

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

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

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There was one member of the public in attendance and a representative from Cherwyn Developments in respect of Item 913.

District/County Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene & Adam Dance sent their apologies

Public session

Locking of recreation field gates

The member of the public said he understood the council had received a complaint about allotment holders' cars being parked in Piece Lane last Sunday. These did not belong to allotment holders but to a group of people helping an allotment holder on a one-off basis. He said that the problem that has resulted in the cars parking in Piece Lane was that the gates to the recreation field were permanently locked and he understood that this would be discussed at the July meeting, when he hoped there would be a resolution to the problem.

He also suggested that the fence around the play area be resurrected and that dogs be banned from the recreation field, which would prevent people from outside bringing their dogs to walk in the recreation field, which he understood was part of the reasoning behind the locking of the gates

Ser Item

- 910. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))**
Apologies were received from Cllr Bourn (away).
Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

- 911. 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).
Cllr Brunt declared an interest in item 913 and signed the book.

- 912. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 19th May 2023 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).**
Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Friday 19th May be signed as correct.

- 913. Piece Lane Development**
To review the amended plans and discuss with the development company.

The developer outlined the plans which had been amended following the public consultation. The houses immediately behind Piece Lane had now been replaced by bungalows as there were concerns that the existing houses would be overlooked. There were concerns around additional traffic on Piece Lane and flooding issues. They are currently addressing the flooding issue. The phosphate issue is taking a long time to resolve - this means there needs to be a treatment plant on the development, which will be connected to the drainage system on Lambrook Road. They have to undertake a transport assessment. There were some positive responses as people wanted to see bungalows for older people & starter homes for younger people, which the developers have tried to incorporate. Highways are currently looking at the parking situation regarding the number of parking spaces per property.

Affordable housing – Somerset Council are keen to get at least 40% social rated and are pushing towards the 'first homes' scheme. People in the village will have the first option on taking these properties.

There were number of people opposed to the access to the allotments on the original plan as they felt this could result in further development.

It was pointed out by the Parish Councillors that the Parish Council owned the land where the proposed car park for allotment holders would go and so was protected from further development in that area. The developer said that if the access road was less than the permitted highway then there was no option to develop anyway. The Councillors therefore said they had no objection to a small access track being put into the plans in order to create a small hardstanding for the allotment holders.

- 914. Planning Application 23/01415/PDE Amber Cottage, Middle Street**
Removal of existing conservatory and proposed single storey extension
Resolved. The planning application was approved.

915. The Parish Ranger scheme

To discuss whether the Ranger Scheme is working well under the Unitary authority and if there are any issues that need to be addressed.

It was mentioned that since Phil has left and we now have a new Ranger that the village is not looking as nice as it did in the past and there have been comments from some of the villagers about it. The current ranger has not been able to come to the village every week. He now has the Chapter 8 qualification and can now move SID rather than paying extra for someone else to do it. Somerset seem to have a policy that two people move all SIDs in the various villages and this is costing us more money as it is moved every 2 weeks and we are charged for 2 hours labour each time. There is a course that a councillor can go on to enable them to move the SID which is in the region of £500. The ranger will be approached to see why he is not getting the work done as well as it was previously. We need to know in advance when certain areas of the road are being cleared, so we can ask householders to move their cars.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick

It was asked if the Ranger could spray some of the areas in the village. Apparently, he does not have a licence to spray and so someone else from Somerset Council will come to do that.

Regarding SID, the guidance is that SID is moved every 2 weeks and should not return within 5 weeks. It was decided to move the SID to a new location once a month, as the battery only lasts 2 weeks and this can be done by the Ranger. This was approved by 8 councillors with 1 councillor against. Cllr Wylie Carrick undertook to liaise with Somerset Council concerning the lack of spraying qualifications and inform them that we want the Ranger to move the SID.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick

[Note post meeting](#) – We have since been informed that the Ranger does not hold the Chapter 8 qualification and so cannot move the SID.

916. Parish Council Credit Card

To discuss the options available and resolve whether to proceed with an application for a credit card.
Unresolved. The clerk is to investigate if there are other options, including a debit card, rather than the card offered by Unity Bank. Also, to investigate other credit card companies and see what other Parish Councils use.

Action – Parish Clerk

917. Archaeological Finds from The Slope

To resolve whether to request the return of the items found at The Slope or whether to leave them at the South Somerset Heritage Collection centre in Yeovil.

Resolved. It was decided to leave the items at the Heritage Collection, but to ask for photos to be sent to us.

Action – Parish Clerk

918. Availability of code for Defibrillator

Re item 879 at April meeting. The resolution to place a laminated sign on the defib quoting the code to be rescinded as it will then not be covered by our insurance.

Resolved. That item 879 be rescinded and no sign is to be put by the defibrillator.

919. Stock valuation of play equipment

To report on the recent stock valuation figure and resolve to amend the amount the equipment is insured for.

Unresolved. The Clerk will find out the premium paid currently and see what the additional premium would be if we were to increase the value of the play equipment before a decision is made.

Action – Parish Clerk

920. Recreation Field expenditure

To approve the spend of up to £74 for repairs to the play equipment.

Resolved. That the spend of up to £74 be approved.

921. Finance

To review the two Bank Reconciliations as at 31st May 2023 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £27,804.66 (previously circulated).

Resolved. The two Bank Reconciliations were approved and signed as correct by a non-cheque signatory. The payments were approved.

922. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The Clerk reported that there are now 95 numbers taken on the 100 Club.

The Santander bank account has now been closed.

She is getting a smart meter fitted in the Pavilion as there has been a problem submitting a meter reading as no electricity has been used.

923. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell reported that there were some more potholes. It was mentioned that all the verges needed cutting, particularly from Branstons to the crossroads and then down into the village. This should be reported to Somerset Council highways department.

Action – Cllr Rowswell

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England said the survey had been sent out and only 35 responses had been received so far. He needs to pick up any that had been given in at the shop. We will put some spare questionnaires in the pub.

Action – Parish Clerk

The recreation committee had decided to lock the gates temporarily due to a number of issues and once the completed surveys had been analysed a permanent solution would be decided.

Ranger

Nothing further to report, following the discussion under item 915.

SID

Nothing further to report, following the discussion under item 915.

Allotments

Nothing to report

Cowleaze

In the absence of Cllr Bourn, there was nothing to report, although there had been feedback from some of the villagers on what a nice space it was and how nice it was looking.

Footpaths

Some of the yearly cuts by Somerset Council don't seem to have been carried out. We need to ask Somerset Council when these are going to be done.

Action – Parish Clerk

There is also a small branch down on the footpath running down the other side of the recreation field.

924. Annex A – Deferred items register

If any actions have been completed, let the Parish Clerk know.

Action – all councillors

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm