

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2006**

**Present:**

Cllrs Mary Boughton (MB), Robert Cornish (RC), John Epplestone (JE), Charles Errington (CE), Richard Hewlett (RH), Robert Langran (RL), David Smith (DS).

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk Ernie Thomas, County Councillor Ron Coatsworth (CC), District Councillor Mark Parsons (MP) and one parishioner.

**Open Forum:**

No matters were raised under this item.

**330. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**331. To elect the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Richard Hewlett was unanimously elected as Chairman (Proposed by RL, seconded by MB). Acceptance of office was duly signed. Cllr Mary Boughton was unanimously elected as Vice-chairman (Proposed by RC, seconded by CE).

**332. To consider the two vacancies for Parish Councillors and, if thought fit, to co-opt candidates to fill such vacancies**

Amy Steele (AS) and Denise Marriott (DM) were unanimously co-opted as Parish Councillors (Proposed by CE, seconded by MB). Acceptances of office were duly signed. RH welcomed the new Councillors.

**333. To appoint committee chairmen and members and fill positions of responsibility**

The following positions were agreed unanimously:

Playing Field Chair – Cllr Hewlett (Proposed by MB, seconded by CE). Agreed that AS would act as deputy.

Planning Committee Chair – Cllr Cornish (Proposed by MB, seconded by DS).

Village Hall – Cllr Marriott (Proposed by DS, seconded by RC). **RH** to write informing Ann Hunt of this appointment.

The Planning Committee to be all the Parish Councillors except the Chairman. **RC** to contact Pam Graham and Geoff Shepherd inviting them to continue as lay members.

The Playing Field committee to be RH (Chair), MB, DS, AS and Grayham Rosamond. **RH** to contact Grayham to confirm his membership and to thank him for all his work on the playing field.

DAPTC Area Committee representative – Cllr Epplestone (Proposed by RH, seconded by CE).

Highways – Cllr Langran (Proposed by RC, seconded by MB).

Rights of Way – Cllr Langran (Proposed by DS, seconded by RC).

BLAP representative – Councillor Smith (Proposed by RH, seconded by MB).

Web site to be led by Clerk who will be given instruction in the technical aspects by Damon Allen (Proposed by MB, seconded by CE). **Clerk** to contact him to arrange tuition. Agreed that web site responsibilities should be recognised as part of Clerk's duties and **Clerk** to log time spent on such duties in September and October in readiness for the precept calculations.

Parish Plan to remain on future agendas but no-one appointed to lead on this matter.

**334. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2006**

The minutes of the PC meeting of 22 March were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **335. Clerk's Report**

1. Clerk had written to the parishioners concerned about parking outside St Martin's Church and the Village Hall to say ownership of land under investigation. Church of England, Salisbury Diocese, has not been able to establish the ownership of the relevant land, including the approach road. **Clerk** to provide information to CC for possible further investigation and to write to the parishioners suggesting they monitor the position and advise if any problems experienced.
2. The matter of the proposed closure of Burton Bradstock library was raised by RC. The PC was concerned at the loss of a facility used by parishioners. Agreed that **RH** should establish the views of the Parish Meeting and a letter then be sent to the Director of Corporate Services accordingly. CC left the meeting.
3. Agreed donation of £60 for BVN had been made in March.
4. There is a link to our web site on the Dorset for You site. Clerk is exploring the possibility of having a dedicated free page for the PC on that site.

### **336. Other matters arising from the minutes**

**RH** had yet to approach DCC regarding discouraging use of the road through the village by heavy vehicles but would do so. **MP** had raised the matter of early start time for refuse collection with Derek Cranmer, the official concerned, but it was noted early collection was still occurring. **MP** to raise the issue again.

### **337. To authorise the appointment of additional signatories to the Parish Council's bank account**

Clerk reported that although a request had been made to Lloyds TSB for a mandate form, this had not arrived. Matter deferred to next meeting and **Clerk** to pursue the matter with a view to having completed form ready for PC to ratify the additional signatories at that meeting.

### **338. The New Inn Update**

DS gave a comprehensive report on the current situation.

