

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

**Open Forum:**

County Councillor Ron Coatsworth encouraged members of the PC to attend the public meetings (Under the Fair Deal for Dorset banner) being set up to by DCC to discuss Council Tax. These meeting are an opportunity for the public to have their say on how their Council Tax should be spent. **DS** volunteered to attend the local Bridport meeting. **CE** stated he had received a survey on Council Tax and believed it was the worst survey he had ever seen and it was impossible to respond in any meaningful way. He will be writing to the Chief Executive expressing his views.

**Present:**

Cllrs. Richard Hewlett, Charles Errington, Robert Langran, Robert Cornish, John Epplestone and David Smith

**In attendance:**

County Councillor Ron Coatsworth and one parishioner.

**234. Apologies:**

District County Councillor Mark Parsons, Brian Lavelle, Mary Boughton and Gillian Maxfield

**235 Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of last PC meeting (10<sup>th</sup> November) were approved and duly signed by the chairman.

**236 Clerk's Report**

1. Letter has been sent regarding Cumberland Cottage. The old minutes yielded a better knowledge of the date of the demolition.
2. Strimmer is now covered by insurance at no cost this year.
3. DCC have been contacted to enquire about extending the speed limit to cover Blackthorn Farm and they have replied. "To extend the speed limit would require another Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order and we would need an official request from the Parish Council, however, the speed limit is to cover the developed sections of road and it may be that this is not considered to apply in this case"
4. New DCC circles for signposts can still be made. They are cast in Bridport. There is most likely to be a cost, it needs to be established how many the PC requires. After a brief discussion it was agreed that four were required with two spares. **Clerk** to ascertain cost.
5. On behalf of the PC the Clerk has written to Charles Errington thanking him for the offer of a new seat for the playing field.
6. Order for annual inspection of the playing field has been sent and acknowledged.
7. Mower will be picked up for service in 3-4 weeks time.

**237 Matters Arising**

The playing field hedge along Port Lane had been cut.

### **238. Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations.**

The Clerk stated the Freedom of Information Act came fully into force at the beginning of the year. The Parish Council did in January 2003 adopt the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes Only). The PC had further agreed to charge for copies of documents at a rate of 10p per sheet.

The Clerk did not anticipate the act to involve the PC with much work. The Clerk did now have very good guidelines on archiving and disposal of documents and undertook to review the contents of the filing cabinet in the village hall and also the files kept at his cottage. Records that should be kept and are not used can be transferred to the Dorset History Centre.

The Environmental Information Regulations also came into force at the beginning of the year. These regulations are very unlikely to affect the PC.

### **239. Parish Plan**

RH stated that Burton Bradstock was making progress with their plan. It was the intention to promote and “kick start” the Shipton Parish Plan at the Annual meeting. However the Councillors who had offered to work on the plan have too many other commitments and subsequently progress has been slow. CE estimated a commitment of half a day per week was required in the short term. The usefulness of the Parish Plan was discussed. The plan would be used as a reference/guideline for planning applications. JE believed that there was a risk of Shipton being ignored if a plan was not produced. DS stated that in order to convince the parishioners at the annual meeting of the merits of having a plan and to seek their involvement, considerable work would need to be done before the meeting. CE stated that he may have some free time in early February. **RH** to hold a meeting with CE and MB in early February.

### **240 Reports.**

#### **Planning**

RC stated that there have been two application since the last meeting

1. 1/W/04/002069 - Demolish two garages erect new garage and workshop. Courtfield Cottage. This had been approved on 20/12/04. The Clerk, whose application is was, stated it had taken a further three weeks to get confirmation on the colour and materials for the walls and roof. All this information was on the original drawing.
2. 1/W/04/002367 - Erect two extensions at rear of 2 Rosamond Avenue Shipton Gorge. This application had been discussed just before the PC meeting and the recommendation was for approval.

The Clerk and RC now show the progress of the planning applications on a spreadsheet that is frequently updated.

A new field gate has appeared along Shipton Lane just South of Plot Bungalow. (Post meeting note:- it is not a new gateway but an old gateway which has been cleared )

**Clerk** to establish planning regulations for gates and removing hedges.

#### **General Finance**

A spreadsheet of the 2004/2005 accounts was tabled. The Clerk outlined the predicted spend to the end of the financial year and believed the precept would be spent with probably a very small surplus. At the next PC meeting in March the final financial position will be discussed. New cheques issued since the last meeting are: -

<b>CHEQUE No</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMMOUNT</b>
372	Robert Cornish (postage)	£8.40
273	D Allen (website )	£175

### **Playing Field**

1. RH stated the basketball post had broken during the recent gales. This had been speedily repaired and the post has been re-erected but without the board.. Grayham Rosamond is organising to get the board fixed. (Post meeting note:- Board has been put in place.)
2. CE stated that as the playing field is a registered charity any fund raising would benefit from "Gift Aid". RH stated that before any fund raising was undertaken there must be a clear understanding of why funds are required.

### **DAPTC**

JE stated that at a recent DAPTC meeting a member was very concerned that large companies were buying land in the area possibly for casinos and other activities. The member was concerned that no one was stopping such acquisitions

### **Rights of Way**

There is an application to divert the start of the Bridleway 12 from the entrance to Higher Sturthill Farm to approx 100 yards up Icen Lane where there is a gate. RL has stated that the PC has no objection but that the gates at the entrance and exit of the field should be repaired and made user friendly for horse riders before the change is made.

### **Village Hall**

The Piaffinitee performance was well attended and well received  
The bingo night went very well, unfortunately a small number had to be sent away due to excessive numbers.  
A film is scheduled soon and tickets are available.

### **Highways**

BL has offered to attend a workshop on the Parish Maintenance Units.  
RL reported that overhanging branches from Heathfield had prevented access of the refuse lorry to the village hall. Frys the current owners had been contacted and the tree had been cut back.

### **Village Website**

Information on the Church has been completed thanks to contributions from Elizabeth Langran, Christine Cornish and Margaret Fisher.  
The invoice for the maintenance of the website has been paid.

### **241. Correspondence**

RH stated that the Bridport Local Area Partnership was very active and all Parish Councils are being encouraged to attend. **DS** offered to attend. Clerk stated that he no longer records correspondence that is of no use to the PC. Planning information is no longer put on the log but is detailed on a spreadsheet he and BC update.  
Clerk stated that more and more correspondence is being received by e-mail and it is now the norm to have to print off posters for the notice boards.

### **242. Dates of next Meetings**

The next meeting will be on **9<sup>th</sup> March 2005**