

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 19 MARCH 2007**

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 Mrs Amy Steele (AS).

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Ernie Thomas, County Councillor Ron Coatsworth (CC) for part of the meeting, District Councillor Mark Parsons (MP), Mr Jonathan Cook and four parishioners.

Open Forum:

Mr Jonathan Cook from Long Bredy introduced himself as the Conservative candidate for the Burton Bradstock Ward for the forthcoming District Council elections. A parishioner raised the possibility of the Parish Council coordinating the calendar of events for Shipton Gorge but it was felt this was not a matter for the Council. **RH** agreed to raise the matter with the Village Society, which was known to be considering a local newsletter. A parishioner asked whether the village would be taking part in the annual Dorset spring clean. RH said this had been the practice some years ago, but the insurance and risk implications meant that this was no longer carried out as an organised activity. It was known that some parishioners carried out tidying up of litter on an informal basis but the matter could be looked at again if there proved to be any concerns over this issue.

403. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr David Smith (DS) on the grounds of his being on holiday and this absence was approved.

404. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2007

The minutes of the PC meeting of 10 January were agreed and signed by RH.

405. Clerk's Report

1. Rob Camp, Senior Road Safety Officer of DCC, had written confirming speed checks were carried out but there were not enough vehicle movements to meet criteria for deployment of SID. Only a small proportion of vehicles exceeded the 30 m.p.h. speed limit. PC was able to deploy SIDs at its own expense, subject to conditions, under a newly introduced policy but there was no budget for such expenditure. Agreed to accept the position and take no further action..
2. Blair Turner had agreed to attend a site meeting regarding Burbitt Lane and flooding in other parts of the village. He was currently on holiday but a meeting had provisionally been arranged for 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 28 March. Clerk, RL and MB to attend.
3. The proposed meeting with Phil Hansford of WDDC to explore the possibility of installing and emptying a dog waste bin at Burbitt Lane had not yet been arranged due to his indisposition. **Clerk** to arrange this when he was back at work. AS and MB to attend.
4. Confirmation had been received from Lloyds TSB that CE, AS and DS were now signatories to the PC's bank accounts.

406. Other matters arising from the minutes

MB reported that a card had been sent to Constance Gale signed by past and present Parish Councillors and Mrs Gale was very pleased with this gesture.

407. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the provision of support to Shipton Gorge Limited to facilitate grant funding for the land between St Martin's Church and Brook Street

Before this matter was considered, MB, CE and RL declared interests and took no part in the deliberations or voting on this item. RH reported on the request received from Shipton Gorge Ltd in a letter of 5 March for the support of the PC in the form of a 5% contribution (£121.38) to the cost of initial clearance and maintenance of the land. This support would enable the provision of a grant under the Community Action Fund for Dorset. RH said that there was no budget for such contribution but three private donations totalling £125 had been received for the express purpose of enabling the PC to support the project and thus the outlay was fully funded by these donations. (CC joined the meeting at this point). It was proposed by RH, seconded by RC and resolved unanimously by the four Parish Councillors entitled to vote that a contribution of £121.38 be made to Shipton Gorge Limited to facilitate grant funding for the land between St Martin's Church and Brook Street. **Clerk** to pay in the three donation cheques, arrange the payment to Shipton Gorge Ltd and write to DAPTC confirming that the project had the required support of the PC.

408. Possible grant application re. playing field

CE reported that he had found a possible source of grant aid for the playing field that could fund up to 75% of certain expenditure. It was proposed by MB, seconded by RH and resolved unanimously that **CE** should submit an appropriate application promptly in conjunction with the Playing Field Committee.

409. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the opening of an account with CAF Bank for reinvestment of the playing field funds

The Clerk circulated a detailed briefing note and reported that the playing field funds were currently held in a Lloyds TSB Business Instant Access Account. The rate of interest applying on 27 February was 2.75% p.a. In order to obtain a better rate of return, the Clerk had been instructed to investigate possible alternatives. Detailed information had been obtained from Charities Aid Foundation about the products available through that organisation. Although a number of investment products were available (including fixed rate term accounts and equity/bond funds), it seemed that given the need for instant access and security, the Gold Account offered by CAF Bank Ltd was the best option. The average rate of interest paid on this account for February was 4.49%, a much higher rate of return than the Lloyds TSB account. CAF Bank Limited ("the Bank") is a trading subsidiary of Charities Aid Foundation and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. It was agreed that the Gold account was appropriate to meet the PC's needs. The Account Opening Application Form and other information provided by the Bank were considered and it was proposed by CE, seconded by RL and unanimously resolved as follows.