The salient points are:

1. It was hoped to sign a lease by the end of May.
2. Open access to the premises has been requested to enable work to progress.
3. Premises licence expected by the end of May.
4. Funding hoped for from both DEFRA and Rural Renaissance.
5. Building work expected to start on 30 May.
6. Fund raising events will culminate in a Summer Ball after which the fund raising team will stand down.
7. A July opening was still hoped for.

MB said there was the possibility of underspent funds in Rural Renaissance and offered to assist through her contacts.

### **339. To decide on representations to be made regarding the West Dorset District Local Plan**

**RH** said that the document covered a wide range of matters but the main issue of concern was the Inspector's recommendation that the Defined Development Boundary should be removed. The effect of this would be to prevent any development within the village other than affordable housing, small scale local employment and community facilities. If the boundary was removed, over time its coverage would be forgotten. His recommendation was that the PC should oppose the proposal and press for the DDB to be retained. **MP** said that the Inspector's recommendation had raised widespread concern. Its objective was to avoid increased occupation in unsustainable communities but its effect could well be to push people out of smaller villages. The District Council could overturn the proposal and indeed many District Councillors were known to be opposed to it. There would be a vote on the issue by the full Council in July or August. Agreed that the PC should send letters of objection to District Councillors. **DS** said that the letters should stress the positive impact of controlled development including the new residents who

made a contribution to village life. **Clerk** to prepare and issue appropriate letters on behalf of the PC.

### **340. To finalise arrangements for the annual Parish Meeting**

RH said that this year there would be no speaker at the meeting although representatives of a number of village organisations would give reports on their activities. MB said that the meeting should be told that due to insufficient response to requests for help in developing a Parish Plan, this matter would be on hold for the time being. RC would report on planning activity over the past year.

### **341. Reports.**

#### **Planning**

The spreadsheet of all the recent planning applications had been circulated and RC said that he had nothing further to report.

#### **General Finance**

The latest financial statements for the past and current financial years were circulated. Clerk stated that the first instalment of the precept should by now have been received but the relevant bank statement was awaited to confirm this. Payments made in 2006/07 included items covered by the 2005/06 precept but unspent at 31 March 2006 and a separate line was now included in the current year's financial statement to identify such amounts. RH and MB said that the donation of £100 made to the PCC on 7 April should have been allocated to the Overheads category (post-meeting note – it has been agreed payment was correctly allocated to the Charities category.) Cheques had been issued since the last meeting as follows:

<b>CHEQUE No</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
395	Bride Valley Team Council (BVN)	£60.00
396	E S Thomas (clerk's salary)	£209.58
397	Shipton Gorge Village Hall Trust	£150.00
398	PCC of Shipton Gorge	£100.00

Proposed payments of £11.40 to Contract Monitoring Services Ltd in respect of postage and stationery and £72.77 to RH in respect of purchases for the Playing Field Maintenance Day were agreed. As regards authorisation of payments generally, MB said that provided a cost had been covered by the precept calculation, subsequent payment was thereby authorised by the PC and this position was agreed. (JE left the meeting).

#### **Playing Field**

RL currently held the inspection log and the matter of reconcreting the goalposts would be followed up.

#### **DAPTC**

Nothing to report.

#### **BLAP**

Nothing to report.

#### **Rights of Way**

Nothing to report.

#### **Village Hall**

The AGM of the Village Hall Trust was fixed for 30 May. More tables and chairs had been purchased.

**Highways**

Although the Parish Maintenance Units had dealt with many of the matters reported, the cutting of the hedge at Barr Lane had not been done. Blair Turner to be contacted to follow this up.

**Web site**

See agenda item 333.

**Parish Plan**

See agenda item 333.

**342. To consider and, if thought fit, to authorise the making of Charitable Donations**

No charitable donations were proposed.

**343. Correspondence**

The correspondence log had been distributed and specific items were considered as follows:

**RH** to provide a copy of the draft Housing Needs Survey Report to DM and AS and to arrange for Andy Lloyd, the Rural Housing Enabler, to meet with the PC. Payment of annual subscription of £84.15 to DAPTC agreed. Payment of renewal insurance premium of £317.59 to Allianz Cornhill agreed. Invitation to DCC Seminar on Highway Maintenance passed to RL. Consideration of new Tree Work Application Protocol deferred to next meeting.

**344. To fix the date for the next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 12 July. Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 May.