

# SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 September 2019

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**Open Forum** There were no parishioners present.

**19.64 Present.** - Cllr Mary Boughton (MB) - Chairman, Cllr Hilary Cunningham (HC), Vice Chairman, Cllr John Porter, Cllr Diane James (DJ), Cllr Heidi Briscoe (HB) who joined the meeting at 8.15pm,

**In attendance** - Parish Clerk, Paula Biss (PB), Cllr Mark Roberts (MR) Dorset Councillor

**19.65 Apologies for Absence** –Cllr David Bass, Cllr Christine Huxtable, Cllr Andrew Fry

**19.66 Declarations of Interest.** There were none.

**19.67 Chairman to sign as correct record the minutes** of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman. Pro HC, Sec JP.

**19.68 To consider any matters arising from the Minutes not covered by this agenda.** There were none.

**19.69 Chairman's Report – September 2019. This had been on the Website**

*So far no- one has come forward to fill our vacancy, so if you know of anybody who might be interested in joining the council please let Paula know. Are there any other ways we can think of to advertise this vacancy?*

*Recently Heidi and I walked through the village with Dave Sigley from Dorset Council who checked, and marked, drains, gullies, potholes and other issues that need maintenance. There was a request at the last parish council meeting for a sign to be erected at the bottom of Port Lane where it meets the square and this was also discussed with Dave Sigley who will look into it and report back to us. Dave was standing in for our usual Highways Officer, Blair Turner, who is temporarily seconded to Lyme Regis. We felt it was a very useful exercise and already we can see that some work has been done. This direct contact is certainly very productive in getting things done speedily. Heidi may have more to add to this brief report when she gives her Highways Report at the meeting.*

*Paula and I have both been in contact with our insurers, Came & Co, to get agreement to purchase the replacement bench that we selected at our last meeting for the Playing Field. Hopefully by the time of the meeting we will have a decision from them, and the bench will be on order.*

*The situation with the introduction of a double decker bus on the C2 school bus route is due to be introduced in September. Tree cutting has taken place along most of the route although I understand at the time of writing this there is still more to do. The four parish councils involved looked at the risk assessment drawn up by First Bus and it was comprehensive, but perhaps somewhat played down the hazards, so time will tell how it pans out in the future.*

*The first meeting of the Village Appraisal group is about to take place as I write this and Hilary will be reporting on this at the meeting. Meanwhile I have scanned the 1989 Appraisal to go on to the website. This will mean that all previous appraisals are now available online.*

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated.....

MB stated she had seen the school bus half empty on the outward run and very full on the return run. It was commented that as it was the beginning of term many children started the term at different times. There are now 55 children registered to use the school bus.

MB had been unable to attend the last BLAP meeting but Clerk handed copy of report received from Professor Michael Dower CBE, as co-ordinator of the Beaminster Area ECO Group promoting awareness of climate change, which had been sent to the recent BLAP meeting. MR asked for copy of it – sent.

#### **19.70 Clerk's Report - September 2019. This had been on the Website**

1. Various updates completed on website.
2. Wally Axford reminded of date of next meeting.
3. Co-option policy to be approved/adopted at this September meeting.
4. Training. There have been no requests for training to date.
5. We have map links available for the following: Parish Boundaries, Ward Boundaries and Public Rights of Way
6. Letter received from Axe Valley Ring and Ride requesting funds. Usage declining. I have details and "Club" trips available if anyone interested and details timetables for our Zone 6. Put copies in Village Hall?
7. Renewed SLCC Membership for next year – gone up to £63.00.
8. Organising replacement of pads on defibrillator due in September – Apparently this must be done through the British Heart Foundation. MR suggested contacting Michelle Harding from Burton Bradstock for further help if needed.
9. Continued to forward/delete emails as appropriate

The subject of Noticeboards in the Village Hall was raised. The Village Hall committee wanted to use them to display various papers and Tony Mallet was querying ownership. It was thought the boards were owned by the Parish Council. HC to ask Richard Cunningham who had been council chairman at the time of them being installed.

#### **19.71 Finance Report – (CH)**

##### **Financial Report                      September 2019**

921	11/07/2019	John Porter	3.98	Bolts swing
922	01/08/2019	Derek Smith	180.00	2 cuts mowing July/VG forsythia
923	12/08/2019	Christine Huxtable	48.07	Materials fingerposts
924	12/08/2019	Mary Boughton	31.05	Chairman expenses April-July
925	12/08/2019	P Biss	41.52	June July expenses
926	27/08/2019	Derek Smith	150.00	2 cuts mowing August
927	04/09/2019	P. Biss	800.00	Clerk's wages
928	04/09/2019	Brian Robertshaw	50.00	Fingerpost Help installing
929	04/09/2019	Christine Huxtable	22.88	Fingerpost postcrete

The cheque payment to Brian Robertshaw was for his help to install the Fingerpost at Smacombe triangle.

