

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Present:**

Cllr Richard Hewlett (Chairman) (RH), Cllr Mrs Mary Boughton (Vice-chairman) (MB), Cllr Robert Cornish (RC), Cllr John Epplestone (JE), Cllr Charles Errington (CE), Cllr Robert Langran (RL), Cllr David Smith (DS), Cllr Mrs Amy Steele (AS).

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk Ernie Thomas and five parishioners.

**Open Forum:**

A parishioner mentioned an issue that had arisen regarding parking in the vicinity of the New Inn. After discussion it was agreed that this was not a matter in which the PC should become involved. CE observed that the PC could not lawfully decide anything that was not on the agenda for the meeting. Another parishioner mentioned the possibility of discreet signs being placed by footpath stiles indicating the existence of the village pub, to encourage walkers to support the New Inn. Whilst this was not considered a matter for the PC, it was suggested that this might be something for the Village Society to pursue in consultation with relevant landowners.

**365. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence. At this point, RH mentioned that the Clerk had been in office for some eight months and having satisfactorily completed his probationary period, his appointment was being confirmed. A letter to this effect was handed to the Clerk.

**366. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July**

The minutes of the PC meeting of 12 July were agreed and signed by RH.

**367. Clerk's Report**

1. Discussion with Richard Stubbs of Dorset CC Traffic & Safety Management Section has established that speed recordings taken in the village have indicated general observance of 30 m.p.h. speed limit. 20 m.p.h speed limit, even if approved, would require installation of traffic calming measures as such limits are required to be self-policing. It would be possible for Richard to bring a radar gun to confirm the generally compliant speeds and it may be possible to have a mobile speed indicator device (SID) for a period. Given lack of accidents and apparent observance of the limit, it is believed the police would not wish to divert scarce resource for this purpose. RH said he believed that speeds through the village were excessive. MB said that sleeping policemen or chicanes would be unacceptable on visual grounds. AS observed that the new road surface tended to make cars sound as if they were travelling faster. CE said that sleeping policemen were being reintroduced in some locations, but he had not seen excessive vehicle speeds in the village and questioned where and when these were observed. It was felt it was mainly during the school run hours that the problem was greatest. Agreed that **Clerk** should follow up on Mr Stubbs' offer of use of a radar gun and also the possible provision of a mobile SID.
2. A meeting regarding parking on land adjacent to St Martin's Church had yet to be arranged. RL said that the relevant footpath map (copy provided to RH) was not definitive and left much to be desired.
3. Copy of minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of 1 March 2005 had been provided to Andy Lloyd. Due to holiday absences, it had not been possible yet to fix a date for a meeting with Magna representatives, although Magna's Sarah Barney still wished for a meeting despite the recent planning consent refusal. Parish Councillors to indicate available dates for a meeting and **Clerk** to arrange this with Magna and Andy Lloyd.

4. Clerk wrote to Blair Turner about the overhanging hedge in Barr Lane and it was understood this had now been cut back.
5. Risk Register had been updated.
6. Dates of forthcoming meetings had been announced in BVN.

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

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

### **369. To consider the vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

RH reported that Bob White had expressed interest in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor, but RH had not yet been able to make contact to pursue this. More recently, tentative interest in the vacancy had been expressed by Colin Green. Agreed that RH should first approach Bob White to see if he still wished to be co-opted. If he were to become a Parish Councillor, it would result in a vacancy for an internal auditor.

### **370. To consider procedures for internal audit**

RH said that it was appropriate for the PC to carry out a review of its internal audit procedures, but given the possible change in internal auditor referred to under the previous agenda item, this matter to be carried forward to the next meeting.

### **371. The New Inn update**

DS said he was pleased that this would be the last time this matter was on the agenda, as the New Inn was now up and running successfully. He thanked the PC for its support and said he was encouraged by the initial levels of trading. He had been greatly impressed by the way in which the directors of New Inn Support Ltd had handled the many issues that had arisen and also by the level of support from the village. Palmers had also made positive comments about the venture.

### **372. To consider items for attention by the Parish Maintenance Unit**

Draft PMU forms were handed to RL for action on a number of matters.

### **373. To establish authorisation procedures for the Tree Work Application Protocol**

Two letters from WDDC concerning revised consultation procedures for tree work were considered. It was resolved unanimously that consideration of applications should be undertaken by the PC's Planning Committee, but only where the Chairman of that committee considered it necessary to respond.

