

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Parish

held at 7:00pm on Monday 20TH May 2019 at the Village Hall, Shepton Beauchamp,
TA19 0LQ

Councillors Present:

Jane Bishop Chairperson	Angela Joy
Andrew Rowswell	Clare Lillywhite
Roger Cripps	Innis Finlay
Ed Wakely	Sarah Brunt
Richard Martin	Nigel Wylie Carrick

Others Present: Cllr Crispin Raikes and representatives from various groups within the village and members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence
None

2. Chairpersons Report

Cllr Bishop firstly thanked all the representatives from the various groups for coming to the meeting and said how nice it was to see so many attend. Then went on to provide a brief summary of the past twelve months: The beginning of the year was a difficult time for the Parish Council with the sad and sudden loss of Diane Clarke the former clerk who had served for over thirty years and she had been indispensable in the role and had a wealth of knowledge and experience, the Parish Council was faced with an immediate and substantial dilemma. With the help of SALC an interim clerk, David Mears was appointed and was a tremendous help during a difficult time, he was instrumental in bringing current proceedings up to date and we were all very grateful. The new clerk Jane Brown was appointed in July and was thanked by all for stepping up to the role and accepting a daunting challenge. Planning applications have taken up a lot of the council's time along with the Lethbridge Recreation Ground, recently the Council has agreed to finance a car park with the hope that this will encourage greater use. Other matters for discussion have been Highways especially pot holes, dog mess is another ongoing problem and we try and encourage the public to clean up after their dogs by putting up posters. Allotments also often appear on the agenda it is hoped that there will be more demand for plots this year. The finances are in good order and we are happy with the way things are going. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the Parish Council for approximately fifteen years with the last three as chairperson but this is the last meeting and I would like thank everyone on the Parish Council for their support along with the support of Adam Dance and Crispin Raikes.

3. Lethbridge Recreation Ground report

The Lethbridge Recreation Ground Report was read by Bruce Baron. It is hoped that the year ahead will see an increased use of the facility, the car park refurbishment is already underway which has been funded by the Parish Council, further refurbishment work is planned with an upgrade to the Pavilion. The National Lottery has agreed to support the project with a donation of £10,000. It is hoped that after discussions with the District Council further funding will be received from them, funding may also be available from Clark's Foundation. It is hoped to see more children enjoying the facilities once the works are complete. The funds in hand at the 31st March were just over £7100.

4. Cowleaze Meadow report

The Cowleaze Meadow report was read out by Roger Cripps. Funds raised went towards the new fencing which was installed earlier in the year, more improvements are needed and further fund raising is planned to achieve this. Pruning and planting of trees has been carried out and wild flowers will be planted soon. The group is run by only a few volunteers and the committee is down to only two members out of an initial nine. The events team are holding a fun day event at Cowleaze in July this year. Funds are healthy with approximately £1800 in the bank.

5. The Shepton Beauchamp Charity report

The Shepton Beauchamp Charity report was read out by Richard Martin. The charity is an accumulation of charities that have been running for over 100 years and consists of three pieces of land two in South Petherton and one in Merriott providing approximately £1000 rental income per year. The charity provides educational grants and Christmas Boxes to the over 70's, any remaining funds are shared between university students and pre-school and school. Last year £550 was paid out to the over 70's, three educational grants were made and a donation was made towards the pre-school's insurance.

6. Events Team / Parish Plan Report

Sharon Humphreys read out a full report from the Events Team. In 2018 they held several successful events including a Bonfire Party, Christmas Market and a 10K run. A moving and poignant commemorative ceremony was held in November to mark the 100th year anniversary of the end of WW1 on remembrance Sunday. The annual Christmas tree was planted outside the school and the Church Tower was lit up during the period. The What's On leaflet is compiled and circulated by the Team. Film nights are very popular and well supported especially the themed nights and these events continue to raise valuable funds and are often sell out's. The Team also ran it's first fun Race Night which was also well supported. The main event last year was the Street Party on the 14th July which is the "give-back" event for the whole village to enjoy, the weather was dry and sunny and the event was a great success, it was worth the money and the hard work to see all the smiling faces.