Please approve and minute the above cheques.

Cheques unanimously approved. Pro HC, Sec DJ

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#### **19.72 Village Appraisal 2019. – progress report (HC)**

As stated in the last PC meeting there have been village appraisals done every ten years from 1979. It was agreed that we should do another one in 2019.

All the previous appraisals are now on the web site.

The Appraisal will be led by the PC and village organisations have been invited to assist with Village Appraisal. Village Hall Trust, Village Soc and Church responded positively and are assisting. There has been no response from NISL.

First Meeting held on 27 August

Attendance – 3 councillors – Mary, Christine and myself

Chris Hewitt - volunteer who had been involved with previous appraisals.

Tony Mallet – Village Hall Trust

Tony Lock – Village Hall trust and Village Society

James Webster / Hugh King – St Martins – unable to attend initial meeting.

Strands of work:

Aim of appraisal discussed.

Means of circulating appraisal to get fullest participation and completed forms – hard copies, hand delivered and collected.

Funding costs – born by Parish Council.

Work to be undertaken before next meeting: -

- a. Review previous questions – so we can decide on the questions
- b. Volunteers to distribute and collected appraisal forms.

Time scale:

To have forms distributed to all houses in the parish by Dec 2019 and collected in by early in Jan 2020.

Presented to the Village – possibly at Parish Meeting or before.

All households should get a copy of the results and it should be included in the New Residents Pack.

Not everyone has had copies of on-going mails/paperwork. Agreed communications to be tightened up. Clerk to also receive copies.

Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

#### **19.73 Review of Planning Terms of Reference - HC**

Log of reviews to be done for all Policies and Reviews. Asset reviews every 2 years.

Not many amendments. Clerk to action.

[MR requested information of new applications/planning meetings]

#### **19.74 Village Green Notices (DB)**

Deferred in DB's absence

#### **19.75 To approve update of Asset Register.** Agreed Asset reviews every 2 years. Updated March 2019. Adopted Pro HC, Sec MB

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**19.76 Playing Field Bench** – Can now be ordered. PC to pay excess of £250.00. Make sure order with soft fixings and these will be concreted into the ground. Total including VAT (£89.66 is £537.95). Clerk to liaise with JP (*done*).

**19.77 Future Dates for Parish Council Meetings** – Although Tuesdays had been a possibility – too many people unable to attend. Agreed to stay with Wednesdays with Heidi getting a babysitter if necessary and the Parish Council had unanimously agreed to pay for this at the previous meeting.

**19.78 The receive the following reports:**

**Website (DB)** – Nothing to report

**Playing Field (JP)**

The playing field has been looked after by Derek Smith over the summer and he has kept it in an excellent condition.

Townsend Engineering have visited the Park and examined the roundabout. He has informed me the bottom bearing has collapsed and needs replacing. I have spoken to Wicksteed Park and they have supplied me with the information re. which bearings are required. I have passed this onto Paul Townsend and presently await quote to carry out the work.

When visiting the park and talking to people using it, it is very pleasing to hear the compliments that are being said of the park.

On one of the picnic tables, a support holding a seat had rotted and this has been repaired. Still waiting for the bench to replace the damaged one.

The new schedule for inspecting the park has been issued

**Resilience (DJ)**

Nothing to report. DJ/JP/MB to get together to review the existing plan if necessary including Gerry Pyke.

**Highways (HB)**

Meeting with D Sigley as in Chairman's report. HB commented how useful this had been. Unearthed many drains and clearing of drains will be completed asap. Some potholes have been filled. Road markings Port Lane-Brook Street; agreed they will be re-painted, and a give way sign painted on the road as people, mostly local, do not slow down/stop at this junction. Port Lane signs damaged and HB to liaise with HC as to who to contact over this. She also felt it would cause less damage if signs were attached to wall. MR asked that all correspondence from D Sigley between HB/MB also be copied to him.

**Christine Huxtable** had provided a report on the completion of the Fingerpost Project and in her absence this was read out by the Clerk:

"The last of the five fingerposts is finally completed, it has taken a while. When I first volunteered, I don't think I realised how much work was involved or the time it would take. Before I started, I wanted to have all the parts together. Mary and I went to Dorset Works where we found at no cost, an old broken post with fittings attached, a few spare brackets and a new post for the Smacombe triangle. This one needed to be completely rebuilt as was not an original, with metal fingers and stuck on plastic letters.

