

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 15 March 2022
at 7.00pm at The Village Hall Shapwick

- 21/22/144 Present:** Laura Anderson, Graham Croucher, Moray McGowan, Paul Rogers and Frank Barnard
- 21/22/145 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 21/22/146 Also Present:** 12 Villagers
Jason Goddard and Neil Gage (Dovecote School)
- 21/22/147 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Lesley Gaskell
- 21/22/148 Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items**
No declarations were made.
- 21/22/149 Vacancy for two Parish Councillors to be filled by Co-option**
Graham Croucher explained that Sally Richardson had resigned between meetings which when added to Sue Sellick's earlier resignation gives way for two vacancies to be filled by co-option.
Graham Croucher called for nominations for co-option. Frank Barnard put his name forward and introduced himself to the meeting. Laura Anderson nominated Frank Barnard. Seconded by Moray McGowan. There being no other nominations it was unanimously agreed that Frank Barnard be co-opted to the Parish Council. Graham Croucher welcomed Frank Barnard to the Parish Council. Frank Barnard joined the meeting. Clerk to liaise regarding papers for completion.
- 21/22/150 Update from Dovecote School**
Jason Goddard addressed the meeting and thanked the village community for its support. A lot of work is taking place to get the school ready for opening in September – internal decoration, ensuring the building is sound, employment of staff etc. Shapwick and Polden Cricket Club are helping to maintain the grounds. Jason Goddard asked that dog walkers refrain from walking their dogs on the school playing field. Fencing will shortly be installed on the part of the field nearest the school in preparation for the introduction of a small holding.
DfE registration is complete and Ofsted will be visiting in April.
The school website <https://dovecoteschool.co.uk/> is now live.
The school are keen to be involved in the Shapwick Community Project.
- 7.15pm Jason Goddard and Neil Gage left the meeting.
- 21/22/151 Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 January 2022, 1 February 2022 and 17 February 2022**
The minutes were agreed and duly signed. Proposed by Paul Rogers. Seconded by Moray McGowan.
Laura Anderson drew attention to the fact that although permission has been granted for Planning Application 43/21/00015 The Pavilion - Proposed installation of 22no. solar panels to the West and South West roof, formation of new patio to the East elevation with disabled access and boundary fence the solar panels would not be installed at the moment as there is no funding available for the project.

Villagers' Open Period

21/22/152 District and County Councillors Reports

Neither councillors were present at the meeting.
The clerk had received an email from the County Councillor which indicates that Chipmunks are leaving the Godwin's site at Burtle.

21/22/153 Ditch and Drainage Maintenance Programme

Paul Rogers reported that he had been round the village with local contractor Ken Marsh to survey the ditch and drainage system with the view to putting together a quote/action plan. The height of the embankments is contributing to the flooding issues as natural water cannot soak away due to the compact nature of the banks. The banks need skimming – it will be a costly exercise and will take several years to sort the whole drainage network.

The quote obtained will be used for comparison against others when they are received.

The contractor also drew the council's attention to the fact that if farmers are to remove the spoil then they must have a waste licence.

Aim is to start October/November 2022. Village is to be mapped to determine the plan of action. The agreed approach is to work on a case by case basis starting with the most badly affected areas first.

Frank Barnard noted that villagers are putting grass cuttings in the ditches which is not helping the situation.

Paul Rogers asked for suggestions of other contractors to approach to provide a quote. Frank Barnard suggested contacting other Paris Councils.

21/22/154 Highways

a) Matters to report to Highways

Culvert, Northbrook Road – continuing to deteriorate. History of correspondence with Highways on this. Paul Rogers to chase/gain clarification.

Speed of Vehicles through the village – A villager has raised concerns about the apparent increase in the number of vehicles speeding through the village – particularly pertinent with the opening of Dovecote School.

Graham Croucher said two options to consider are: i) Speed Indicator Device and ii) Speedgun.

Frank Barnard said that when the HGV survey was carried out the results showed that speeding was not a major problem.

Open Period

Mike Beale said Main Road and Station Road are affected and it is a worry with a school opening.

Laura Anderson said previous SIDs did not demonstrate a speed problem within the village as well as saying volunteers did not come forward to take part in the speedgun training.

21/22/154 cont'd

Frank Barnard said younger drivers have not modified their behaviour now more cars on the road following lockdown.

Mike Beale asked what the process was when volunteers operate the speed gun – registration number is given to police and driver gets a letter.