### **374. Reports:**

#### **Planning**

The spreadsheet of all the recent planning applications had been circulated. RC said that a minor amendment to the application in respect of Greenway Bungalow involving an increased floor plan had been approved by WDDC. The reasons for refusal of reserved matters in respect of the Peas Hill development were read out and RC said it was creditable that these accorded with the reservations expressed by the PC. A letter had been received from WDDC enclosing amended/additional plans re. Home Cottage (application 1/W/06/000969). These were shown to the meeting and RC said there appeared to be no difference from those previously received, although on enquiry he had been informed that it was to do with the scaling of the plans from the previous online submission. A copy of an accompanying letter from Mrs Klaentschi had been provided. Although this made, among other things, comments about the PC's objection to the application, it was agreed that no response was called for. RC said that his reply to WDDC on the application had made clear the PC's view that to permit retrospectively departures from plans that had been approved only on appeal would set a dangerous precedent. The 'as built' amended scheme for Home Cottage would be on the agenda for the Development Control West Committee Meeting on 14 September and the officer recommendation was to approve this application. RH to telephone Cllr Mark Parsons to reiterate the PC's concerns and MB would

telephone the Planning Department to express the PC's opposition to the approval of changes to an application that had gone to appeal in the face of strong local opposition. The refusal of planning consent for the Dorwest Herbs application was also noted.

### **General Finance**

Copies of the 2006/2007 accounts with details of bank balances at 25 August were distributed. Cheques had been issued since the last meeting as follows:

<b>CHEQUE No</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
407	R Hewlett (playing field expenses)	£36.50
408	D Smith (playing field expenses)	£66.75
409	Contract Monitoring Services Ltd (photocopying, stationery, etc.)	£33.89
410	Damon Allen (web site maintenance)	£200.00

The first three payments had been approved at the previous meeting. Clerk explained the basis of the charge by Damon Allen, which covered the period from March 2005 to August 2006, and this payment was ratified. Noted that the precept calculation would be considered at the next meeting and the Playing Field Committee would need to meet before then.

### **Playing Field**

RL said that Grayham Rosamond continued his work on the playing field, which was in good condition.

### **DAPTC**

JE reported that the AGM was to be held at Eype on 21 September, when he would represent the PC.

### **BLAP**

DS said he had written about the poor standard of minutes. For example, there had been nothing in the last minutes covering the discussions about the abolition of the DDB.

### **Rights of Way**

Nothing to report.

### **Village Hall**

AS drew attention to the new mat, letterbox and table. A good autumn programme of events had been arranged.

### **Highways**

RL said that maintenance items notified earlier would be reported to the PMU. **Clerk** to write to Dorset CC asking for early repair of the damaged tarmac caused by excessive heat earlier in the summer and an estimate of when it would be dealt with.

### **Web site**

This is being updated monthly when there is anything to add or amend.

### **Parish Plan**

MB outlined the message that had been put on the web site about reviewing the situation over the coming year. It might be possible to use the resource that had been freed up by the opening of the New Inn and to harness that enthusiasm in the New Year.

### **375. PC Firework Display on 4 November**

RH said that following discussion with the Village Society, it was proposed that the PC's annual firework display should be held on 4 November. An organising sub-committee to be formed consisting of CE, RH and DS with two representatives from the Village Society. This was

unanimously agreed. **Clerk** to approach the PC's insurers to establish their conditions for insurance cover. (JE left the meeting).

**376. To approve and accept the audited Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2006**

Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been audited by BDO Stoy Hayward without any alteration being required to the figures as previously agreed. It was unanimously resolved that the audited Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2006 be approved and accepted. **Clerk** to display the required public notice.

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

RH said that no such donations were proposed at present. RL asked that the possibility of a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau be considered. RH said the issue would be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

**378. Correspondence (including consideration of Youth Opportunity Fund)**

The correspondence log had been distributed. The possibility of funding under the Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund for Dorset 2006/8 was noted and RH asked that Parish Councillors should let him know of any initiatives that might merit such funding. CE suggested this might be an opportunity to fund the football field. **AS** to liaise with younger members of the community and **RH** to provide her with a copy of the relevant article describing the scheme. As regards the Dorset Waste Forum, further consideration to be given when detailed information received. The entries in the Charity Commission Annual Information Update form in respect of the King George's Field Shipton Gorge charitable trust were unanimously approved by the PC as corporate trustee. RH was authorised to sign the form and **Clerk** to submit this to the Charity Commission.

**379. To confirm the date for the next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting was to be held on Wednesday 8 November.