

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2005**

Open Forum:

No topics were raised.

Present:

Cllrs, Mary Boughton, Robert Langran, David Smith, Gillian Maxfield, Bob Cornish. (As neither the chairman or vice-chairman were present, Cllr Mary Boughton took the chair)

In attendance:

County Councillor Ron Coatsworth, District Councillor Mark Parsons and three parishioners

296. Apologies:

Cllrs Richard Hewlett, Charles Errington and John Epplestone

297 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of last PC meeting (9th September) were agreed and signed by the acting chairman

298 Clerks Report

1. Letter of thanks was sent to Brian Lavelle for the service he gave to the council.
2. The auditors have approved the annual return. No comments were received.
3. The audit invoice was for £120, a large increase from £50 for the previous year. The clerk has challenged this increase. No reduction was forthcoming. The increase is basically due to the money received to replace the mower, which has put the audit charges into a new band.
4. The parish housing needs survey was sent out and forms should be completed and posted by 11th November
5. Written confirmation has been received from our insurers that the firework display and the “new” football pitch are covered by our current insurance at no extra charge.
6. The removal of advance warning signs of new speed limit has been requested.
7. Reminder has been sent to the village organisations to give Mary Boughton details of events for the website.
8. Details on the way a new member is to be elected or co-opted onto the council has only just been received. Clerk to discuss with RH.
9. 85 completed parish survey forms have been loaded onto the computer. Clerk will give a simple analysis of data to MB for parish plan.

299 Matters Arising

The playing field maintenance day will be on April 8th 2006. One of the items to be covered would be the painting of the swings. An estimate is being done for the replacement of the wooden slats of the merry go round.

MB stated that CE would be working away until Xmas. The clerk was grateful to RH for effectively taking on the duties of the chairman. MB hoped that everyone would help and take some of the burden of work off RH. A suitable person has been interviewed for the clerk's position. The current clerk is leaving the area but assured council that he would ensure a comprehensive handover to the new clerk. CE is preparing the new contract and terms of employment for the clerk..

300. Adoption of 2006/2007 Precept.

The following precept was agreed: -

Item	2006/2007 funding £
Clerks wages	1036
Stationary	80
Playing Field	1970
OVERHEADS	
Insurance	332
DAPTC	80
Audit	50
Storage of filing cabinet	50
Website	100
Village hall	100
Parish Plan	150
CHARITIES	
Homewatch	20
St Martins	100
TOTAL	£4068

This is a 2.75% increase on the 2005/2006 precept.

The clerk estimated a £625 underspend in the 2005/2006 financial year. No contingency has been added to the 2006/2007 precept because of this underspend. At the January meeting any donations to charities will be discussed. DS stated that the BVN should not be forgotten since the council quite regularly makes free use of the magazine.

301. The New Inn update

DS gave a comprehensive report on the current situation.

The salient points are: -

1. The New Inn Support Group has been formed.
2. Fund raising events are taking place and donations are being sort.
3. End of February is the dead line for a decision with Palmers.
4. DAPTC are involved in advising on the legal aspects of the Parish Council effectively running a business.
5. Several parties are interested in running the pub.
6. Public funding is proving difficult to obtain.
7. A business plan is being written and will be presented to the council at the January meeting.
8. The Parish Council will hold the lease but it is the intention that the council will not be involved in the detailed management of the pub.

MB thanked DS and the team for all their hard work.

302. Consideration of BLAP membership

At the last meeting it was suggested that the council should become a full member and have voting rights. MB will not be the Chamber of Trade representative and would not normally attend. It was agreed to defer the question of membership to the next meeting.

303 Discussion on “Local Work”

This item was deferred since the relevant paperwork had not been distributed.

304. Reports.

Planning

The spreadsheet of all the recent planning applications had been circulated.

The main recent event was the withdrawal of the application to build a caravan storage site off Shipton Lane. It is known that the highways department were against the application. Other planning activities are of a minor nature.

It would appear, but not confirmed, that significant alterations to the plans to Home Cottage have taken place without any consultation to the parish council. Mark Parsons offered to look into the situation and **RC** undertook to talk to the planning department. A letter may be required depending on RC’s findings. In view of the controversy around this application the council strongly felt it should be consulted on any amendments.

DS gave an outline of the Peas Hill development.

1. Magna have applied for funding
2. Start date is planned for April 2007
3. 4 units would be for affordable rent - £60 to £70 per week
4. 4 units would be 50/50 shared ownership.
5. 4 units would be discounted market with 1/3 being kept by Magna
6. There might be £1000 per unit community benefit which should not be forgotten when the detailed planning application is submitted.

General Finance

The clerk stated that the general financial situation had been discussed during the setting of the precept. Only one cheque has been issued since the last meeting.

Cheque:-

CHEQUE No	RECIPIENT	AMMOUNT
389	BDO Stoy Hayward	£120

Playing Field

The Charity Commission annual return has been completed. Some of this years outstanding actions are being progressed.

DAPTC

Nothing to report

Rights of Way

The builders at Home Cottage are not blocking the footpath and were to be commended for this.

Village Hall

Nothing to report

Highways

The clerk stated that the PMU submission date had passed but he had put a list to Blair Turner, who said he would deal with the requests. The breaking up of Burbitt Lane was mentioned to Blair, he would try and do something next year.

RC thought it was unfortunate that the Highways Authority did not take the opportunity to improve the marking at the A35 junction during the current resurfacing.

Parish Plan

Meeting was held on 21/09/05. Thirteen parishioners expressed interest in helping. Funding application will be done by the end of December.

Village Website

MB undertook to negotiate a reduction in costs since advertisements were now part of the website. The aim had always been that the site would be self-financing

305. Correspondence

The correspondence log has been distributed.

Frank Rogers has resigned from his Homewatch duties. Clerk to write to thank Frank for his efforts over many years.

306. Dates of next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 11th January 2006