



SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER NO 1

JANUARY 2022

Welcome to the first newsletter from your Parish Council.

A Parish Council is the first tier of government and the first point of contact for anyone concerned with an issue in the community. Shepton Beauchamp has nine councillors who represent the village and raise parishioners' concerns and views to the local authorities. We hold meetings on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of August) at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Our local County and District Councillors attend our meetings and the meetings are open to the public. Notification of meetings and minutes are pinned on the notice board outside the church and also published on our website.

Our website has lots of other useful information: <https://sheptonbeauchamppc.org.uk/>

Meet the councillors (at the time of printing we have one vacancy)

Each councillor has specific responsibilities in addition to attending the monthly meetings. Fuller profiles can be found on our website



Nigel Wylie-Carrick – Chairman

Nigel is a retired British Army Officer, is married to Kate with two children and has lived in the village since 2007

Responsibilities: Planning, Lethbridge Recreation Committee representative, Climate Change, Speed Indicator Device



Richard Martin – Vice-Chairman

Richard worked locally in the aerospace industry and is now retired. He and his wife Karen have lived in the village for 35 years

Responsibilities: Ranger, Charity Secretary, Climate Change



Edward Wakely

Ed and his wife Kath have lived in the village for nearly 15 years, although he grew up in and around Shepton Beauchamp and so has had a connection all his life

Responsibilities: Highways, Allotments



Clare Lillywhite

Clare has lived in the village with her family for almost 10 years

Responsibilities: Planning, Parish Environment Warden



Angie Joy

Angie has lived in the village for 23 years and wouldn't want to live anywhere else

Responsibilities: Planning, Parish Environment Warden



Andrew Rowsell

Andrew has lived in Shepton Beauchamp all his life as have generations before. He is married to Fi, and has two daughters

Responsibilities: Highways



Sarah Brunt

Sarah has lived at Home Farm all her life. She is married to Graham and they have 3 daughters, 2 of which work on the family farm

Responsibilities: Footpaths, Charity Trustee



David Bourn

David retired in 2013 and has lived in the village with his wife since 2014

Responsibilities: Footpaths, Cowleaze Meadow representative, Tree Warden, Climate Change

What do we do?

The Parish Council aims to represent the views of the community and improve the village, whilst preserving the setting and character of the heritage areas.

The funding for parish councils is allocated by the district council and forms part of the area's council tax.

In the last 18 months we have:

- Purchased a Speed Indicator Device to monitor the traffic speed through the village
- Liaised with the highways department to ensure pot holes were filled, drains cleared, flooding reported and worn white lines repainted
- Used the services of the SSDC Ranger on a weekly basis to keep the village tidy
- Continued to support the Shepton Beauchamp Neighbourhood Support Scheme set up by the Parish Council to support the parishioners during the Covid-19 lockdown
- Given a grant to the village hall to help them with loss of income during the Covid-19 lockdown
- Set up a Climate Emergency Working Group which includes members of the community, to look at how the village can reduce its carbon footprint
- Produced a questionnaire that was distributed to all households in the village to assess interest in options to reduce carbon emissions
- Held a summer event in Cowleaze Meadow in conjunction with the Events Team to promote awareness of the impact of climate change
- Actively promoted and endorsed Somerset Waste Partnership's "Recycle More" programme

Our plans for the future

Our plans for the next year include: -

- Developing the Slope area opposite the church initially with flower beds
- Removing the west leylandii windbreak in the recreation field which is becoming unsafe
- Repainting the white lines around the MUGA at the recreation ground
- Subject to cost, putting a car electric charging point in the village
- Analysing data taken from the Speed Indicator Device and make those results available to the local community

Councillor Surgeries

We are going to trial drop-in surgeries on a Saturday morning. This will give villagers who perhaps do not want to attend a council meeting the opportunity to bring any matters of concern to our attention, which can then be discussed at the next council meeting.

The surgeries will be held from 10.30 – 11.30 am on the following dates:

Saturday 9th April

Saturday 7th May

Saturday 11th June

Saturday 9th July

Are you interested in becoming a councillor?

Local councils are made up of locally elected councillors.

How do you become a parish councillor? To qualify to be a parish councillor you must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union
- At least 18 on the day that you are nominated as a candidate

And you must meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

- Be a registered local government elector within the parish
- Be a resident in the parish for at least 12 months prior to the nomination or election day
- Have lived within three miles of the parish for 12 months prior to the nomination or election day
- Worked full time in the parish for at least 12 months prior to the nomination or election day.

Once elected, Parish Councillors stay on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in post, they can stand for re-election.

If you know someone who would like to be a Parish Councillor you can nominate them for election. If you are interested yourself, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Our next elections will be held either in 2022 or 2023 in line with the Somerset County Council election dates. Details on how you can apply to be a councillor will be posted on our website and notice board outside the church nearer the time.

Remember you can vote for Parish Councillors who you think will best represent your interests.

The Parish Council can be contacted by emailing the Parish Clerk

clerk@sheptonbeauchamppc.org.uk