

# Shapwick Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting on Zoom held on 27 April 2021 at 7.00pm

**20/21/114 Present:** Laura Anderson, Graham Croucher, Martin Davies, Lesley Gaskell, Paul Rogers and Sue Sellick

**20/21/115 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)

**20/21/116 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable  
Mr and Mrs O'Brien  
5 Villagers

**20/21/117 Apologies for Absence**  
There were no apologies for absence.

**20/21/118 Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 March 2021**  
The minutes were agreed and duly signed.

## Villagers' Open Period

**20/21/119 County Councillor's Report**  
David Huxtable reported that the work relating to the road closure on the A39 is nearing completion. Work is being carried out to remove trees that have succumbed to ash dieback. He noted that the diversions have caused some inconvenience in the surrounding villages.  
Lesley Gaskell asked Cllr Huxtable if the leaning 50mph road sign in Wood Lane would be repaired. It was reported that the Traffic Engineer is aware of the sign and it will be attended to in due course.

7.08pm Cllr. David Huxtable left the meeting.

**20/21/120 Planning Applications**  
**a) 43/21/00001 17 Northbrook Drive, Shapwick - Erection of single storey extension to rear (South) elevation on site of existing single storey extension (to be demolished). Conversion of part existing garage to form home office.**

### Open Session

Martin Davis asked the applicant to explain the plans. Mr O'Brien told the meeting that the current conservatory is in a poor state of repair. It is proposed to demolish the conservatory and replace with a single storey extension which has a slightly larger footprint. A partition wall is to be erected in the garage to form a home office. The door and window in the garage will be replaced.

No questions from villagers present.

### Closed Session

Martin Davis asked councillors for comment.

Lesley Gaskell, Paul Rogers and Sue Sellick said they had no objections. Laura Anderson said she thought the proposals are in keeping with the existing property and would enhance the use of the family home. No neighbours will be affected.

Martin Davis said he had no objections and agreed with the comments made by Laura Anderson.

Martin Davis proposed the Parish Council support the application. Seconded by Laura Anderson. Unanimous. Clerk to inform SDC.

## 20/21/120 cont'd

**b) 43/21/00002 Kent Farm, Shapwick - Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwelling and associated works.**

Martin Davis asked Councillors to comment.

Lesley Gaskell said the Parish Council should await the determination of the planning officer.

Martin Davis said that there have been many applications relating to Kent Farm which could have a bearing on the outcome decision for this application.

Laura Anderson asked whether the Parish Council should ask for a change of use application but that SDC would be best placed to determine this.

Martin Davis proposed that the Parish Council defer to SDC for whether the building meets the requirements for permitted development rights but to draw the planning officer's attention to earlier planning applications. Seconded Laura Anderson.

Unanimous. Clerk to inform SDC.

## 20/21/121

**Front Foot Shapwick Community Group****a) Update from FFSCG Meeting**

Lesley Gaskell reported that she attended a meeting of the group on 25 March 2021.

The group has sought pre-planning advice from SDC the report from which has been shared with Councillors – the feedback was positive and it is unlikely that consent for planning on the field would be granted. The group asked the planning officer the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) vs. a Village Design Statement (VDS). Due to the size of the settlement a NHP would not be appropriate for Shapwick. It would be up to members of the Parish Council to agree whether a revision of the VDS is desirable.

The group have been looking at Community Land Trusts and have been speaking to others regarding their experience of the same.

The Asset of Community Value application has been submitted.

When Covid restrictions allow the group plan to hold a village meeting to get the village involved.

**Open Session**

Steve Champion reported that the deadline for the asset of community value has been extended as SDC are having difficulty contacting the owner. Additionally more information on previous community use is required. The extension ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Closed Session**

## 20/21/122

**Villager Requests/Village Projects****a) Wild Flower Verges**

Graham Croucher reported that seeds have been planted. There is some outstanding paperwork relating to a licence still to be finalised. Volunteers for help with watering would be welcomed. Currently looking into an education panel/sign to enhance the project.

**b) Defibrillator for the Village**

Sue Sellick reported that she had registered interests with various grant sources.

Lesley Gaskell asked if a suitable location be found would the Parish Council be prioritising the purchase when considering project costings.

Sue Sellick said, after purchase is taken into consideration, the running costs are minimal. Purchase costs vary but the most important factor is to get the right one for the village and professional advice would be sought.

Graham Croucher said it is important to find out how long defibrillators last before a replacement purchase is required.

**20/21/122 cont'd****Open Session**

Steve Champion said that Shapwick Runners Committee would be willing to donate some funds from the 2022 Bunny Hop towards the cost/upkeep of the defibrillator.

**Closed Session**

Martin Davis asked Steve Champion to thank the committee for this generous offer. He asked Councillors to confirm that purchase of a defibrillator should be prioritised above other projects. Unanimously agreed. It was agreed that the ideal location is at the pavilion and a meeting with members of the Shapwick Playing Field Company Limited is to be held within the next week or so.

**c) Request to find land for Allotments**

No further information to update. Finding suitable land remains the issue. Lesley Gaskell said that the forthcoming meeting with the Estate could be a solution. Laura Anderson requested that the minutes reflect that the Parish Council acknowledges a need for land for allotments, as requested by villagers, but that until suitable land has been found no further progress can be made.

**20/21/123****Highways****a) Fingerpost Restoration**

Paul Rogers reported that he had measured the brown sign at the crossroads as requested by the Traffic Engineer. The Traffic Engineer is doubtful as to whether the village hall sign can be moved from the finger post to the adjacent post. Lesley Gaskell said she thought restoration of the fingerposts should be secondary to obtaining a defibrillator for the village. Graham Croucher asked what was driving the restoration project. Martin Davis explained it had been suggested by a villager on preservation grounds - many other villages have completed such projects but as specialists are required it comes at a cost. Laura Anderson said previously the PC had asked villagers to get involved with a volunteer role in the work but no one had come forward. It was agreed to pause any further deliberations until after the costs for the defibrillator are known.

**b) Matters to be reported to Highways**

Drain near cricket club/old post office needs reporting. Poor road marking throughout the village need addressing.

19.54pm Martin Davis left the meeting

**20/21/124****Return to Face to Face Meetings**

From 8 May 2021 Parish Councils are required to return to face to face meetings. Two venues were suggested – the Village Hall and the Pavilion. Laura Anderson asked what safety measures would need to be put in place. Paul Rogers volunteered to carry out a Covid risk assessment of the Village Hall .

8.00pm Martin Davis returned to the meeting.

Graham Croucher asked if there would be a liability risk if rules not adhered to. Laura Anderson suggested if the weather is good meetings could be held outside.

Once the risk assessment has been completed any necessary actions can be put in place.

**20/21/125****Councillors' Reports**

Nothing further to report.

**20/21/126 Resignation of Nigel Phillips**

Nigel Phillips has tendered his 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 13 May 2021. Clerk to send letter of thanks for time and commitment Nigel Phillips gave to the Parish Council.

**20/21/127 Finance**

**a) Bank Mandate**

NatWest Bank has confirmed they are in receipt of the mandate form and it is currently being processed.

**b) Cheques for Signature**

None while mandate is sorted.

**20/21/128 Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next PC meeting will be 25 May 2021 – this will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

