

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 16 November 2021
at 7.00pm at Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick

- 21/22/68 Present:** Laura Anderson, Graham Croucher, Martin Davis, Lesley Gaskell, Sally Richardson and Sue Sellick
- 21/22/69 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 21/22/70 Also Present:** County Councillor David Huxtable
32 Villagers
- 21/22/71 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Paul Rogers.
- 21/22/72 Statement from Chair of Parish Council**
 Martin Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 Martin Davis apologised for requesting that the Parish Meeting held on 8 November 2021 was not recorded. He said he made the request with GDPR in mind but now realises this was incorrect.
 Martin Davis said he was disappointed in the way people are being treated and handed the clerk a letter stating his resignation from the Parish Council saying he felt he could no longer chair the meetings. Martin Davis left the table and joined the members of the public.

 Laura Anderson thanked Martin for his time whilst a Parish Councillor.

 In the absence of a chair, in her position as Vice-Chair, Laura Anderson took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.
- 21/22/73 Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items**
No declarations were made.
- 21/22/74 Recording of Dispensations Granted**
Prior to the Parish Meeting Martin Davis had been granted a dispensation in relation to the proposed Mill Lane development. As Martin Davis has resigned from the Parish Council the dispensation is no longer required.
- 21/22/75 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September**
The minutes were agreed and duly signed.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 21/22/76 District and County Councillors Reports**
County Councillor David Huxtable reported that once again his monthly report was dominated by Covid. Case numbers have been higher in the last three weeks than at any other time during the pandemic. Hospitals are full. Currently seeing more young unvaccinated people amongst the seriously ill Covid patients in hospital. This is having a knock on effect on the numbers presenting at A&E with other non-Covid issues. Lack of care in the community spaces is slowing the release of patients from hospital.

Somerset County Council has put in a bid with the government for £163m to improve bus services in the county. Taunton is the only county town without a bus station.

21/22/76 cont'd

David Huxtable asked if there were any questions from the floor. Lesley Gaskell asked if there were any further updates on the Ashcott bypass. David Huxtable said it has been accepted as a bid and that the county council have put money aside to carry out the pre-planning survey.

Frank Barnard asked what the county council position is on a planning application at Westhay for Peat extraction on 16 acres of the Somerset Levels. David Huxtable said generally these are historic licences that are periodically reviewed and that it might just be a renewal. He said in general locals tolerate the peat industry as 'when it's gone it's gone'. However, more recently peat companies have been using premises for other uses. He said the county council would not grant any new applications. Frank Barnard said he believed this was a new application which is against government policy.

Steve Campion asked about the proposed route for the Ashcott bypass. David Huxtable said it would start near McDonald's in Street – run along the valley behind Lockhill Hall crossing the A39 between the Pipers public house and Ashcott before sweeping up near the Albion public house.

Laura Anderson drew attention to the potholes on Wood Lane – LHS on leaving Shapwick towards the A39. David Huxtable said to log using the SCC system.

7.25 pm David Huxtable left the meeting.

21/22/78**Drainage and Ditch Maintenance**

Martin Davis and Paul Rogers have surveyed the ditches and drainage around the village and produced a report. Report to be circulated for review to determine work to be carried out on this year's maintenance cycle.

21/22/78**Community Christmas Tree**

Clerk said that someone with access to trailer is required to collect a tree. Martin Davis volunteered to do this. Martin Davis has the stand for the tree. Lights are in the cupboard on the church. Clerk to liaise with Martin Davis re. Purchase and church re. Erection of tree in churchyard.

21/22/79**Parish Poll**

The clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Poll would be held in the village hall on 2nd December 2021 4pm to 9pm. There will be no poll cards. This is an in person poll – no postal votes. The poll will be advertised in the normal way. The proposer and the Chair of the Parish Council will be invited to attend the count after the poll closes.

21/22/80**Parish Council Policy re: Pre-application Planning Meetings and Working Parties**

Graham Croucher said he wanted to establish a good practice policy for working parties and pre-application planning meetings. His suggestion was that contemporaneous notes be made which would form the basis of feedback at the next available Parish Council meeting when formal minutes would record feedback.

Laura Anderson asked whether councillors wanted to vote now or leave to next meeting. Lesley Gaskell said that the position would not be any different at the next meeting so a vote now would be appropriate.

Graham Croucher proposed that contemporaneous notes should be made at working parties and pre-application meetings which would form the basis of feedback at the next available Parish Council meeting when formal minutes would record feedback.

Seconded by Sally Richardson. Unanimous.

21/22/81

Village Community Plan

Lesley Gaskell said that discussion of ideas would be informed by the result of the forthcoming Parish Poll and Housing Need Survey.
It was suggested to hold an additional Parish Council meeting after the result of the poll is known.

Provisional date for next meeting – 13 December 2021 – at the Pavilion.

21/22/82

Councillors' Reports

Sewage Pumping Station – Graham Croucher asked for this item to be returned to the agenda as recent heavy rainfall had re-highlighted the ongoing issues at the far end of Station Road and he volunteered to liaise with Wessex Water and report back at the next meeting.

21/22/83

Finance

a) Cheques for Signature Held over until December meeting. Lesley Gaskell's signatory authorisation to be confirmed.

21/22/84

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting will be 13 December 2021 7.00pm in the Pavilion and 18 January 2022 Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed..... Date.....