

SHIPTON GORGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

27th APRIL 2005

Present: Cllrs: R Hewlett (chair), M Boughton, R Cornish, D Smith, R Langran, J Epplestone, C Errington, G Maxfield, R Coatsworth (County Councillor), M Parsons (District Councillor)
19 Parishioners attended

258. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everybody especially Simon Thompson and PC Iveson. He was appreciative of all the work that had been put into putting up the displays and visual aids in the hall. Last years talk had been about recycling and there had been no recent update on when the recycling scheme will be introduced. County Councillor Coatsworth stated that March 2006 was the date he had recently been given. The Chairman stated that there would be an open forum after item 264 of the agenda.

259. Apologies

Cllr B Lavelle, B Epplestone, Peter and Pam Bates, C. Cornish, A. Boughton, E. Langran, E. Fulford, D Bredemear,

260. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 2003 – 2004

The minutes had been approved and signed on the 12th May 2004. Copies of these minutes were made available to the Parishioners. There were no comments other than the spelling of Frank Rogers surname.

261. Chairman's Report

The annual meeting is an opportunity to reflect on the year's business. It has been an exceptionally busy years for the PC. The Chairman was concerned on the ever-increasing workload that the nine unpaid Parish Councillors are expected to endure.

At the beginning of the year (May 2004) duties were allocated amongst councillors:- Richard Hewlett was elected Chairman as well as the Parish Councils representative on the Village Hall Management Committee on which he serves as secretary. Mary Boughton was elected vice-chairman and chair of the playing field committee

Robert Cornish was elected Chairman of the planning committee. Brian Lavelle acts as the link with the WDDC and DCC on highway issues. He works closely with the new Parish Maintenance Units. The Parish Council is grateful to the many hours Brian has given to this task. John Epplestone represents the Parish Council at meetings with the DAPTC and his willingness to do so is appreciated. Robert Langran continues to oversee the condition of our footpaths and bridleways. He acts as the link with the DCC and has established a good working relationship with them. Charles Errington and Mary Boughton have sacrificed much of their own time to develop the village website. This site will continue to evolve and if nothing else it will be recognized as an invaluable archive resource on matter relating to the village. The precept for the year has been wisely spent. There is a small surplus of £198. The precept for next (2005-2006) year is £3959 which is a 4% increase. The PC strives to keep the precept as low as possible but is faced with ever increasing costs. An example being the insurance, which has risen by 24%.

The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for their support, hard work and attendance at the meetings. The coming year will not be any easier. There are at least two significant planning applications that are likely to be presented; the work on the Parish Plan will proceed; the future of the New Inn as a pub is not secure and the planned maintenance of the playing field will continue to require significant work. The Clerk Jeff Fisher was thanked for his work and support to the Chairman over the last year.

The Chairman introduced PC Iveson and thanked him for attending especially since he has other duties that night.

262. Police Spokesman

PC Iveson stated he is not the local officer that position has been given to PC Simon Herfet who has taken over from PC Cameron. The number of police in the Bridport area was queried. PC Iveson stated that numbers were dropping but they are supported by two community support officers and two probationers will be starting soon. It was not the policy to reduce numbers. The use of the police helicopter, which appears regularly over Shipton, was queried. PC Iveson stated it would not be carrying out a routine patrol but would, he thought, be carrying out some IR surveillance. He would try and find out.

263. Parish Council Report

Cllr Robert Cornish (Chair of Planning Committee) reported on planning activities over the last year. He reported that there had been eleven applications ranging from the straight forward to grand designs. Robert said how much he appreciated the support from the villagers and that "people power" does work most of the time. He was queried on advertising within the village. He said it would be discussed at the next PC meeting and would ascertain legality. Cllr Mary Boughton (Chair of Playing Field Committee) reported on the playing field. Mary stated that after the theft of the mower the shed security had been improved. Vandalism is low and the field is in good condition and is well used. The highlight of the year was the maintenance day, which was a real community effort with thirty people and lots of children attending. Much work was done that day. Maintenance work for the coming year includes the swings, seats and safety surfaces. The work Grayham Rosamond does cannot be underestimated and his efforts are much appreciated. There will be another maintenance day date has yet to be confirmed. Mary finished her report by saying "We are proud of our Playing Field and rightly so, it is a valuable facility in the village, run and maintained solely by the village and long may it continue to be so."

