

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Angie Joy Cllr Andrew Rowswell
Cllr Ed Wakely Cllr Tim England
Cllr Nick Howard Cllr Hugo Stearn
Cllr Sally Burwood

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Adam Dance (arrived 7.30 pm, left 8.10 pm)
Somerset Cllr Jo Roundell Greene sent her apologies

Report from Somerset Council

Cllr Dance reported that the budget had gone through and they are now working on next year's budget. He has been running his hypertension work, going around local business regarding testing for blood pressure. A lot of people coming forward have high blood pressure, and he can then get them seen by a GP. The stroke unit in Yeovil hospital is moving to Dorchester and Taunton. He has written to the Secretary of State asking for this decision to be reversed and has asked other parish councils to contact the Secretary of State as well as this is detrimental to the population of Somerset.

He said that Lloyds Bank was shutting in Ilminster in August and he is trying to get a banking hub in Ilminster, but has been told that Ilminster is not big enough, despite the fact that local villages use the banking facilities in Ilminster. He has written to the Chief Executive of Lloyds bank about this.

He was asked why so much money was being spent on the Octagon theatre if the council were in financial difficulty and Cllr Dance responded that they would may receive a £10m government grant and then Yeovil Town Council will be taking on the Octagon, Westlands Leisure complex, Mudford Rec and Nine Springs as long as the residents of Yeovil approved this. If Somerset Council then get issued with a 114 notice in the future, then those services cannot be touched.

He was also asked if all the upgrading work in Yeovil Town centre would bring in new business, Cllr Dance said the business rates were set too high, but that the government set the business rates and not Somerset Council.

Glovers Walk is on the market at the moment and is under offer.

Voluntary redundancy at the Council closed 2 weeks ago. They have had about 700 apply for voluntary redundancy. They will not let people go where there are shortages.

Ser Item

1049. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Resolved. There were no apologies

1050. 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.

1051. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th March be signed as correct.

1052. LCN (Local Council Network)

To discuss any relevant issues that have been received from the LCN

The last meeting in March was attended remotely by Cllr Bourn. He has submitted and circulated a report to all councillors. The meeting focussed on highways. He said that Ilminster had drawn back from their initial interest on running a highways scheme. He did mention at the LCN meeting that we had expressed an interest, but had received no reply. He said that the LCN was currently work in progress as they have no funds.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13th June and is their Annual General meeting.

1053. Incremental pay rise

Subject to the last appraisal being satisfactory, to approve the increase in pay by one increment to point 25, backdated to 1st April (as per contract section 9.2 and adjustment to contract from 1st April 2023)

Resolved. The increase to point 25, backdated to 1st April, as approved unanimously.

1054. Budget Report for FY 23/24 at year end. For information only

To review the budget report (previously circulated)

The Clerk reported on the final budget report for the financial year 23/24. The total expenditure was £28,137.69, an underspend against budget. The total income was £43,375.32 but some of this is one-off income which is earmarked for spending on the recreation field.

1055. Re-allocation of reserves at end of FY 23/24

To discuss and approve the re-allocation of reserves (previously circulated)

Resolved. The re-allocation of reserves at the end of financial year 23/24 was approved unanimously.

1056. Stock valuation of play equipment

(unresolved from June 2023 meeting).

To discuss additional insurance premium quoted for re-valuation of play equipment and resolve whether to increase the amount the play equipment is insured for from renewal at 1st June

Resolved. It was decided to keep play equipment insured at its current level.

1057. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2024 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £1,952.33 (previously circulated)

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

1058. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The Clerk reported that she had received a £30 donation from the Events Team towards the electricity used at the Laser Show.

All documentation relating to last financial year has been sent to the internal auditor and she is awaiting the report. The approval of the AGAR documentation will be timetabled for the May meeting.

The 100 Club – we only have 74 numbers sold. Some people have not renewed despite being sent 2 emails. We now have 26 numbers to sell. The councillors agreed to help with this.

Action – All Councillors

The Annual meeting of the Parish will be held on Monday 13th May. Last year we put something in the April Newsletter, but there no room this time. It was agreed to put something in The Web and on Facebook.

1059. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell said he reported more potholes. Cllr Wakely said we were unlikely to get a copy of the letter send to the landowner concerning the filled ditch near Lopen Head. Cllr Bourn said that one of the parishioners had mentioned the mud at the corner of Littlefields Lane. It was noted that this was normally cleared up once the crops had been planted.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that they needed to get a working group together, which would probably be in May. He also needs to write up issues about the pavilion, so that they can be prioritised and also look at the cost of new play equipment. Cllr Wylie Carrick mentioned that grants were available and this could be pursued.

Cllr England said he had been approached by someone who asked if the recreation field could be used for archery. It was thought that this could not be managed safely, but he will mention this to the recreation committee.

The Events Team have repaired where the wheel marks were from the laser display. There is a part where there is still a mark and so more soil may be needed. Cllr Wakely said he had some topsoil if needed.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick said the ranger was doing a good job and the company seems easy to work with. Cllr Rowswell said villagers had mentioned how nice the village was looking. Cllr Wakely suggested that as the ranger had successfully cleared the drain at the bottom of Shells Lane, that he is asked to look at a drain a week on a rota basis. If his company has any draining rods these could be used.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick

Allotments

Cllr Howard said the allotments were tidy considering the weather.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn said that they had started grass cutting. They had received an enquiry from the Events Team to see if they would be willing to hold the Laser Light show there this November. The electric grass mover is performing very well.

Footpaths

There was nothing to report. The councillors asked the Clerk to contact the relevant person at Somerset Council to see if the footpaths were still going to be cut by them and how often.

Action – Parish Clerk

1060. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

To resolve to exclude members of the press and public. To agree that item 1061 below be dealt with after the public have been excluded as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved. There were no members of the public to exclude.

1061. Staffing – in confidence

To discuss the counter-proposal put forward by the Clerk/RFO following meetings between the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO on 19th & 20th March and resolve whether to accept it or not.

Resolved. The proposal from the Clerk/RFO was approved unanimously.

Meeting closed: 8.45 pm