

**SHIPTON GORGE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2006**

**Present:**

Cllrs Mary Boughton (MB), Robert Cornish (RC), John Epplestone (JE), Richard Hewlett (RH), David Smith (DS). In the absence of Cllr Charles Errington (CE), Cllr Richard Hewlett took the chair.

**In attendance:**

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

**Open Forum:**

A parishioner asked about the way in which the funding of the Parish Council operated through the precept and an explanation was given by RH. A question was raised as to why the Open Forum took place before the PC meeting instead of at the end of the proceedings. RH explained that at one time it had taken place after the meeting. However, this meant that parishioners had to sit through the entire meeting if they wished to raise an issue and on balance it was felt preferable to have the Open Forum before the formal meeting took place. MP queried the suggestion that the Annual Parish Meeting had to be held in the month of May. It emerged that there had been some confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was confirmed that the requirement for a May meeting only applied to the latter.

**319. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Charles Errington (absence due to work commitments) and from Cllr Robert Langran (absence due to hospital admission) and these were approved. There were also two unfilled vacancies on the Parish Council.

**320. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2006**

The minutes of the PC meeting of 11 January were agreed and signed by the acting chairman.

**321. Clerk's Report**

1. It had been confirmed that Freshwater Beach Holiday Park's route instructions only direct caravans along the B3157 from Bridport.
2. New Clerk could now access the clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk e-mail address.
3. Arrangements made for re-routing the 0870 telephone number.
4. Updated contact list had been circulated.
5. Bridport News was informed of support for the Sustainable Communities initiative and published an article regarding this. Clerk wrote to Rt. Hon. Oliver Letwin, MP confirming the PC's support and had received a reply. Confirmation of support also sent to the Local Works Campaign.
6. Amendment to the PC's bank mandate to show new correspondence address had been dealt with and acknowledged by Lloyds TSB plc.
7. PMU Works Request Form had been submitted and acknowledged, with work to take place in April.

**322. Other matters arising from the minutes**

RH had spoken to CE about his ongoing absence from PC meetings. At the January meeting a further one month from the date of this meeting had been allowed and **RH** intended to have the matter resolved one way or another within that timescale. **MB** asked about the intended approach to Dorset County Council regarding discouraging use of the road between the A35 and Burton Bradstock by caravans. **RH** said this had not yet been done but agreed to contact the Council to discuss the matter.

### **323. To consider the two vacancies for Parish Councillors and, if thought fit, to co-opt a candidate to fill one such vacancy**

RH said that he had several potential candidates in line for the vacancies. He was cautiously optimistic that the vacancies could be filled by those who had expressed interest. **RH** to arrange to meet the candidates to progress matters. Clerk confirmed that the statutory period for requiring a formal election for the second vacancy would expire on 24 March and if no notice was given this vacancy could be filled by co-option. **MB** asked that consideration be given to filling the vacancies in advance of the May PC meeting if possible.

### **324. The New Inn Update**

**DS** gave a comprehensive report on the current situation.

The salient points are:

1. Satisfactory lease terms had been negotiated with Palmers.
2. New Inn Support Ltd had been established. The Company had an account with LloydsTSB containing just over £12,000 and funding applications to DEFRA and Rural Renaissance were in progress.
3. Structural survey of the premises was generally favourable. Planned internal alterations would only require Building Regulations approval. A planning application had been submitted for conversion of outbuildings into a toilet block. Subject to funding and planning consent, building work could start by the end of April.
4. Eddy Buck was working on the premises licence application.
5. The prospective licensees, Gary and Sandra, were proposing a hanging basket competition for villagers and would supply the baskets for this.
6. There was still much to be done, but if all went according to plan, the New Inn might re-open by the end of July.

### **325. To consider representations from parishioners regarding parking by St Martin's Church and to decide on any appropriate action.**

Clerk read out a letter from six parishioners expressing concern that the planned redevelopment of the Heathfield site might lead to unrestricted parking on the areas of grass outside the entrance to St Martin's Church resulting in damage to these natural features. The letter raised the possibility of erecting signs to discourage parking by those other than users of the Church and Village Hall. **RH** observed that as the land was not owned by the PC it was not within their power to erect signs. Ownership of the approach road and verges between the Church and Port Lane/Brook Street was uncertain, although **JE** mentioned he had been informed by Jack Willy that it was Church property. Agreed that **Clerk** should contact the Diocese of Salisbury to seek clarification. It was considered that **C G Fry & Son** would not wish their building workers to park on the grass in any event and a formal approach to the Company should be unnecessary. **RH** said that the PC sympathised with the writers' concerns and had mentioned this aspect when commenting on the planning application. **Clerk** to reply to the letter informing the writers of the position.

