

## SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 11 May at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

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The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 13 April 2015 at the Village Hall at 7 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Finlay, Hallett, Mr B Walker (District Councillor), PCSO Ceara Sturt and 5 parishioners.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Brunt, Lillywhite, Wakely, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), C Le Hardy (County Councillor), Mr Watson (Headteacher).

MINUTES The Minutes of the previous Parish Meeting were confirmed and signed.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Fiona Rowswell reported a quiet year with better weather so less highway and drainage issues.

Local businesses are thriving, with a welcome addition being The Old Butchers Cafe.

It is with sadness that the Parish Council bids a fond farewell to long standing Parish Councillor John Hallett, having given 46 years' service to the village and he is invited to a presentation at the May Parish Council Meeting.

Fiona said that she is also standing down after 12 years but will continue to support the village in whatever way she can. She sees the role of Chair as a point of contact and a liaison between various organisations as well as chiring meetings.

She thanked everyone for their support and the Clerk for her assistance.

### PARISH PLAN

Sharon Humphreys spoke of the activities organised by the Events Team, which included the 10k and Fun Run combined with the Recreation Team and Shepfest, Bonfire and Fireworks Party, Easter Market and Candlelit Christmas Market. A Christmas tree was provided in front of the School, jointly sponsored by AYR Garden Services and the Events Team. The Film Club is now running and gratitude was expressed for the District Council's contribution towards the cost of the projector.

An Edwardian Evening, Upstairs Downstairs at Cokers Manor, was held in June, raising approximately £500 which will be used to commemorate the men of the parish who fell in The Great War. Father Geoff had suggested the planting of eight indigenous small trees in a quiet part of the churchyard (one for each man lost). The film to be shown in May is The Imitation Game about the Bletchley Code to coincide with the VE Day celebrations and Church mini fete.

Funds held by the Events Team total £2,957.87.

St Petros Fayre and Street Party will take place in the village on 27 June.

Dates of other events will be:

10k and Fun Run – Sunday 13 September

Bonfire & Fireworks – Saturday 7 November

Candlelit Christmas Market – Saturday 5 December

The date is yet to be decided for a Last Night of the Proms Evening.

Sadly there has been some criticism in the village about the work carried out by the Events Team, consisting of seven volunteers who give up their time to do so much for the village and to whom the Parish Council are very grateful.

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#### RECREATION FIELD

A financial statement was received from the Lethbridge Memorial Recreation Field Committee, noting a profit for the year of £741.38 and a closing balance of £10,506.86.

#### COWLEAZE MEADOW

Roger Cripps said a condition of the lottery funding for Cowleaze Meadow was that the Committee would maintain it for five years and they are now entering their fifth year, with two active members and help from a few volunteers. The willow tunnel has been extended and stepping stones provided for children to play on. It is likely that the Committee will be able to continue for at least three years before needing financial help.

#### FOOTPATHS

Roger Cripps reported that the County Council is still carrying out a limited amount of clearance twice a year and Roger and the Parish Ranger are doing the remainder with the Cowleaze mower and a loaned County Council strimmer. The County Council have installed new gates between Brimgrove Lane and Shells Lane and there are gates scheduled for the Washcross/Home Farm path and the Shells Lane/Barrington path junction. A combined volunteer party from Shepton Beauchamp and Barrington repaired a gate and installed a handrail and steps on the Barrington path.

#### PARISH RANGER

The Parish Lengthsman left at the beginning of August and it was agreed to try the Ranger Scheme offered by the District Council for one day per fortnight. The original Ranger has been replaced by one who has the spraying and chainsaw certificates. Communication is not as easy as it was with the personal contact with the Lengthsman and the Ranger Scheme is likely to prove more expensive but the District Council has more equipment if needed.

#### RAMBLERS

Roger Cripps wondered if this can still be considered a village organisation as, of the membership of 34, only 7 live in the parish. They walk twice a month in Somerset and Dorset, usually followed by a pub lunch.

#### SCHOOL

The Headteacher apologised for being unable to attend but hopes to come to the May or June meeting.

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#### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Norma Hawkins read a report from Joan Kennedy, noting that it had been a difficult year with concerns for the Rector's health, but he is feeling much better and taking services again. Support had been received from the Curate, Chloe Kingdon, and the Revs D Fyffe and Tim Cook. Sunday and weekday services have continued as have school assemblies and the monthly service at Buttle Close. The Church building is in good repair but some outside stonework will need attention in the future. Problems with the boiler meant that some services were held in the Village Hall. There will be a special service to commemorate VE Day. The PCC is grateful for the financial assistance from the Parish Council towards Churchyard upkeep.

#### ST MICHAEL'S GUILD

Norma Hawkins reported that the Guild has 25 members who meet monthly for varied activities and outings. An off-shoot of the Guild is the exercise class of 16 members who meet in Buttle Close Common Room each Monday with an age range of 63 – 90.

#### PRE-SCHOOL

There are currently 20 children and the result of the OFSTED inspection was good. Monthly visits from Mr Watson and Mr Baker from the School help the transition to school. Some fund raising events are planned in the coming months and it is hoped to provide wifi in the Village Hall.

#### SHEPTON SENIORS

Muriel Callow reported that there are 22 members who meet on the second Wednesday of each month. They enjoyed various activities throughout the year and had a Christmas lunch at The Royal Oak. Stella Lock will plant the flowers in the pump trough again.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mary Clark said the number of volunteers had dwindled to six, who meet every three months. There is very little communication from the Police but this is a low crime area. Having been involved in the scheme for ten years, Mary feels it may be time for a younger person to take over the group.

#### MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

Mary Clark spoke of problems driving through the village due to all the parked cars.

Norma Hawkins asked for a request to be made to renew all the road markings.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council which took place on Monday 13 April 2015 at the Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Finlay, Hallett, Mr B Walker (District Councillor) and PCSO Ceara Sturt.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Brunt, Lillywhite, Wakely, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), C Le Hardy (County Councillor).

#### POLICING

PCSO Ceara Sturt said there was nothing to report. She reminded people to keep their windows closed and doors locked and said she could be contacted on 07889659259.

MINUTES The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

#### MATTERS ARISING

Footpaths The signs banning horses and cycling along the path at Buttle Close had been made and Cllr Cripps will either make a badger proof stile or relocate the one at Piece Lane.

Highways Cllr Bishop had contacted the Highway Authority about the state of the road to Boxstone, which is falling away. They inspected and measured it and said there is sufficient width and the landowner is responsible for the sides. As it is so dangerous, Cllr Bishop will make a further telephone call.

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

#### DC REPORT

Mr Walker thanked Fiona Rowswell for all she had done and said it had been a pleasure working with her and he hoped to work with the new Chairman next year.

Now that the Local Plan had been adopted, the District Council had been able to reject planning applications for a total of 170 new dwellings.

#### SOUTH SOMERSET TOGETHER

Cllr England volunteered to represent the Parish Council at a meeting of South Somerset Together on 22 May to discuss the health and social care system.

#### VILLAGE HALL

Cllr England reported that there had been concerns about the Village Hall roof but it only needs remedial repair.

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#### ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

South Som District Council – Parish Ranger	£603.84
Greenslade Taylor Hunt – School Play Area	25.00
R Cripps – signs from Chaffcombe Signs	28.17

The cheque for the Ranger will not be released until the District Council produces an itemised account for the work.

Cllr Cripps will compare the cost of the Lengthsman and the Ranger.

#### PARISH PLAN

A working party of five volunteers had met the previous Sunday to tidy up Cowleaze Meadow.

#### HIGHWAYS

The Ranger had broken up the compacted salt in the bin.

Concerns had been raised about parking close to the Buttle Lane junction, which prevents the recycling lorry gaining access to the lane and would cause problems if emergency vehicles needed to get there.

The road had been closed at the Shells Lane junction, without notification, for installation of fibre optic broadband.

A large pothole and silted up drain on Barrington Main will be reported.

#### FOOTPATHS

Fly tipping of garden waste has been taking place near the path at Buttle Close and a laminated poster will be displayed there banning it.

#### ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Cripps reported that there are two more vacant allotments.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.