2019 started off with a fantastic Burn's night and three further films. Other events planned for this year include a Quiz Night, Cowleaze Meadow Fun Day, a Proms Night the 10K run, a Bonfire Party and the Christmas Market. The annual accounts have been submitted and the current in hand funds add up to over £5000. Monies have been pledged to pay for a dishwasher in the village hall and donations to school and pre-school, the remaining funds will pay for the planned events.

The team currently consists of seven volunteers.

7. The Shepton Beauchamp Village Hall Committee report

Sharon Humphreys read out a report from the Village Hall Committee. The Trustees are unanimous in wanting to modernize the village hall. Some small improvements have already been made such as a new fridge and faster kettle and there are plans to redecorate the hall to make it a brighter space. Major improvements have been made to the hot water system and there are plans to upgrade the men's toilet facilities. Health and safety and electrical checks have

been done and acted upon. The planned refurbishments are expected to be costly and an application for funding to the National Lottery has been successful which will go some way towards this. The major works are planned to take place during the school holidays. The Hall continues to be used regularly with Pre-School during the day during term time and various other bookings in the evenings.

The committee are looking into obtaining funding for a garden project. Neighbours moved away and took the fence with them so this will need to be replaced and the uneven patio will need work plus planting to make it a nice environment. The annual flower show is scheduled for September this year.

8. The Parochial Church Council report

Father Geoff submitted a report that was read out by Clive Davies. It has been a difficult few years on a number of fronts namely finance and volunteers but things have changed for the better for our little village church. A new Church Council has been formed and this group is responsible for the day to day running. There are nine keen volunteers with another six who can be called upon for help. A spring clean is being organised and a cleaning rota. Plans are afoot to hold two more supper concerts later this year which have proved to be very popular in the past. There is long term project underway to upgrade the facilities and provide an affordable toilet and a loop system for people with hearing aids. Thanks to the Parish Council for their contribution towards cutting the grass and the Whites family for their work in keeping it looking as good as it does.

9. St Michael's Guild report

Joan Kennedy read out the report from the St Michael's Guild. The Guild has 20 members who meet on the third Friday of each month in Buttle Close Common Room unless they have an outing. They have had different speakers, slide shows, trips out for lunch and teas and their usual Christmas Party. On the first Thursday of each month they have a service of hymns, readings stories and prayers in the common room which is open to all.

10. Shepton Seniors report

A report was read out by Susan Cotton Lake. Muriel Callow and Stella Locke run the Shepton Seniors and they have about seventeen members and meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Buttle Close Common Room where they have talks and enjoy cups of tea and cake. They have a raffle, play bingo, have a quiz and go out for the odd cream tea and a Christmas Lunch. Everyone has a lovely time. Profits from the raffle have been donated this year to the British Heart Foundation and the British Legion.

11. Shepton Ramblers Report

The Shepton Ramblers report was read out by Roger Cripps who said the group hadn't changed very much since it was founded over 30 years ago by Pat Pierce. It has however moved away from Shepton Beauchamp. Walks are all over South Somerset. The walks are normally four to five miles once a fortnight followed by a pub lunch. There are about thirty five members with a short waiting list and only three members are from Shepton Beauchamp, however they are still happy to be known as the Shepton Beauchamp Ramblers.

12. Shepton Beauchamp WI Report

Report submitted by Jane Weaving and read out by Jane Bishop. Shepton Beauchamp WI are going from strength to strength. In 2018 we had visits from a wide variety of speakers including Sharandys Owl Sanctuary who flew their owls around the village hall! Our members also had a go at Thai chi and thoroughly enjoyed a wine tasting evening. We hope to enjoy this year just as much and have a packed programme lined up.

We are always pleased to be included in village events and are looking forward to the Cowleaze event this year. There have been some small changes to our committee who work very hard to ensure our members enjoy the meetings. Our member numbers remain steady but we are always keen to welcome new members to our friendly group. We believe that Shepton Beauchamp WI is an asset to our lovely village.