That the Parish Council ('the Organisation'):

1. appoint the Bank as the Organisation's bankers,
2. accept the conditions of business for the time being applicable to its accounts and dealings with the Bank and confirm such acceptance to the Bank by delivering this bank mandate to the Bank,
3. authorise any individual named below in 'Signing Instructions' (an 'authorised person') either individually or, if relevant, with other authorised person(s) in accordance with the information contained in the 'Instruction Format' below to –
 - (a) enter into any other agreements with the Bank which they consider to be in the interests of the Organisation from time to time; and
 - (b) give instructions concerning the operation of the Organisation's bank accounts and otherwise communicate with the Bank in each case in writing or verbally or by computer, in accordance with the Bank's applicable conditions of business and this mandate.

The authorised persons to be Cllrs Charles Errington, Robert Langran, David Smith and Amy Steele and the Instruction Format to be any two of the authorised persons.

410. Reports:

Planning

RC reported on recent planning applications. The application regarding Dairy Cottage was approved on 30 January. The application regarding 1 Peas Hill for erection of a first floor extension had been refused. The tree work application to fell a Leylandii tree at Mason's Cottage was considered non-controversial and so no meeting of the Planning Committee had been convened. The appeal in respect of Cumberland Cottage had been dismissed following a public inquiry.

General Finance

Copies of the 2006/2007 accounts with details of bank balances at 27 February were distributed. One cheque had been issued since the last meeting as follows:

| CHEQUE No | RECIPIENT | AMOUNT |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 416 | OHE Horticultural Ltd (Mower service) | £164.64 |

This payment was ratified. Payment of £14.86 to Contract Monitoring Services Ltd in respect of photocopying and stationery was authorised.

Playing Field

RH said that the mower had been serviced and the first cut of grass had been done. AS had been carrying out the periodic inspection and reported that the basketball net had moved sideways. RH said he would mention it to Grayham Rosamond. The new basketball net had now been fitted. AS mentioned that the safety matting under the swings was wearing.

DAPTC

JE said he had not been at the last meeting and so had nothing to report.

BLAP

In the absence of DS there was no report.

Rights of Way

RL commented that the resurfacing of the path between Brook Street and the Church had been done well. He felt consideration should be given to a dog waste bin at the bottom of the pathway. The path at the side of Shipton Hill had been cleared and he had passed on thanks for this.

Village Hall

No report in the absence of DS.

Highways

RL said that PMU forms had been distributed and returned and appropriate action would be taken. He also raised concerns about the state of the carriageway near to Cathole Farm and also along Icen Lane and these would be mentioned at the planned meeting with Blair Turner.

Web site

The Clerk reported that some new information had been received from the Village Society which would be included at the time of the next periodic update of the site.

Parish Plan

Nothing to report. MB suggested this should be an agenda item for the July meeting.

411. To consider arrangements for the annual Parish Meeting on 25 April 2007

RH asked the **Clerk** to issue the usual invitations to local organisations to send representatives to speak at the meeting. He confirmed he would chair the meeting and organise refreshments. There would be reports from the Playing Field and Planning Committees as well as his Chairman's report. **Clerk** to put up notices of the meeting.

412. To consider the forthcoming Parish Council election

RH said there would be significant changes in the membership of the Parish Council. Due to his business commitments he had decided not to seek re-election and MB confirmed that she had also made the same decision. RC and JE would also not be standing for re-election. Clerk had made an announcement in BVN encouraging prospective candidates to contact him about standing for election. Nomination papers had been distributed for completion by those wishing to stand and he held further copies if required.

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

It was proposed by CE, seconded by RL and resolved unanimously that the following donations be made:

Shipton Gorge Village Hall Trust - £150.

Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Trust - £30.

Bridport & District Citizens Advice Bureau - £30.

Bride Valley Team Council (for BVN) - £30.

It was proposed by MB, seconded by CE and resolved unanimously that a donation of £100 be made to the PCC of Shipton Gorge towards maintenance of the churchyard.

414. Correspondence

The correspondence log had been distributed and was largely self-explanatory. RH said he had heard from the Village Society that in view of the insurance and risk aspects and associated costs, a firework display would not be a viable option for 2007. Instead, the Village Society was considering organising an alternative event. As regards the Local Works campaign, CE said he would attend the National Rally on 26 March. MB said that the initiative was known to be causing some disquiet and it was decided not to send the stock letter that the campaign organisers had requested be sent to local MPs. Agreed that no comment should be made on the Sustainability Appraisal document notified by DCC. It was proposed by MB, seconded by JE and resolved unanimously to renew the Shipton Gorge domain name facility with GetDotted.com for a further two years at a cost of £18.79. RC mentioned the letters sent by WDDC regarding proposed alterations at Lynch Farm and that a full planning application was required on which the PC would be consulted in the usual way.

415. To confirm the proposed date for the next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting, the Annual Meeting of the PC, would be held on Wednesday, 9 May. RH gave apologies for absence and MB agreed to chair the meeting as outgoing Vice-chairman until a new Chairman was appointed at the meeting.