

2013/14 Officers

Chairman – Fiona Rowswell

Vice Chairman – Roger Cripps

Planning – Jane Bishop, Clare Lillywhite, Fiona Rowswell

Allotments – Roger Cripps, Elizabeth England

Footpaths – Jane Bishop, Roger Cripps

Highways – Kim Fowler, John Hallett, Fiona Rowswell

Charity Trustees – Chris Willoughby

Emergency Contacts – Kim Fowler, Ed Wakely, Blue Walshe

Parish Environment Warden – Elizabeth England

Representative on Cowleaze Project – Roger Cripps

Representatives on Recreation Committee – Ed Wakely, Chris Willoughby

Tree Warden – Debbie Welch

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The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 14 April 2014 at the Village Hall at 7 pm.

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

APOLOGIES Mr P Sanderson, Ms G Fitchett.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Rowswell spoke of the past year, which saw the sale of the village shop to Julie and Sean and a change of Headteacher at the School, the new Head being Shaun Watson.

Flooding had not affected the parish as much as neighbouring villages but there was still some road damage to be repaired. A grant of £1,712.90 had been received from the Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority to set up an emergency store of items required in times of adverse weather.

Petty crime and theft had increased in recent months and the Police have stepped up their patrols.

The Councillors were disappointed to receive Chris Willoughby's resignation as he had been a valued member of the Council, as had Blue Walshe, and a vote of thanks was expressed to both.

Innis Finlay had joined the Council and is very helpful.

Cllr Rowswell said she would be stepping down from the Council at the May 2015 election, as would Cllr Hallett who has served for over 40 years.

In conclusion, thanks were expressed to the Events Committee, the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for all they have done throughout the year.

PARISH PLAN

Sharon Humphreys reported on the activities organised by the Events Team, including the Annual Village 10k and Fun Run, Bonfire Party, two markets and Mayhem in May.

Following the sale of Shepton Stores, Jo Walshe had moved from the village and will be greatly missed by the Committee.

Purchases during the year included an 80 place setting white china dinner service, shelving for the storage cupboards in the village hall, a concrete floor for the store at the recreation field, banners for events and a laminator for posters.

The Bank balance stands at £1,692.72.

The Easter Market had taken place, though not well supported, and future events are the 10k and Fun Run on 7 September, Bonfire & Fireworks on 8 November and Candlelit Christmas Market on 6 December.

To commemorate the Centenary of World War I and raise funds for a plaque, an Edwardian Evening will take place on 7 June. It is hoped to have a screening of Warhorse in the Village Hall, a large screen having been purchased and installed, and to set up a cinema club.

The Events Team are seeking help to finance projecting equipment and would like more publicity for their events, possibly by email circulation.

There are five members on the team, Dave Burwood, Carole Creaser, Sharon Humphreys, Liz Sanderson and Claire Uren, and the Parish Council are very grateful for all that they do.

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RECREATION FIELD

Alec Grant reported a profit over the year of £419.41, mainly from the 100 Club.

The Committee has six members, with Pete Sanderson as Chairman, who now have a good working relationship with the Football Club and the Parish Council.

Shepfest went well, with an earlier time which removed the anti-social element, but the Whacky Olympics was cancelled and the Italian Evening was postponed.

COWLEAZE MEADOW

Cllr Cripps reported a quiet year.

The Committee was sorry to receive Chris Willoughby's resignation, leaving three members and three helpers. Work had included planting wild flowers and clearing brambles and a grant had been received for play equipment for young children.

FOOTPATHS

The County Council is still carrying out two cuts per year on some paths and others are trimmed by the Lengthsman or Cllr Cripps. The County Council had to move a footpath gate for the second time at Cowleaze following a bank slip.

LENGTHSMAN

The funding for the scheme, held by South Petherton Parish Council, was in credit by nearly £20,000 so it was decided to run this down by not charging the parishes anything for about nine months.

VILLAGE HALL

A report had been received from the Chair, Jackie Priddle, noting that the Village Hall was built over 80 years ago and is well maintained, although there have been some concerns about the roof. Bookings remain at a high level, with the Pre-School the largest user. Hiring rates have been kept as low as possible, just covering running costs, and the Trustees are grateful for financial support from the Parish Council.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Sunday Service pattern continues and the weekday services are well attended as is the monthly service in Buttle Close. Fr Geoff and Joan Kennedy visit the Playgroup and School every week and the School uses the Church for celebrations throughout the year.

The Youth Club has 17 members and the Cleaning Club has been resurrected.

The PCC is grateful to the Parish Council for financial help with upkeeping the Churchyard.

ST MICHAEL'S GUILD

The Guild meets monthly for a variety of activities and this year's charity is the Supporters of Duchennes Sufferers. There are 24 members – all old in years but young in heart – who last year started an exercise class which meets weekly at Buttle Close.

PRE-SCHOOL

It had been a good year for the Pre-School, with 23 children. They have strong links with the School and had a visit from the new Headteacher.

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SHEPTON SENIORS

There are 25 members, who meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Activities have included Bingo, Coffee Morning, Easter Bonnet Competition and various talks.

The flowers in the pump trough are looked after in memory of Pat Pearce.

RAMBLERS

Cllr Cripps said he would be standing down from Acting Secretary next month. There are 35 members.

CHARITIES

One application had been received for an education grant and 67 elderly parishioners had received a £7 Christmas bonus.

All the land is currently rented out.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mary Clark reported a disappointing year, with some break-ins and anti-social behaviour. She said it had become more difficult to find people to take part in the scheme and the Police were not very supportive. The telephone number to ring for non-emergencies is 101.

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

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council which took place on Monday 14 April 2014 at the Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowsell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Finlay, Hallett, Lillywhite, Wakely, Mr B Walker (District Councillor) and 2 parishioners.

APOLOGIES Mr P Thompson (District Councillor).

CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY

Sarah Brunt was co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacancy caused by Chris Willoughby's resignation and Innis Finlay said he would be happy to represent the Parish Council on the Recreation Committee.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brunt declared an interest, as a relative, in an application at Home Farm.

DC REPORT

The Local Plan is to be judged by the Inspector in June.

The Full Council Meeting planned for 17 April had been cancelled.

Mr Walker suggested the Events Committee applies to the District Council for a grant towards projection equipment and said that Shepton Beauchamp is regarded as a particularly good example of a community working together.

PLANNING

Cllr Brunt left the room while the Parish Council considered an application to alter attached outbuilding to form additional living accommodation at Home Farm, Lambrook Road. There were no objections to the application.

HOUSING FAIR

The District Council is organising a Housing Fair at the Octagon Theatre on 28 April, which Cllr Rowswell may attend.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

F Rowswell – Printing of flyers by Footprintz	£8.00
Greenslade Taylor Hunt – Rent for School Play Area	25.00
Cowleaze Meadow – grant	100.00

PARISH PLAN

Following Sharon Humphrey’s request for publicity for events, a Facebook page was suggested.

LENGTHSMAN

The strimming of vacant allotments has been carried out.

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HIGHWAYS

Notification was received of a proposed road closure while drainage work takes place in Lambrook Road. The Clerk will query whether this is the same drainage scheme as the one which had been postponed due to a change in traffic flow owing to flooded roads.

An accident had occurred at the Lambrook Road/Love Lane junction and the Highway Authority will be asked to repaint the Keep Clear markings on the road to make it safer.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Rowswell reported that ivy is preventing the dog paddle from working on a footpath stile at the rear of Cowleaze and Cllr Cripps will look at the problem.

ALLOTMENTS

There had been no response to advertising the vacant allotments in The Web.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.