

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr Ed Wakely
Cllr Andrew Rowswell Cllr Angie Joy
Cllr Clare Lillywhite Cllr David Bourn
Cllr Tim England Cllr Nick Howard

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were 7 members of the public in attendance

District/County Councillors in attendance: SCC Cllr Jo Roundell Greene (arrived at 7.30 pm & left at 8pm)
Apologies received from SCC Adam Dance & SSDC Crispin Raikes

The Chairman welcomed the public, introduced the council members and welcomed Cllr Howard at his first meeting.

OPEN SESSION

During the open session the following comments were made: -

Felling of trees at recreation ground

- The Health & Safety aspect of the rec trees is understood, but the concern was the timing of the tree felling when it was originally scheduled for during the nesting season.
- There was concern over the discrimination between the trees on the left and those at the far end of the rec, which are in a worst state.
- The concern was that it was a really large area going in one sweep, as there must be other wildlife apart from birds and bats and could there be an attempt to save some of the trees, particularly the ones along the side which look as though they could be managed with topping.
- Would it be possible to have a plaque to commemorate the gentleman that the trees were planted in memory of.
- There is in Ilminster a tree planting group (Green Ilminster), who would be interested in helping with what trees to plant going forward.
- There are a couple of trees right at the top end at the corner which look quite good and it was hoped that thought would be given before they were felled.
- If the decision-making process had been more transparent it may have prevented the controversy around the tree felling.

The Chairman said that these items could not be discussed at tonight's meeting as it was not on the agenda, but could be put for discussion at the July council meeting as the work had been rescheduled for after 1st September. He did say that there were two different species of trees which had all been topped in their time and the growth was now coming from the top and not the bottom and if they were topped again there would not be much greenery left. The arborist, who is a qualified tree surgeon advised that the trees were brittle and the branches not secure. Regarding a plaque in memory of Captain Lean, one was made some years ago, which has disappeared. One of the plans the council has is to have a notice (like the one in Cowleaze) to highlight the areas in the rec, as part of the project to improve the Lethbridge ground.

Lambrook Road hedgerow

- On Lambrook Road between the speed camera and the bottom of the following drive, the hedgerow had not been cut.

The council is aware of this as the Ranger has cut the hedge recently. In the early stages the residents of the last house in Piece Lane did not want the hedge cut for privacy reasons. They would now like it cut, but heavy machinery is needed to carry this out and that has been asked for through the District Council and the hedge will be cut at the appropriate time.

MUGA

- The Chairman of the rec committee said that the MUGA lines had now been repainted. The tennis net and posts are in good condition and so the net is up and the court can now be used. One of the councillors asked what the access was to the court. This needs to be decided at the meeting when the future of the rec committee is discussed. In the meantime, the court is available for anyone to use.

Rec Committee

- After the future of the rec committee has been decided, the rec committee chairman asked if this would be followed up by a meeting with the villagers where they could have a say in what could be done with the pavilion.

Grass cuttings on the Rec

- A member of the public said one thing that spoils the rec is the pile of dead grass on the outskirts of the football field. Can it be considered to pay the extra to have the grass taken away when the grass is cut.

Report from SCC

Cllr Roundell Greene reported that there was a meeting last week to discuss the salary for the new CEO for SCC, which was agreed at a maximum of £200k, which seems reasonable for the size of the county. Structures and committees are being looked at. Next month Cllr Dance will be doing a written report. She was asked about the Parish Council networking proposals. There was nothing to report at this stage, although the planning aspect would be quite important. She was asked about the phosphate problem, and she said there are over 15,000 planning applications waiting and so this issue has to be resolved.

Ser Item

731 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Brunt (work commitments).

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

732 Declarations of interest – Members to declare any interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

733 To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2022 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022 be signed as correct.

734 Planning Application 22/01459/R13 Shepton Beauchamp school

Window repairs and replacement to a listed school building

To review planning application submitted

Resolved. There were no objections. To submit response by 29th June.

Action – Clerk/RFO

735 Approval of Internal Audit Report. To receive and approve the Annual Internal Audit Report for FY 2021/22

Resolved. That the internal audit report be approved.

