

SHIPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
(Incorporating Rowberrow and Star)

Chairman: Councillor Kate Hillis
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16th June 2020

Clerk: Samantha Peake(Mrs)
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15th June 2020 in via Video conferencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Kate Hillis (in the chair), H Andrews, K Chalk, A Read,, P Tratt, S Harris, S Leader, C Riches, I Shaw, C Mitchel, N Bisdee and the clerk S Peake

Also present: Somerset County Councillor Nigel Taylor

2 parishioners in attendance until after item 69/20

66/20 Apologies for Absence

67/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Leader has a previously declared DPI for item 73/20 (i)

68/20 Parishioners Discussion time

The two members of the public raised concerns that the weight limit along Longbottom is unidirectional and there are continuing problems for users of the road as well as residents due to the size and frequency of the lorries. Cllr Taylor suggested a proposal to be put forward to SCC for a restriction on numbers of lorries. Meeting noted that the MP, James Heapey is due to report back to the residents following his meeting with SCC Highways. A parishioner suggested that permits be reviewed along Burrington Combe which may help. This however is North Somerset and neither this council nor Sedgemoor have any influence over this so this would not be a realistic prospect to explore.

69/20 To note that the weight limit along Longbottom is unidirectional

Council agreed to support Cllr Taylor in his efforts to restrict the volume of lorries along Longbottom.

70/20 Minutes of the last meetings held on 16th March and 18th May

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2020 and 18th May having been proposed by Cllr Read and seconded by Cllr Andrews were agreed as an accurate record

71/20 Matters of report from 16th March and 18th May

Chair advised that Great Hills has received permission for the retrospective development.

Meeting noted that there is nothing further to report regarding funding for the village agent whilst Council wait on the agents line manager to advise the best way for the funding to be paid.

72/20 Planning

Clerk reported a planning application for Sunnyside has been received and a planning meeting will have to be held.

73/20 Finance

Cllr Leader left the meeting for this item.

The following accounts, having previously been circulated were proposed to be paid by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr Harris and unanimously approved:

Accounts payable:

Clerk wages	£258.96
Office costs	£12.00
Simon Leader	£145.00
Colin Busby	£200.00

74/20 Open Spaces

(i) To consider issues raised with the use of the AONB around Shipham including parking and increased use of Rowberrow woods

Cllr Riches as District Councillor has been in touch with the North Somerset Councillor, Patrick Keating who represents Blagdon and Churchill. A number of concerns have been raised by parishioners regarding the sharing of space in the Rowberrow Forest. There have been a large rise in the number of visitors and in particular mountain bikers. The official trails have been promoted via Ride Mendips but this has led to an increasing use of wild trails which are causing a danger to other users where bikers have exited onto paths frequented by walkers. The area is hugely busy whilst other mountain bike areas are closed. The AONB manager has indicated a review will be needed after the Covid pandemic has eased. Cllr Riches has a meeting with the Forest Ranger to encourage some kind of compromise possibly via education, signage, social media. Meeting noted that these are unusual times and there are so few options to go out. Some users may be less familiar and less respectful but in 6 months time, it will probably quieten down. Ideally users should come together to sort out issues as there are other factors causing problems in the woods such as uncontrolled dogs.

Cllr Read will also contact Ride Mendips with a view to promoting rider obligations. Meeting also noted that the Swan will be re-opening in a couple of weeks putting more pressure on the car parking problem. Tynings has also suffered from excessive and inconsiderate parking.

Cllr Taylor advised the AONB has also requested some large boulders which may or may not be used to help the problem.

Cllr Bisdee indicated he may be able to open a field for parking.

(ii) To consider purchasing from SDC the area of grass outside The Terrace

Meeting discussed this but decided not to take this forward as there is no tangible advantage to this and there may be hidden costs with doing so, for example the ramp up to the Terrace needs to be mended.

(iii) To consider buying another litter bin to be placed outside Hansfords

Cllr Harris proposed to contact the neighbours for their opinion on having a bin placed by the road sign outside Hansfords with a view to requesting a bin be put there, seconded by Cllr Mitchel and agreed

(iv) To discuss planting of crocuses on the Parish Green

Meeting agreed for Rotary to plant Crocuses around the Rotary bench on the green opposite Lennys

(v) To discuss leaving parts of the Parish greens unmowed to encourage wildflowers

Meeting noted that most of the parish greens bordered other properties so wild areas may impact on gardens. It was noted that the Parish Council do receive complaints if the greens are not kept tidy. There is also a level of maintenance for wildflower areas to be undertaken having both cost and time implications so in this instance, council decided not to go ahead with this proposal.

Meeting noted that the tub outside the Penscot was hit by a delivery van. The driver agreed to replace it.

Cllr Leader advised that the problem with mineshafts in the field at the bottom of the football field has been addressed and Axbridge caving club have been informed that the cover needs to be replaced. Very large stones were placed on the cover which were then removed by the public. Meeting noted that neither shaft is actually on the footpath so anyone near them would be trespassing.

76/20 Highways

(i) To discuss further issues regarding speeding and traffic raised by parishioner

A request has been received for speed restrictions along Rowberrow Lane and Shipham Lane. Meeting sympathised with the need for restrictions but these have been explored before with no positive result neither having support from the police or Highways. It has taken some time to even receive some help through the Small Improvement Scheme so, for now, Council do not intend to pursue this.

75/20 Burial Ground

Cllr Riches has been busy cleaning up and removing all the rubbish at the Burial ground. Council thanked him for all his work on the Burial Ground

76/20. To receive a report from SDC councillors

Cllr Riches had circulated a report and had nothing else to add.

77/20 Chairmans/Clerks report

Clerk received a request for cutting back the vegetation from the pathway between Hollow Road and Fairhill and although not on the agenda it is a normal part of Council business so Council agreed for this to be carried out.

78/20 Incident Log

Nothing to report

79/20 To consider further issues with The Miners:

- (i) Broken down wall onto the highway
- (ii) Overgrown brambles onto the Drumhead footpath
- (iii) Trading activity being carried out

Meeting noted concerns raised by parishioners. The Drumhead is still easily accessible but there are a number of safety concerns with regard to the activity in the car park of the property. Meeting noted a number of businesses were being run from private property elsewhere in the village. Cllr Shaw proposed to lobby SDC on safety issues, on the enforcement that hasn't been carried out and the issues of the fallen down wall on their own property, seconded by Cllr Riches and agreed.

80/20 To consider Financial regulations, asset register, standing orders, statement of internal control and risk assessments (previously circulated)

Cllr Shaw proposed adoption of all the above, seconded by Cllr Harris and resolved.

81/20 Matters of Report and Future Business

Cllr Taylor reported that the cabinet at SCC have not met for 4 months but should be this week

82/20 Date of Next Meeting

20th July

Village Agent funding

Meeting ended at 9.13 p.m.

S Peake (Clerk)

Date: 20th July 2020