

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 0LQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn
Cllr Andrew Rowswell Cllr Sarah Brunt
Cllr Angie Joy Cllr Tim England

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were 4 members of the public in attendance from the Events Team

District/County Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Adam Dance (arrived 7.55 pm & left 8.45 pm)

Cllr Dance said that he could not report on very much as they were in Purdah. There will be no refuse collection strikes now. The next LCN meeting dates will come out as soon as possible. Cllr Brunt mentioned that the hedge near Piece Lane on Lambrook Road had still not been sorted. Adam Dance asked the Clerk to forward the last email she sent to the council concerning this and he will forward it to the relevant people.

Action – Parish Clerk

It was mentioned by the councillors that Somerset Council had now trimmed the verges after 'no mow May', but not to a good standard. The consultation about stroke services was closed and stroke services would now be moving to Taunton Hospital.

Adam is holding an open event at the South Petherton doctors' surgery, so patients could come and talk about their issues. The pharmacy in South Petherton have dropped their hours because of reductions in their funding. He is trying to get a doctor to attend the pharmacy in Merriott which would help residents who could not drive as there was no bus service.

Ser Item

- 925. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given** (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (working), Cllr Wakely (working) and Cllr Lillywhite (personal reasons)

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

- 926. 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

- 927. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2023** (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th June be signed as correct.

- 928. Bonfire at the Recreation Field**

To discuss with members of the Events Team and resolve what needs to be put in place before and after the bonfire.

Cllr England said that the Recreation Committee had met and discussed last year's bonfire and thought there should be changes to the way it was planned this year as the grass had still not been replaced. A member of the Events Team apologised for the time it had taken to sort it out. They are going up this week and remove all the orange plastic and strim the area, so they can see what is left to do. The Events Team said they had already decided that it would be planned differently this year as last year was the first time it had been held at the recreation field and so it was a learning curve for them.

Unresolved. A discussion took place with the Events Team on the various options that had been suggested. The Events Team is going to meet with their full committee and come back to the council with their suggestions.

929. Feedback from Recreation Field survey

To report on the results of the survey for the council to resolve at which council meeting this should be discussed further.

Cllr England outlined the main points from the results of the questionnaire, which had already been circulated to the councillors. There were 84 responses. The Clerk will produce a leaflet showing the results and saying that priorities will be discussed at the September council meeting, for inclusion with the September Web magazine and online.
Action – Parish Clerk

Resolved. The council will decide at the September council meeting which will be the priorities to take forward.

930. Recreation Field Gates

To resolve whether to unlock the gates and leave them open for a trial period.

Resolved. That the gates be opened as soon as possible for a trial period and that the situation is reviewed at the September Parish Council meeting.

931. SID data near the school

To review the data collected from SID and resolve if any further action from the Parish Council is needed.

This item is now not necessary for discussion as the school had notified us that the problem was now under control.

932. Parish Council Newsletter

To approve the July Parish Council Newsletter to be printed for distribution with the July issue of the Web at a cost of £65

Resolved. The July newsletter was approved at a cost of £65.

933. Rolling contract for allotment holders

To resolve to change the contract to a rolling contract instead of issuing a new one each year.

Resolved. That the contract be changed to a rolling contract and the allotment holders will be informed.

Action – Parish Clerk

934. Quarterly Budget Report *For information only*

The Clerk presented the budget report for April – June, which was reviewed by the council.

935. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2023
(previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £7,713.76
(previously circulated)

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

936. Recreation Field Income & Expenditure at end June 2023. *For information only*

The income and expenditure account was reviewed by the council.

It was suggested the document be sent to the recreation field advisory committee.

Action – Parish Clerk

937. Additional Bank Signatory

To resolve whether an additional bank signatory is required and if so, which councillor that should be.

Resolved. That Cllr Bourn should be the additional signatory.

938. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The Clerk reported that she had received a Climate Adaptation Toolkit from Somerset Wildlife Trust which Cllr Bourn said he would look at and outline the main points for circulation.

She will continue to transfer money to the savings account in order to earn interest, rather than keeping unnecessary funds in the current account.

In July we have received a VAT refund of just over £5,900.

She has still not received proof of Public Liability insurance from the grass cutting contractor and so will chase for that.

939. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell said that he had contacted Somerset Council about the verges and also the pothole at the top of Great Lane. Cllr Brunt mentioned the trees were blocking the power line. This needs to be reported to Western Power. Cllr Rowswell offered to do this.

Action – Cllr Rowswell

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Nothing to report.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick said that our current ranger (Vince) is proving unreliable in attending the same day each week, which is causing problems. He is not qualified to move SID. Somerset Council will be holding a meeting to discuss which ranger we will get and it has been suggested that Karen (who has the qualifications to spray the weeds and move SID) may come to us. There are only 2 permanent rangers, all the others are contractors. Cllr Brunt said he had strimmed the bank on Lambrook Road by Piece Lane, but had blown the cuttings onto the road and around the drains. She suggested that we could look at employing a private contractor to do the work, rather than use Somerset Council. Cllr Wylie Carrick offered to see if there were any ground maintenance contractors in the area.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that routine maintenance was being carried out. They had cut the footpath that ran from Cowleaze Meadow along the bottom of the farm fields.

Footpaths

Cllr Bourn mentioned that the footpath running at the bottom of the farm fields had eroded near the stream and so he had put a plastic pole in order to prevent people walking near it. It was thought that the rain had caused the bank to erode.

Somerset Council have cut some of the footpaths. They have said they will put our footpaths on a twice yearly cut rotation. A resident has complained about the footpath along Stoney Lane and has gone on-line to report it to Somerset Council. It was noted that this was not cut routinely by Somerset

940. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated with completed actions

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm