

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SHIPTON GORGE PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE PARISH HALL ON 17 MAY 2006**

**Present:** Councillors Richard Hewlett (Chairman), Mary Boughton (Vice-chairman), Robert Cornish, John Epplestone, Robert Langran, Denise Marriott, David Smith, Ron Coatsworth (County Councillor), Mark Parsons (District Councillor).  
12 Parishioners attended.

### **345. Apologies for absence**

Diane Bredemear, David Curtis, Cllr Amy Steele, Vicky Thomas, Rev. Bob Thorn.  
(Post meeting note: Apologies received following the meeting from Sergeant Steve Hughes who had been prevented from attending by an unforeseen incident).

### **345. Open Forum**

The Chairman welcomed everybody and said that he expected a short meeting as this year there was no guest speaker. A parishioner raised the matter of the proposed abolition of the Defined Development Boundary for Shipton Gorge. The Chairman said this was being opposed by the Parish Council and it was known that many District Councillors were also concerned about the proposal.

### **347. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 April 2005**

The minutes had been approved and signed at the Parish Council meeting on 11 May 2005. Copies of these minutes were made available to the Parishioners. There were no comments on the minutes which were adopted.

### **348. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Richard Hewlett said that he had been elected as Chairman at the Parish Council meeting on 10 May 2006. His report covered the last financial year for which the precept had increased by less than 3% in the light of rising costs. He expressed thanks to Grayham Rosamond for all his work on the Playing Field and for the way in which he was giving children a sense of involvement and 'ownership' of this important facility. Thanks were also given to the 20 adults and many children who helped on the Maintenance Day. The proposed closure of Burton Bradstock library was referred to and discussed. The meeting overwhelmingly endorsed the Parish Council's proposal to send a letter of objection to Dorset County Council, there being only two abstentions. Cllr Hewlett expressed his thanks to all Parish Councillors who had served over the past year and to the new Parish Clerk, Ernie Thomas. He also thanked Pam Graham and Geoff Shepherd for serving as lay members of the Planning Committee, and Grayham Rosamond for serving on the Playing Field Committee. Cllr Mary Boughton expressed thanks to Cllr Hewlett for all he had done for the Parish Council over the past year.

### **349. Planning Report**

Cllr Robert Cornish, Chairman of the Planning Committee, said that there had been 17 planning-related matters over the last year and reported on the key applications.

### **350. Parish Plan**

Cllr Mary Boughton said that although there had been some enthusiasm for a Parish Plan last year, now was not the right time to divert people away from other higher priorities. The Parish Plan was therefore on hold but could be revisited in, say, a year's time.

### **351. Reports by local organisations.**

Cllr David Smith gave a comprehensive report on the work of the New Inn Support Group. Despite setbacks in relation to funding, it was still hoped that the New Inn might reopen by the end of July.

John Noonan, a Parent Governor of Burton Bradstock C of E VC School, gave a positive report on the school's many achievements and activities and said that its last OFSTED report had put the school in the top 5% of primary schools in the country.

Sally Parker outlined the many events organised by the Village Society and expressed thanks to Grayham Rosamond for his work on the Playing Field, to Mr & Mrs Sorrell for the use of their field and to the village for its support over the past year.

Eddy Buck, Chairman of the Shipton Gorge Village Hall Trust outlined the work of the trustees in managing the hall, dealing with its upkeep and organising fund raising events. He mentioned the AGM on 30 May and invited parishioners to support this.

In his apology for absence, David Curtis, Homewatch Co-ordinator, had said that things were fairly quiet at present but he wished to remind villagers of the existence of this organisation and its purpose. A printout of the Homewatch page of the web site was on display at the meeting.

### **352. Any other business**

Cllr Ron Coatsworth expressed his personal concern about the proposed abolition of the Defined Development Boundary which he would oppose. He also said he was against the proposed library closure.

The Chairman thanked all who had attended and spoken at the meeting, which he declared closed.