

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 5 July 2022
at 7.00pm at Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick

- 22/23/34 Present:** Steve Campion, Graham Croucher, Lesley Gaskell and Moray McGowan
- 22/23/35 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 22/23/36 Also Present:** 1 Villager
- 22/23/37 Apologies for Absence**
 Apologies were received from Frank Barnard, Paul Rogers and County Councillors Matt Martin and Harry Munt
- 22/23/38 Declarations of Interest**
 There were no declarations of interest.
- 22/23/24 Co-Option to fill Vacancy for one Councillor**
 The vacancy continues to be advertised but to date no one has expressed an interest. Lesley Gaskell said it would be a good idea to advertise through the Parish Council Facebook page. Graham Croucher said he would include the vacancy in his Shapwick News article.
- 22/23/39 Minutes of the Meetings held on 17 May 2022, 24 May 2022 and 21 June 2022**
 The minutes were agreed and duly signed.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 22/23/40 District and County Councillors Reports**
 Neither present so no reports were given.
- 22/23/41 Consultation on Sedgemoor Open Space Assessment**
 Parish Councillors had reviewed the consultation document prior to the meeting. Graham Croucher said that this is an important document to respond to and that the Parish Council response would need to reflect a different view of the land behind the village hall. Currently Shapwick lacks allotments and a children's play area.
- Councillors considered draft wording prepared by Steve Campion.
- There are three areas of open space of particular interest to the village.
- The land behind the village hall
 - The Shapwick and Polden Cricket field
 - The 'old parklands and gardens' of Shapwick House
- Land Behind the Village Hall
 Lesley Gaskell said that the wording of the response would be important in light of the statement of support given to the Vestey Estate in relation to this land.
- Steve Campion said the fact that the land behind the village hall is protected by Policy D32 gives the Parish Council a strong bargaining position.

22/23/41 cont'd

Lesley Gaskell said that the response should show prescriptive support for D32 subject to the gift of the remaining land for the village and include the statement in response to development.

Steve Champion said that SDC may say that commenting on development is premature as no planning application currently exists.

Moray McGowan said under the current D32 policy SDC could say no to any development.

Lesley Gaskell said there would only be Parish Council support if there was a gain for the village. The response needs to clarify that support for relaxation of D32 would not be given if there is no gain for the village.

Graham Croucher said improvement of facilities could come with any planning application.

Steve Champion said the D32 is very important and would give the Parish Council important input at the planning stage.

Lesley Gaskell said the gift of the land must have a S106 agreement or similar attached.

Having taken consideration of the discussion points raised it was agreed to include the following as part of the response in relation to the land behind the village hall and its D32 status.

The Parish Council has been in discussions with the current owners about the future of this space and in principle Shapwick Parish Council is willing to support development on a small area within the D32 area provided that the remaining land is transferred to the Parish which would enable it to fulfil the aims of the Sedgemoor Strategy.

Shapwick and Polden Cricket Field

It was noted that the pitch is used by senior, junior and ladies cricket teams and that there has been positive collaboration between the cricket club and Dovecote to use the school field as well for a much needed second pitch.

Lesley Gaskell questioned whether it was necessary to include information about the Asset of Community Value application in relation to the school field as the school was now under new ownership.

Steve Champion said that although the application had failed it is an important part of the open space debate within Shapwick.

Councillors agreed the final wording of the response to be submitted to Sedgemoor DC as:

Shapwick Parish Council welcomes the assessment and its intentions for preserving and enhancing Open Space where it is under-provided in Sedgemoor, so long as it is not achieved by reducing the Open Space in areas which happen to be well provided. We endorse the approach of supporting the health and wellbeing agenda and enhancing open spaces. Shapwick is a great example of a village supporting these priorities in Sedgemoor.

During the period of the development of this assessment a number of initiatives have occurred worthy of note for some of the open spaces designated in Shapwick's own Village Design Statement.

1. Village Green (2 fields bounded by the Village Hall and Church). This is one of only 11 designated areas in your assessment across Sedgemoor with D32 "open areas protected from development". This remains an important space for the village, used in the last year for Jubilee celebrations, the annual Shapwick Bunny Hop

22/23/41 cont'd

trail race finish, the "Shapwick Jam" music festival as well as informal use by the village. The Parish Council has been in discussions with the current owners about the future of this space and in principle Shapwick Parish Council is willing to support development on a small area within the D32 area provided that the remaining land is transferred to the Parish which would enable it to fulfil the aims of the Sedgemoor Strategy.

2. The Ashcott & Shapwick Cricket Club and the School Playing Field. The cricket field has D33 status "Outdoor public recreational space" and in the last playing pitch strategy it was recognised that this continuing successful senior and junior club as well as a ladies cricket team had a requirement for a second pitch. Over the last year the school has reopened as "Dovecote School" and the Parish Council notes the positive collaboration between the new school owners and the cricket club in utilising the school field for mutual purposes, to meet both students and community sports needs, a great example of community partnership in action. (It should also be noted that during the period of this assessment, the Parish Council supported a community led application to register the school field as an "Asset of Community Value". Although this was ultimately turned down, it was down to an evidence base provided by the previous owners of what at the time was a redundant school.)