736 Approval of Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 21/22) ([Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015](#))

Resolved. That the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

737 Approval of Accounting Statement (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 21/22) ([Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015](#))

Resolved. That the Accounting Statement be approved.

738 Consider if the Council can declare itself exempt or if a basic or intermediate review is required

Resolved. That the council can declare itself exempt and as such will not need to undergo a review.

739 Approve the period for the exercise of public rights as Monday 27th June – Friday 5th August (30 working days)

Resolved. That the period for the exercise of public rights be approved.

740 Re-Allocation of Reserves

To resolve to approve the re-allocation of reserves at the end of FY 2021/22 (previously circulated)

Resolved. That the re-allocation of reserves be approved.

741 To approve current Direct Debits for the next 2-year period (as per financial regulations 6.7)

To resolve to approve the current Direct Debits – Wessex Water (Cowleaze rent) and ICO (Data Protection Fee)

Resolved. That the current direct debits for the next 2-year period be approved.

742 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To resolve to approve the additional spend of up to £14 for the Jubilee Flag.

Resolved. That the additional spend of £14 be approved.

743 Road Safety at Love Lane/Lambrook Road junction

To resolve whether to position a mirror on the old gas lamp post outside St Michaels Cottage

(This was raised by a resident at the councillor surgery held on 7th May)

Resolved. It was decided to contact highways to see if the positioning of a mirror and additionally a sign warning of a concealed road/entrance ahead, when coming from the West Lambrook direction.

Action – Clerk/RFO

744 Format and length of meetings

To resolve the maximum length and content of meetings

Resolved. The following was agreed unanimously: -

- a. That the deferred items register (Annex A) be removed from the agenda. The clerk to email councillors with the list of deferred items so that completed items could be removed.
- b. That the official correspondence (Annex B) is no longer completed. That the clerk uses her discretion in which emails to forward to which councillors. E-mails can be sent to the relevant councillor who deals with the subject area.
- c. The finance items that have been scheduled only need to be approved and, not gone through in detail at the meeting.

745 Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation to 31st May 2022 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £1,854.61 (previously circulated)

Resolved. The Bank Reconciliation to 31st May was approved and was signed by a non-cheque signatory. The payments were approved and cheques issued.

746 Parish Council Newsletter

To approve the July Parish Council Newsletter to be printed for distribution with the July 2022 issue of The Web at a maximum cost of £60

Resolved. The newsletter was amended and then approved.

747 Report from Clerk/RFO.

The Clerk reported that she had received information about Operation London Bridge and had to respond to questions asked by South Somerset District Council on what the Parish Council would be doing. The questions were answered during the meeting and the clerk will respond.

Action – Clerk/RFO

An email had been from a resident with suggestions for improving the current plans with a wildlife zone when the trees are felled, which was read out at the meeting and which will be part of the discussions at the council meeting on 18th July.

As we have deferred the timing of the trees being potentially removed, the Clerk will contact the insurance company to see if the area around the trees needs to be taped off between now and September or if a sign is an alternative.

Action – Clerk/RFO

Allocation of councillor responsibilities

The councillor responsibilities were allocated as follows: -

Planning - Cllr Wylie-Carrick, Cllr Lillywhite, Cllr Joy, Cllr Wakely
Highways - Cllr Rowswell, Cllr Lillywhite
Footpaths – Cllr Brunt, Cllr Wakely
Cowleaze – Cllr Bourn
Allotments - Cllr Howard
Lethbridge Recreational Ground - Cllr England, Cllr Joy
Environment, Trees & Climate Change – Cllr Bourn, Cllr Howard
SID – Cllr Rowswell
Ranger - Cllr Wylie-Carrick
Shepton Charity – Cllr Brunt
Parish Online – Cllr England, Cllr Wylie-Carrick
Emergency Contact – all councillors

748 Annex A – Deferred items register

In view of the decision made in item 744, this was not reviewed.

749 Annex B – Official correspondence received

In view of the decision made in item 744 this was not reviewed.

Meeting closed: 9.20 pm