

**Shapwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on 9 October 2023**  
**at 7.00pm at The Pavilion, Shapwick**

- 23/24/66 Present:** Steve Campion, Graham Croucher, Lesley Gaskell, Moray McGowan and Paul Rogers
- 23/24/67 In Attendance:** Sue Williams (Clerk)
- 23/24/68 Also Present:** Sam Andrews – Dovecote School  
5 villagers and other Dovecote School staff members
- 23/24/69 Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies were received from Nikki Polden and Jason Goddard (Dovecote School).
- 23/24/70 Declarations of Interest**  
Lesley Gaskell, although she has yet to take up her position on the advisory board at Dovecote School, to avoid any confusion declared an interest and took no part in the meeting.
- 23/24/71 Planning Application 43/23/00006 Dovecote School - Erection of student enterprise cafe including external decking area**  
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the format of the meeting. The Chair explained that the purpose of the meeting is to consider the amended plans for this application which give more detail on the WC and location of waste bins.
- 23/24/72 Open Session**  
A villager raised concerns about the impact of the WC on the village sewage system and gave information about historical flooding at the bottom of the village. The villager questioned whether with more staff and pupils coming to the school and the WC at the café would make the situation get worse as the village sewerage system is already at near capacity.
- Sam Andrews said that the school has consulted with Wessex Water. The WC is part of the café application and will only be open during term time between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm.
- Moray McGowan asked the villager whether they had noticed a change in the sewerage system since the school has reopened.
- A villager said it is not possible to stop people coming to Shapwick and that flooding does occur in the fields too.
- The Chair drew attention to correspondence between the Parish Council and Wessex Water. Steve Campion said Shapwick does have a sewage system problem – the 21/22 data showed that 7-8% of the time there was an overflow. The issue is caused due to ground water entering the sewage system. Steve Campion said he thought the impact of the café would be small – the problem with the sewage system is a more general one which needs to be addressed with Wessex Water as a separate issue.

**23/24/72 cont'd**

The Chair said Wessex Water has carried out some works to pipes throughout the village to seal them to prevent surface water entering the sewage system and this matter is separate to that of this planning application.

Sam Andrews reiterated that the café will be a term time only social enterprise scheme for the pupils at the school.

A villager asked for confirmation that the toilet will only be open when the café is open. Sam Andrews said this is her understanding but that she would check with Jason Goddard.

A villager commented is good that it is only a café being considered not a housing development.

**23/24/73****Closed Session**

The Chair asked Councillors for their comments.

Paul Rogers said having looked at the changes he has no issue with the amendments – the impact of those people coming to the café would be mitigated by residents leaving the village during the day to go to work. Paul Rogers said he is sympathetic to those who live at the north end of the village and experience issues with the sewage system. Paul Rogers said he felt overall the impact would be minimal and it would be good to integrate the Dovecote School into the community.

Steve Champion said he agreed fundamentally with what Dovecote School are aiming to achieve and the volumes into the sewage system would be minimal however, although not part of this application he would like to see a conditional link with the car park/ traffic management scheme application.

Moray McGowan said the development will have minimal impact on the sewage system but agreed that the wider issue of the village sewage system should be addressed as a separate issue.

The Chair said the sewage system is a separate issue and this meeting was to look at the café application amendments which are separate from the car park application which will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

Moray McGowan proposed that the Parish Council support the amended application. Seconded by Graham Croucher. Majority decision. Steve Champion abstained from voting. Clerk to inform Somerset Planning of the outcome.

**23/24/74****Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next PC meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 7.00pm Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....