Initially I thought only seven fingers would need replacing and Martin Stones of Minster Joinery very kindly made these with no charge. When I removed them all I discovered a further six were rotten and would need replacing. Looking round Bradfords I found two oak boards, not

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normally stocked, the right size and was able to make these myself. Surprising what can be done with a jig saw and a tea plate!

I removed all the letters from the rotted boards, removed the old paint and probably several layers of my skin. I was able to re-use most of the letters as to have bought new ones would have cost more than the whole budget for the project.

It was hoped to replace the missing roundels on all four where they had been destroyed over the years but on two posts there was no way of fixing them securely. Two were ordered and made by Bridport Foundry.

The old post with fittings obtained from Dorset Works proved impossible to dismantle and I needed these parts to complete the two posts which would have the new roundels fitted. I took it to Spetisbury where they had tools to do this and to also make a collar for the Burpitt Lane post. I was expecting this to be quite expensive but was able to do a little swapping and came away paying nothing at all.

Although it took a lot of time the first four posts were then completed with not too many problems.

That can't be said for the one on the triangle. I needed a break and as it was still standing thought it could wait. I was not really sure how to do this one as I needed to get the post in the ground and a way of securing the post brackets. Then someone decided to demolish it. It was not a tractor, definitely a car by the tyre prints. After a lot of head scratching, trial and error, a local toolmaker kindly made a metal collar, again with no charge. The problem of how to hold it all together was solved with the purchase of a plastic fence post. I was then able to fit it all together and it was finally installed last Wednesday.

I would like to thank Brian Robertshaw for digging a metre deep hole and helping me put the post in on Monday. I would not have been able to do it without his very hard work. Also Mary who thought she was coming round for coffee on Wednesday, but ended up standing on the triangle holding the fingers straight while I bolted them on.

I do need to do a little touching up on a couple of the signs but that can wait till after my holiday.

There was a budget for the fingerposts, a £300 donation from AONB, £600 from the Parish Council Precept and £421 kindly donated by Chris Hewlett, money raised at car boot sales with items donated by Shipton residents.

This made a total budget for the project of £1321.

The total cost for the refurbishment was I believe £1358.

On hearing of the deficit Christine Hewlett has offered to cover this from the car boot funds. Thank you so much.

I am very grateful to everyone who has helped me when needed, made parts, and given me bits and pieces, and did not take any payment. Without this the cost would probably be at least double. Pear Tree Cottage no longer looks like a fingerpost workshop!"

**Christine Huxtable**

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We do need to have the sign for HGVs replaced as shown in the photo. Perhaps this could be fitted to the cycle route post.



Christine was thanked for her hard work and it was agreed “thanks to all” should be put in the BVN.

#### **Rights of Way/Foothpaths (WA) – Written report**

It’s been a busy period, but no real problems. Jim Basker, the new Chair of Bothenhampton and Walditch PC has been in touch with me. He is interested in the footpaths and bridleways, particularly those that cross the parish boundaries. We are particularly concerned about bridleway 24 at Bonscombe and bridleway 22 from Burbitt lane down to the old Tip. These are both badly eroded underfoot, so it is a DC issue. I am in the process of establishing the priority status of these routes from DC. It seems to me that the Burbitt lane path would be particularly beneficial for walkers and cyclists (young and old!) to travel from Shipton to Bridport safely. Interestingly, it is just 2 miles from The New Inn in Shipton to The Crown at the bottom of Sea Road South!

Sue and I cleared the lower path from Grove Lane (Walditch) to Bonscombe. It is rather muddy but is passable. We also spent a few happy hours clearing the northern footpath around Shipton Hill (from Loders Lane to Higher Sturthill). That is also passable now, though probably needs a marker or two to show where it is! There is also a trip hazard where the path is forced to cross a collapsed fence. I will try and deal with this.

Jodie at the New Inn said that she had had a number of requests for information about footpaths around Shipton. She wanted to help but didn’t have the local knowledge. We have dropped off 2 copies of the DCC Shipton Gorge footpaths and Bridleways map and a copy of

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Joan Ballard's booklet of walks around Shipton Gorge. Hopefully, next season's visitors will find these useful.

Finally, thanks to Robert Bradshaw, a new resident of the village, who has offered to help clear paths on his runs around the parish. I think he has already been busy, as there are cleared routes south of the church that are nothing to do with me!

**Wally Axford**

MB to send letter of thanks to Wally.

**Defibrillator (HC)**

Weekly and monthly inspections completed. Monthly checks are confirmed with the Clerk. Pads are due to be renewed in September 2019. Clerk has ordering of new pads in hand (see 19.70)

Cllr Mark Roberts gave a brief report on his recent activities and would comment on different parts of his DC remit at each future meeting. The chairman thanked him for his input.

Meeting ended 9.00pm

**To confirm date for the next SGPC Meeting – 13 November 2019**

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