### **326. Reports.**

#### **Planning**

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

**RC** said that it had been a rather quiet time on the planning front. The application by Dorwest Herbs had been approved. The application by **C G Fry & Son** regarding Fairings had come before the WDDC Planning Committee when the Case Officer had recommended refusal. **RC** had spoken in support of the application which was approved subject to the outer walls being built entirely of hamstone or a similar yellow stone. At **RC's** insistence, Bridport News had published a retraction of a report that incorrectly stated that the PC would have been happy with

Purbeck stone. Notification had been received of approval of outline planning permission (subject to a lengthy schedule of conditions) in respect of the application by Magna Housing regarding land to the rear of 1-16 Peas Hill. In response to a question, CC said that the long delay between application and approval was caused by the need for a number of matters to be negotiated between the District Council and the developer before approval could be notified. RC said a draft Statement of Community Involvement regarding planning for minerals and waste had been received from Dorset County Council together with a questionnaire for completion by the PC. MB said that DCC was still looking for a waste transfer station and a site close to the Parish boundary had previously been proposed. Agreed that RC should examine the statement and that he and RH should respond on behalf of the PC to the questionnaire as they thought fit.

### **General Finance**

The latest financial statement for the current financial year was circulated. One cheque had been issued since the last meeting in respect of servicing of the mower as follows:

| <b>CHEQUE No</b> | <b>RECIPIENT</b>             | <b>AMOUNT</b> |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 394              | O.H.E. Horticultural Limited | £181.17       |

It was agreed that **Clerk** should arrange for his salary of £209.58 to be paid by 31 March.

### **Playing Field**

RH reported that the mower had been serviced and he had given Grayham Rosamond a copy of the service schedule. Playing Field Maintenance Day had now been re-scheduled for 6 May and publicity for this would be in the BVN. Grayham was preparing a list of tasks to be carried out. Completion of the inspection log had been undertaken by RH for the current month.

### **DAPTC**

JE reported that he had attended a meeting in Burton Bradstock some three weeks ago. This was poorly attended in view of adverse weather and nothing of substance was discussed.

### **BLAP**

DS reported that he attended meetings of BLAP when possible. He had copies of the minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 16 March and also of the meeting held on 16 February. It was evident that Susan Anders sent information about meetings to several Parish Councillors. **DS** agreed to circulate by e-mail details of any significant matters emerging from the minutes.

### **Rights of Way**

There was nothing to report in the absence of RL.

### **Village Hall**

RH said that a showing of the film *Shall We Dance* was to take place on 29 March, although ticket sales were not good. The AGM of the Village Hall Trust would take place on 30 May. More tables and chairs were being acquired, reflecting the large attendances at a number of recent functions. Hall users were asked to note the instructions regarding use of the gas heaters, which should only be switched off at the main unit.

### **Highways**

During April, the Parish Maintenance Units would deal with the matters reported at the last meeting. MB mentioned she had contact telephone numbers for the landowners in Barr Lane if required.

DS mentioned problems with refuse collection commencing well before the scheduled time of 7.30 a.m. As his residence was at the start of the local collection route, this had resulted in the

truck having called before his refuse had been put out and a special collection had to be arranged. MP agreed to raise this issue at District Council level.

### **Web site**

Clerk reported that he had notified several essential amendments to Damon Allen and these had been dealt with. He would undertake a more comprehensive review and updating of the web site as soon as possible. MB said that the advertisement in BVN had produced no response and wondered whether a school might take on the technical aspects of servicing the site as an IT project.

### **Parish Plan**

MB said that no further progress had been made with the Parish Plan although funding would still be available in the coming financial year. Nobody had expressed any interest in helping. JE said that the parish stood to lose out if a Parish Plan was not produced and someone was needed who would drive this important initiative forward. MB said that the implications of not producing a Parish Plan should be clearly spelled out to the village if that was the likely outcome. Agreed that **Clerk** should include the Parish Plan as a separate agenda item at the next PC meeting and this matter could be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting the following week.

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

It was proposed by RH, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously to make a donation of £60 to support Bride Valley News. **Clerk** to send a cheque for this amount to the Rector.

### **328. Correspondence**

The correspondence log had been distributed.

RH referred to the offer made in the DAPTC newsletter for parishes to have a presence on the Dorset for You web site. **Clerk** to pursue this opportunity.

CC mentioned that the Government was proposing a local government reorganisation that would result in the merger of some local authorities. A White Paper would be published in June 2006 leading to a Bill in January 2007 with the new authorities being set up by October 2007. Elections were planned for 2008 with the new authorities becoming operational in 2009. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister would not be consulting parish councils directly and it would be for county and district councils to seek the views of parishes on the proposals.

CC referred to the West Dorset Local Plan and publication of the Inspector's report. It was proposed among other things that smaller villages such as Shipton Gorge would lose their defined development boundaries and thus would have no more open market housing built. However, there would still be provision for selective development in respect of affordable housing, public facilities such as village halls, and small business developments. WDDC would meet on 4 April to consider its responses to all the Inspector's recommendations. A period of public consultation would follow. **Clerk** to include this matter as an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **329. To fix the date for the next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be the Annual Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 10 May. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on the following Wednesday, 17 May.