

Shapwick Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 27 September 2022
at 7.00pm at Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick

- 22/23/66 Present:** Frank Barnard, Steve Champion, Lesley Gaskell, Moray McGowan, Nikki Polden and Paul Rogers
- 22/23/67 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 22/23/68 Also Present:** County Councillor Matt Martin
9 Villagers
- 22/23/69 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Graham Croucher and Dovecote School. In the absence of Graham Croucher Lesley Gaskell took the chair.
- 22/23/70 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 22/23/71 Co-option to fill Vacancy for one Councillor**
Nominations for co-option were called. Nikki Polden put her name forward and her application had been distributed prior to the meeting. Moray McGowan nominated Nikki Polden. Seconded by Steve Champion. There being no other nominations it was unanimously agreed that Nikki Polden be co-opted to the Parish Council. Nikki Polden was welcomed to the Parish Council and joined the meeting. Clerk to liaise regarding papers for completion.
- 22/23/72 Minutes of the Meetings held on 5 July 2022, 18 August 2022 and 1 September 2022**
Approval of the minutes was proposed by Frank Barnard. Seconded by Paul Rogers. Agreed and duly signed.
- Villagers' Open Period**
- 22/23/73 District and County Councillors Reports**
County Councillor Matt Martin drew attention to the Local Community Networks Consultation. Lesley Gaskell asked how much weight would be given to responses received from Parish Councils with particular reference to the boundary proposals. County Councillor Matt Martin said presently a lot of work is going on at County Hall but that at the moment the outcome is unclear.
Frank Barnard asked County Councillor Matt Martin what the position with the peat works at Burtle is as it would appear it is still a thriving business. County Councillor Matt Martin said that peat extraction is still be phased out within the next few years. The factory on the south side of the Burtle Road has permission to store and pack peat products only so difficult to stop the HGVs.
Lesley Gaskell thanked the County Councillor for attending and for his input to the meeting.
- 22/23/74 Local Government Association (LGA) Code of Conduct**
The LGA Code of Conduct was distributed prior to the meeting. Steve Champion proposed that Shapwick Parish Council adopt the LGA Code of Conduct. Seconded by Paul Rogers. Unanimous.

22/23/75

Buses**a) Services to the Village**

Frank Barnard informed the meeting that the village is served by two bus routes. Route 75 operated by First Bus – several services per day Monday to Saturday and Route 19 operated by Somerset County Council (Moovit App) – one return service per day. The last Route 75 return from Street is now at 17.00 hours – it was previously 17.30 hours but the company said the service was little used and not financially viable.

There has been a recent reduction in fares due to support from funding. Single fares £2 and return fare £3.50. Children under 15 can travel for £1 single fare.

Timetables are available from the Parish Council.

b) Repair to Bus Shelter Wall

The Parish Council had received a report from a resident that the facing stones had come away from the breeze blocks on one side of the wall next to the bus shelter. The wall has been inspected by Parish Councillors. Lesley Gaskell had reviewed the conveyancing documents and it is only the land that was conveyed so there is no liability to repair. Lesley Gaskell suggested that an immediate solution would be to remove the facing stones as the breeze blocks themselves are in a good state of repair. It was agreed to action this – Paul Rogers and Steve Campion agreed to remove the facing stones.

22/23/76

Ditch and Drainage Maintenance Programme

Paul Rogers reported that while the Mill Lane planning application is in progress in the interests of separation of projects he had not pursued the offer from Darren Coombes to take spoil from the ditch and drainage clearance works for disposal on his farm land.

As the quotes received to carry out clearance work are now several months old Paul Rogers agreed to get updated quotes as well as contacting the Environmental Agency for advice on spoil disposal. Lesley Gaskell asked which areas would be cleared first. Paul Rogers said he had mapped out the village based on need and the first section to be cleared would be Kent Lane.

High Lane Culvert – Not yet rectified. Paul Rogers reported that Liam Gill at Highways has assessed the culvert and is of the opinion that it is the surrounding landowners responsibility to keep the watercourse on their land clear which would help alleviate the silting issues which are occurring at the property at the top of the culvert. It was agreed to contact nearest landowners first to see if this makes a difference before contacting Liam Gill again.

22/23/77

RLT2 Funding

The Parish Council has been advised that the final opportunity to apply for any remaining RLT2 funding is before 31 December 2022 prior to Sedgemoor District Council being abolished in April 2023.

Shapwick Parish has £793.00 available. It was suggested that the Parish Council apply for the funds to be used to purchase an outdoor table tennis table. Application process to be investigated.

22/23/78

Litter Pick

Paul Rogers has been in contact with Clean Surroundings regarding a litter pick in the village and has completed a risk assessment. Clean Surroundings will provide the equipment and collect the rubbish at the end of the pick.