Mike Beale also asked about the cost of a speed camera. Mike Motum suggested speed bumps. Matt Barnett reminded everyone that Shapwick is an agricultural village and farmers need to go about their business.

Closed Session

Action – Parish Councillors agreed to investigate having the SID back for a period of time as well as speed gun training.

b) Verges

It was noted that the buddleia on Church Road needs pruning. Paul Rogers volunteered the use of a van to take away the clippings. Laura Anderson agreed to prune the buddleia.

Wildflower area has been planted with bulbs and some reseeding will be carried out.

Ash dieback – it has been noted there appears to be some affected trees growing in the hedgerow on Lippetts Way. It was agreed to ask Lesley Gaskell to identify trees. Graham Croucher suggested as a health and safety exercise it would be prudent to survey the whole village for affected trees.

c) Dog Waste Bins

In response to a request from a villager to consider the installation of dog waste bins around the village councillors reviewed quotes received from Clean Surrounds. Laura Anderson said she felt it is the dog owner's responsibility to dispose of any waste and that bins would not solve the problem. Paul Rogers said there would be no benefit from one bin and where would it be located. Frank Barnard said he felt generally there was not a problem and bins are not necessary. Laura Anderson said there are general litter bins around the village.

Councillors agreed unanimously not to pursue the matter any further.

21/22/155**Queen's Platinum Jubilee****a) Plant a Tree**

Thanks to Paul Rogers for collecting the two hawthorn trees. The trees have been planted in the churchyard. Hawthorn trees were chosen as they are resistant to honey fungus and are good for wildlife.

b) Memento for children of the village

Moray McGowan reported it has been agreed to purchase a commemorative coin for the village's children of primary school age and below.

In response to the flyer asking parents to register their children so far only 12 have come forward. It was agreed to re-advertise on the residents page with a deadline of the end of March.

Frank Barnard asked how the children would receive their coin. At an event was a popular choice.

21/22/155 cont'd

c) Other Events

The WI has indicated that as they will be supporting the Shapwick Jam event on 10 June that they would not be able to organise a picnic for the Jubilee.

Moray McGowan asked whether it would be possible to combine the two events. Laura Anderson said the Jam is generally a two part event – free in the afternoon with a ticket event in the evening.

It was agreed that Moray McGowan would liaise with the WI and the Shapwick Jam committee to see whether it is possible to combine an afternoon event.

21/22/156 Land behind the Village Hall

The clerk had received an email from Bill Robbins saying that the Estate now has all the information it requires to determine the land and that the trustees were meeting at the end of February. He also sought confirmation that the Parish Council, when the land is eventually gifted, would hold the land in a Community Land Trust.

Frank Barnard asked about the planning attached to the gifting of the land. The clerk said the email did not make it clear one way or another what route the Estate planned to take. Frank Barnard said he thought the Estate should just give the land to the village. Paul Rogers reminded those present that the trustees see the trust as a business and therefore have to act in the best interest of the trust (maximising funds for the trustees).

The clerk was asked to follow up with Bill Robbins for clarification.

21/22/157 Village Community Plan

Graham Croucher reported that a scoping/initial meeting of interested organisations from the village had taken place. From this initial meeting it was agreed to:

- Revive Shapwick News
- Carry out a community survey the results of which will shape the direction of the project
- Produce an interim newsletter about the meeting

Graham Croucher asked for suggestion about the name of the project. Agreed Shapwick Community Group – 'Shaping Shapwick'.

21/22/158 Parish Council Election

Nomination papers were handed out. Seven Parish Council seats are available. Date of election, if contested, 5 May 2022.

Moray McGowan said he had attended a Unitary Authority training which detailed Local Community Networks – Moray McGowan to find out more information.

21/22/159 Councillors' Reports

Thanks to the villager who has repainted the fingerposts and repaired the village sign. It was also noted that a group of villagers are keeping the village litter free by regular litter picking – thanks to this group.

Frank Barnard suggested that the three remaining copies of 'Drawing Somerset's Past' be donated as follows:

One each to Ashcott Primary School, Catcott Primary School and Dovecote School to be donated on behalf of the Parish Council.

21/22/160

Finance

a) Cheques for Signature Shapwick Community Playing Field Company Limited £20.00 (Chq 931, Pavilion hire), Information Commissioner £40.00 (Chq 932, Fee), HMRC £97.80 (Chq 933, PAYE Months 11-12), and Mrs S Williams £489.35 (Chq 934, Salary and expenses)

21/22/161

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) will be 17 May 2022 in the Village Hall and will follow the Annual Village Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