13. Neighbourhood Watch Report

The Neighbourhood Watch Report was read out by John Halsey the co-ordinator. Patsey Middleton is the deputy and all streets in the Village have a representative and they have been particularly busy over the past twelve months dealing with many new residents. There have been a few changes within the team and those no longer serving are thanked for their support. They meet every two months and report in the Web Magazine when there is something to relay. A good relationship has been established with the Police Beat Team who hold a surgery in the Village Shop every month. The police have kindly attended Neighbourhood Watch Meetings as well as the Parish Council Meeting. In the last twelve months they have received forty three reports of incidents seventeen of which were reported to the Police. Lots of incidents are not being reported to the police using 101 and the Team are trying to reverse this trend. One despicable crime reported was of a rogue trader preying on a vulnerable and elderly resident where he was persuaded to sell a valuable watch for only a fraction of the price. The facebook page has been well received and enables warnings to be posted instantly. They endeavour to keep the village crime free and everyone well apprised of the incidents.

14. Art Group Report

A report from Art Group was submitted by Jackie Priddle and read out by Jane Bishop. The group has been running for twenty six years and has varied in size between six and thirty members and they still have an original member. The group has created many pieces of work enough to lay on a great Art Show every year. Pieces created and sold include paintings, embroidery, crochet, jewellery and many other arts and crafts. Although this year's show displayed many great pieces footfall was fairly low but it is expected that next years show which will be held on the 2nd March 2020 will be better supported. This year the Art Group are going to include the school in an art competition.

15. Pre-School Report

The Pre-school report was read out by a member of the committee. The group has been running fairly smoothly over the last year despite some challenges. The children seem very happy and settled and the older ones happy to start school in September. Staffing issues have taken up a lot of time but a new manager with lots of new ideas will be starting after half term taking over from

Natalie. They estimate to only have eight children in September with only three being full time so there are concerns over money so lots of fund raising is planned. This year bingo was a successful fund raiser. There are also concerns that there may not be enough parents to volunteer to run the committee as most of the current members will be stepping down in September when their children leave to go to school. A meeting is scheduled with the Headmaster of the school to discuss the School taking over the running of the Pre-School. If anyone may be interested in volunteering please get in touch with the committee. The pre-school facility has been appreciated, the children have thrived and been loved by the staff and will find it easy to move on to start school. It would be sad if it was not there for future families.

16. Shepton Beauchamp Primary School Report

Shepton Beauchamp Primary School Report was read out by Mr Clive Davies Governor. Mr Shaun Watson, the school's head teacher, left his post at the end of the spring term and has been replaced by Mr Ian Rumbelow. There was an OFSTED inspection in March and their report has now been produced and is in the public domain. There will be a parents' evening on 21 May at the school which will address the issues raised in the report. Since his arrival, Mr Rumbelow has been very proactive. A newsletter for parents has been produced and there is also a copy of it on the notice board outside the church. Mr Rumbelow is very keen to promote new ideas at the school such as:

- A book of merit for each class which recognises the children's achievements
- Praise boards which show the children's achievements

Mr Rumbelow has made changes on the curriculum area and has introduced a change in approach to cursive writing. The school is setting great emphasis on this and the children are practising hard!

There is an open afternoon on 6 June when parents will be welcomed to look at the children's work and to show what they have been doing. This is an important communication between teachers, children and parents. A lot of time and energy has been put into improving the school's garden and the contribution and effort of the staff, children and parents is much appreciated.

There are many other events this term which are in the newsletter. Last week over two nights was parents' evening. Other events for this term include the sports' day and the summer fete. The Friends of Shepton School have a great input into the fete and their contribution to the school overall is appreciated.

Mr Rumbelow has also introduced some golden rules for the children:

Always think about others - Be kind and gentle

Go carefully and thoughtfully - Speak politely and truthfully

Finally, thanks should be given to the school's staff, both teachers, administration and support, for the work they do which is appreciated by children, parents and governors. Their commitment to the school cannot be faulted.

17. Singing Group Report

Angela Joy reported that the singing group who meet every Thursday in the Village Hall from 7-8 PM now has fifteen members. They do not profess to be very good singers but believe singing is medicinal this has been backed up by one member's doctor who said that singing has improved their health. All are welcome to join.