Wendy Anderson has been contacted and has agreed to organise bacon rolls at the end of the pick.

Date chosen for litter pick Sunday 30 October 2022 – meet at the Pavilion at 10.00am.

22/23/79

Highways

a) Village Footpaths Steve Campion reported that the walking sub-group of the community group, led by Rich Tweedy, is continuing to investigate potential membership of Walkers are Welcome group as a long term project.

Steve Campion and Graham Croucher had cleared the footpath which leads from Bridewell Lane to the churchyard. The general feeling, in respect of path clearing, is that there will be a greater onus on the village to carry this out. A village footpath maintenance day in the Spring was suggested.

Nikki Polden reported that the sub-group had been looking at the 'Ashcott loop' footpaths which exit part way down Shapwick Hill. The exit is hazardous as walkers have to walk on the road so the sub-group has been communicating with local landowners about the possibility of a permissive path to negate the need to walk on the road. In return the landowners would seek co-operation for respecting their land and look towards the installation of a dog waste bin and signage.

b) Ash Dieback

Lesley Gaskell reported there has been no progress on this matter. Lesley Gaskell suggested an article be put in the Shapwick News making landowners aware of their responsibilities should there be an affected tree on their land. Nikki Polden said it would be useful to include a guide/photos of what to look out in respect of ash dieback.

c) Speed of Vehicles through the Village

On further investigation the issue of speed of vehicles through the village, particularly for this living in Main Road and Station Road, continues to be an issue. The issue is not just limited to cars and HGVs but extends to farm vehicles as well.

The purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) was discussed. Lesley Gaskell suggested that as there are considerable demands on the current year's precept relating to the ditch maintenance programme that a fully costed investigation should be carried out before making any commitment to purchase a SID.

Paul Rogers suggested contacting local businesses – the cricket club and Dovecote School - for contributions towards any costs as they would benefit from a reduction in speed of traffic through the village. It was agreed to report back at next meeting on cost.

d) Other Matters to be reported to Highways

Frank Barnard reported that some households are dumping grass cuttings on the verges which then end up in the ditches. Lesley Gaskell said it is difficult to 'police' but perhaps on the back of the litter pick an article can be placed in the Shapwick News.

A villager had reported that the junction of High Lane and Shapwick Hill is hazardous when coming from the east as there is no warning of the junction and drivers are speeding up due to the national speed limit – a number of near misses had been witnessed. It was agreed to contact Highways to see whether it is possible for some warning signs to be erected.

22/23/80

Policies**a) Parish Council Facebook**

A basic policy for the Parish Council Facebook Page was proposed.

- 1) *The Parish Council Facebook account is only for use on the Shapwick Residents Group*
- 2) *The Shapwick Residents Facebook and Group rules will always be followed*
- 3) *It is only to be used to post information regarding Parish Council activities and those of related Shapwick based organisations*
- 4) *The Parish Council Facebook account must not be used to respond to users posts*
- 5) *The Facebook Direct Messenger (DM) account can be used by residents as an alternate communication channel*
- 6) *Access to the Parish Council Facebook account to be held by Clerk, Chair, Vice Chair*

Steve Campion proposed the policy be accepted. Seconded by Moray McGowan. Unanimous.

22/23/80 cont'd

b) Recording of Meetings

It was agreed that a clear concise policy was required so that members of the public have the opportunity to opt out from being recorded/filmed should they wish. Lesley Gaskell agreed to work on suitable wording.

22/23/81

Councillors' Reports

Dovecote School Moray McGowan agreed to be the Councillor to liaise with the school. Proposed by Paul Rogers. Seconded by Steve Campion. The school had held a very successful open day for villagers.

22/23/82

Local Community Network Consultation (LCN)

A consultation process on the development of LCNs has been launched. The new unitary authority will cover a large geographic area and the LCNs will ensure that local voices are heard. The chair has agreed to take the lead assisted by the vice-chair. A response is required by 17 October so an additional Parish Council meeting will be required to agree the final Parish Council response.

22/23/83

Finance

a) Cheques for Signature Fine Memorials £304.56 (Chq 947, Jubilee plaque), HMRC £159.80 (Chq 948, PAYE/NI Months 1-3), BWW Print Ltd £102.28 (Chq 949, Shapwick News), SALC £176.07 (Chq 950, Annual Fees and Training Costs), Graham Croucher £47.00 (Chq 951, Leaflet Printing), Shapwick Village Hall £300.00 (Chq 952, Annual donation), St. Mary's PCC £500.00 (Chq 953, Annual donation) and Mrs Sue Williams £523.71 (Chq 954, Salary and expenses (includes materials and costs for painting village bench)) .

22/23/84

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next PC meeting will be Tuesday 15^h November 2022 7.00pm Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

Date.....