264. Reports from other Organisations

St Martins Church

Margaret Fisher (Secretary of PCC) stated that the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting was held on 6th April 2005, at which the officers were elected. Mrs Janet Lane and Mrs Gillian Maxfield will serve as Churchwardens. Gen. Sir Geoffrey Howlett stood down from this office, and thankfully he will continue to serve on the PCC as the Vice Chairman. The PCC are also grateful to Mrs B. Epplestone, who held office for many years, but due to ill health had to forgo her role in the summer of 2004. Lt. Col. Peter Bates and Mrs Pam Bates have also stood down as members of the PCC and the Deanery Synod after many years of admiral service. Mrs Janet Lane organises the family service held once a month and puts in a lot of hard work encouraging the young people to participate. Mr Bob White and his hard working team maintain the Churchyard and always welcome more volunteers.

Currently the Bride Valley is fairly well served with Clergy and a Reader. However, this will not be the case in under two years time with the retirement of Anthony Ashwell, who will not be replaced. We are being asked to pray for vocations, that we, as lay people, may have to serve the Church, in many ways, including the taking of services.

The annual Church fete will be held on July 16th and contributions, help and support are very welcome.

Village Society

Sally Parker (chairwoman) summarised the numerous activities during the year. Sally thanked the Parish Council for their help with the bonfire and Keith and Den Sorrell for the use of their field and kitchen. There is a monthly quiz night at the New Inn and every fortnight there is a pensioner's lunch at the New Inn. Sally thanked John and Jean Maurice for their invaluable support to these events. Sally also thanked the young people of the village (50 under 16) since there is very little vandalism and noise problems. Sally ended with a commercial note saying the Village Society tea towels were available at £3.50 each.

Village Hall Trust

Ed Buck (chairman) stated that it had been a busy year for the Trustees of the village hall. A new stage and shed for storage were purchased. Maintenance activities over the year included the wall by the front gate, double-glazing to the kitchen and toilets, new blinds for the kitchen and convector heaters for the hall. Two film shows and three stage productions through "Artsreach" were put on and all were profitable. The Edith Piaf evening was an outstanding

success. Two bingo evenings and a jumble sale were held. The hiring of the hall has gone well with varied usage. The 100 Club continues to run successfully and the Trustees have even been able to offer advice to the new management committee of the hall at Burton Bradstock.

Home Watch

Frank Rogers stated that not a lot had happened in the last year although with no ringmaster and our local policeman off ill the crime rate had reduced by 50%!! There were three reported crimes, criminal damage, theft of a stone and an attempted break-in at the church. Frank was asked should anything suspicious be reported. Frank encouraged that any suspicious activities be reported.

Open Forum

Sally Parker asked what was happening to the Lillian Stone Trust as it had not been mentioned in the BVN and appears to have been dormant for some years. The trust makes provision for the “poor of the parish”. The trustees are the churchwardens and the rector. Gillian Maxfield reported that solicitor’s advice was being sought and it was hoped the trust would again be used for the benefit of the villagers.

265. Shipton Gorge Parish Plan.

Simon Thompson outlined the Parish Plan process. He was impressed by previous appraisals and stated that the Parish Plan was similar but was an opportunity to take stock **and** think ahead. A steering group needs to be formed ideally with 6-8 people comprising possibly two from the parish council, representatives from other village organisations, a communication expert and a co-ordinator. Funding is available from basically two sources, £1500 max from WDDC and 75% cost from Dorset Strategic Partnership. Local community must contribute minimum of 5% of total cost. It is important that those involved are committed and not compelled. The fulfilment of the parish plan will involve people other than just the Parish Council. It is an opportunity to refocus on ideas that may have been around for sometime. The Chairman stated that the PC had no preconceptions of what the parish plan would specifically achieve. The old appraisals were a snap shot of the village at a particular time. The parish plan takes the appraisal further with a plan to “improve” whatever is found to be wanting in the village.

The Chairman thanked Simon for his presentation.

266. Village Survey

Charles Errington outlined the survey and summarised some of the survey posters in the hall. Some villagers have not received their surveys and spares were provided in the hall. Mary Boughton stated that some of the youngsters did not think the survey was important and had not filled them in. Everyone was encouraged to fill in the surveys since it is important that the information is collected.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked R Coatsworth (County Councillor), M Parsons (District Councillor) for their support throughout the year.

267. Next Parish Council Meeting

11th May 2005