrastructure levy.
- Martin Davis reminded the meeting that the results of the survey carried out by FFSCG showed the majority of villagers are opposed to development on the field.
- Martin Davis commented that HGVs remain an issue and asked David Huxtable if there was a mechanism to get the operation moved. David Huxtable said there is no legal recourse and felt that all avenues have been exhausted. David Huxtable said a weight limit would be ineffective as the HGVs would be permitted to use the road on the grounds of access to the plant. Currently the burden is shared between several villages – David Huxtable warned that if any village were to be successful in diverting the HGVs there would be a knock on effect for other and felt it is fairer to share the burden.

20/21/107 Highways**a) Fingerpost Restoration**

Feedback from the Traffic Engineer reported due to the rules surrounding signage it is not possible to relocate the post with the brown visitors signs on. Laura Anderson asked the Clerk to find out if the village hall sign, currently affixed to the fingerpost, could be added to the post with the brown signs.

Whilst this information is gathered Councillors were asked to consider which of the options in the quote should be proposed.

b) Other Highway Matters

Northbrook Road culvert remains free flowing.

Potholes in the village have been filled but the works are somewhat patchy. David Huxtable said he thought that the patching is an emergency repair and that a machine laid surface will follow at a later date.

7.25pm David Huxtable left the meeting

20/21/108 Front Foot Shapwick Community Group**a) Update from FFSCG Meeting**

Lesley Gaskell attended the latest meeting of the group and reported the following back to the Council.

- Anthea Beale had been corresponding with Historic England and has secured the listing of the pillars at the entrance to the school field. The pillars have been placed in the same listing as the ones to the main entrance of the Manor House.
- An application has been made to SDC for the School Field to be registered on the Community Right to Bid register
- The group would be meeting with SDC to seek pre-planning advice
- The group are looking at funding streams and are considering the formation of a community land trust
- The group discussed Village Design Statement and it was concluded that this falls within the remit of the Parish Council as to whether the VDS is updated or replaced by a Neighbourhood Plan.

7.30pm Paul Rogers joined the meeting

Open Session

Martin Davis invited Steve Campion to speak on behalf of the group.

Steve Campion reported:

- Five members of FFSCG had met virtually with SDC planning to seek pre-planning advice on what policies would apply if the land were purchased by the group and also to gain an insight into what policies would apply if a developer bought the site. Generally all planning policy, because Shapwick is Tier 4 settlement, is against large scale development and some is against small scale development. Currently phosphates on the levels are an issue when considering developments.
- The group have made an application for inclusion on the community right to bid register – the field is set out in the VDS as an open space to be protected and the results of the survey backed this. The application will go before a panel in April and if successful stays on the register for 5 years – it doesn't exclude small scale development nor does it prevent the sale to another interested party. It gives a moratorium period of 6 months for the group to seek to purchase – the caveat is that the owner could ignore this.

Martin Davis asked about how funds would be raised. Steve Campion said there was good news in the recent budget in the Community Ownership Fund. A fund raising sub-committee has been set up to explore funding avenues. There is useful information on the My Community website.

20/21/108 cont'd

Graham Croucher said establishment of prior use is important. Steve Campion said information is being gathered.

Steve Campion said that the group are starting to draw up plans of what the field might look like.

Closed Session**b) Right to Bid Application**

Martin Davis asked Councillors to give their comments on the request from SDC to comment on the bid application.

Martin Davis said he was in support of the application. Nigel Phillips said he thought it was a positive step and PC should give its support. Lesley Gaskell said that she supported the group's effort to get the land registered. Paul Rogers agreed with previous comments and said it was important to protect the field. Laura Anderson said she supported the application. Graham Croucher said he was in support.

Nigel Phillips proposed that the PC support the application. Seconded by Lesley Gaskell. Unanimous. Clerk to inform SDC.

20/21/109**Villager Requests/Village Projects****a) Defibrillator for the Village**

Sue Sellick has continued researching options. The next stage is to invite the cricket club to the next Parish Council meeting as the defibrillator will need to be sited at the ground.

Lesley Gaskell asked if funding had been considered and wondered whether the cricket club maybe able to access funding.

Open Session

A villager said that in recent weeks she had needed to call an ambulance and the operator had asked her to get the village defibrillator while she waited for the crew. She had to report that the village did not currently have a defibrillator.

Closed Session**b) Request to find Land for Allotments**

Nothing further to report. Finding suitable land is once again the stumbling block.

Lesley Gaskell said that if the school field were purchased there is scope for allotments as part of the plans.

c) HGVs

The PC had received a request from a villager to consider asking the operator to limit the hours of operation.

Graham Croucher asked whether a face to face conversation with the owner had taken place to establish a relationship. Laura Anderson said she thought as long as the owner is operating within the law there is little that can be done. Lesley Gaskell said if planning permission has been granted there is not much the PC can do. Martin Davis said he was not sure if a face to face meeting was the answer. For the time being it was agreed to monitor the situation.

20/21/110**Councillors' Reports**

Footpaths – nothing new to report.

FFSCG – see 20/21/108

Highways – Paul Rogers reported that a 50mph sign on Wood Lane has been hit and needs repair. Clerk to report.

20/21/110 cont'd

Verges – Laura Anderson reported that work is on-going regarding the wildflower verge planting. Graham Croucher said a post has been made on Facebook Shapwick Residents page and that shortly a decision on which site will be required.

Martin Davis asked whether appropriate permission has been sought. It was confirmed that highways have been contacted.

Farming – Firstly, Martin Davis reported the death of Mr Jenkins. Secondly, Angela Jenkins informed the chair of an increase in lost livestock caused by dog fouling on footpaths crossing their land. It was agreed to purchase some more signs which the PC will erect. Also a notice will be placed on noticeboard and Facebook reminding dog owners to 'bag it and bin it'.

20/21/111 **Communication with Villagers**

In the absence of Shapwick News it was agreed the best way to communicate with villagers is by posting on the Shapwick Residents Facebook page and on the PC website.

20/21/112 **Finance**

a) Bank Mandate

Mandate form is in the process of being completed. There have been some technical issues with the electronic form so it has been decided to revert to a paper copy.

b) Cheques for Signature

None while mandate is sorted.

20/21/113 **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next PC meeting will be 20 April 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....