Shapwick is included as part of the Poldens cluster for the purpose of the assessment. It is noted that the cluster has a deficit in both allotments and children's play areas. These are both opportunities which have been identified by villagers in our own recent surveys to enhance the health and wellbeing agenda for the village. Therefore, the Parish Council would be open to dialogue on such opportunities to deliver on these, whether within or outside the three designated open spaces in Shapwick village, providing it meets the overall objectives of this Sedgemoor assessment and our own residents.

22/23/42**Ditch and Drainage Maintenance Programme**

The Clerk read out a summary from Paul Rogers.

High Lane Culvert – Not yet rectified. Paul Rogers has contacted Liam Gill at Highways again to ask for an update on when the jetting of the culvert will take place.

School Lane Ditch/Culvert – Clearance of the drain/culvert will be organised in the next week or so.

Main Ditch Clearance Programme – Clarification on the waste spoil is being obtained prior to completion of mapping of the drains, identifying the order of priority for clearance and meeting with the farmers.

Litter Pick – Paul Rogers suggested that it would be good to organise a litter pick in early Autumn to assist in making the spoil from ditch clearance as litter free as possible.

Graham Croucher suggested that he and Lesley Gaskell meet with Paul Rogers to spread the workload to ensure the desired outcomes are achievable.

22/23/43**Highways**

a) Verges – Wildflower Area The teasels within the wildflower area are causing a visibility issue at the end of Orchard Way. Graham Croucher agreed to remove them. The area will be tidied up and replanted with annuals.

b) Village Footpaths Steve Champion reported that the walking sub-group of the community group, led by Rich Tweedy, is investigating potential membership of Walkers are Welcome group. Such a group would need a formal committee. Steve Champion reported that a number of the village footpaths are overgrown – he has reported some to Somerset County Council but thought that setting up a working party could help with path maintenance. Graham Croucher said he would investigate some of the local volunteer groups to see if they can assist with path clearance.

As part of a review of footpaths Steve Champion also reinvestigated the provision of dog poo bins and has identified possible sites for the installation of a bin. Councillors debated whether having previously decided not to commit to the expense of dog poo bins whether there was sufficient support within the community.

Lesley Gaskell suggested trialling one bin in the first instance to test both usage and cost.

Moray McGowan said he would support this proposal and suggested the bin be placed in the most walked area and that a review is taken in six months time as it maybe that the problem with dog poo in the village remains which adding more bins won't solve.

22/23/43 cont'd

The location suggested was Kent Lane/Bridewell Lane ensuring siting is away from houses.

Graham Croucher said that after the initial outlay the recurring costs will need to be added to the precept.

Moray McGowan proposed one bin (red 40 litre) be purchased for location in Kent Lane. Seconded by Lesley Gaskell. Unanimous. Clerk to contact Clean Surroundings.

c) Ash Dieback

Lesley Gaskell reported that she had walked around the village with the villager who raised the issue. There are lots of trees affected. Lesley Gaskell has contacted Somerset County Council as it is understood they will complete a survey and write to the landowner concerned – a reply is still awaited. The concern is that a number are close to the road and could come down in high winds.

d) Speed of Vehicles through the Village

Graham Croucher said his general feeling was that this is not an issue. Steve Campion agreed. Lesley Gaskell said that the matter had been raised by Frank Barnard in relation to the speed of tractors and farm vehicles passing through the village. Agreed to place on next agenda.

22/23/44**Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

a) Jubilee Village Picnic Graham Croucher thanked Lesley Gaskell and Moray McGowan for the huge input they had into making the event a big success. Lots of positive comments have been received from villagers. Most of the Jubilee Coins have been given out just a couple remain to be distributed.

b) Jubilee Plaque for Trees Thank you to Frank Barnard for organising the plaque. Delivery is waited. Cost of Plaque £253.80(net of vat).

c) Jubilee Finances The Parish Council received a grant of £200. Donations from the cricket club and prizes from Stuart Dennes were also received. Income totalled £300 with expenses (excluding the plaque) at £653.62 (£326.40 – Jubilee Coins and £327.22 - Picnic expenses).

22/23/45**Councillors' Reports**

Facebook Page Graham Croucher reported that the Parish Council Facebook page is up and running and asked for the policy to be included on the next agenda. Steve Campion said it was good that the Parish Council is now able to post.

Shapwick News Moray McGowan reported that he is part of the editorial team for the next edition.

Community Group The first coffee session has taken place.

22/23/46**Finance**

a) Purchasing Policy Councillors agreed the policy should be for items <£200 one quote with, for repeating items, a two quote (where possible) annual review. Items >£200 two quotes where possible. For small value purchases a common sense approach should be applied.

b) Cheques for Signature Sedgemoor DC £100.00 (Chq 942, election expenses), Graham Croucher £222.33 (Chq 943, Jubilee Picnic - Toast), Mr SL Williams £22.82 (Chq 944, Soft drinks for Jubilee Picnic), Mrs S Williams £398.74 (Chq 945, Salary and expenses) and Paul Rogers £44.57 (Chq 947, Jubilee Picnic expenses)

22/23/47**Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next PC meeting will be Tuesday 20th September 2022 7.00pm Village Hall There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....