

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 11 April 2012 at the Village Hall at 7 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Fowler, Hallett, Lewis, Rivers, Wakely, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), P Maxwell (County Councillor) and 5 parishioners.

APOLOGIES Mr B Walker (District Councillor), Mesdames S Bacon & S Humphreys.

MINUTES The minutes of the previous Parish Meeting were read and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Rowswell welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and spoke of the changes over the past year. The District Councillors, Keith Ronaldson and Paul Robathan, decided not to stand for re-election and the County Councillor, Anne Larpent, had resigned. At a more local level, Parish Councillors Andrew Humphreys (Chair), Blue Walshe (Vice Chair), Pro Sarker and Ian Hawkins had stood down. Thanks were expressed to the new District Councillors, Paul Thompson and Barry Walker, and County Councillor, Paul Maxwell, for their help during the year.

Cutbacks in District and County Council funding have meant that the Precept had to be increased in order to maintain the Lengthsman and continue to support local organisations.

The main events of the year were the improvements to the children's play area at the Recreation Field and the opening of Cowleaze Meadow.

Sadly, Pat Pearce had passed away and the Parish Council is grateful for all she did for the village including providing and maintaining the village trough.

The level of dog fouling has been disappointing as has the lack of presence of the Police Community Support Officer.

This year promises to be one to remember with the four days of events planned to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

PARISH PLAN

Sharon Humphreys sent a report on the year's activities. In addition to the Annual Village 10K and Fun Run, Bonfire Party and two Markets, the Committee also organised a Paparazzi Night in the Village Hall and Afternoon Tea in the Square at Buttle Close.

A copy of the year's accounts was received, showing a balance of £3,241.33.

The main focus of this year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. A Diamond Ball will take place in the Village Hall on 28 April to raise funds towards the various events which are planned over the Jubilee weekend.

Cllr Hallett congratulated the Events Committee on all that they are achieving.

Over £1,000 has now been received towards the stone village signs.

RECREATION FIELD

Blue Walshe spoke of the refurbishment of the children's play area, made possible by donations from Branstons and the District Council, and said the new equipment is very popular. Consideration will now be given to building a new pavilion.

Concern had been expressed about crops being damaged when stray footballs are retrieved.

COWLEAZE MEADOW

Cllr Cripps reported that the original lottery grant has now been spent and a sustainability grant has been applied for towards equipment, tools and events.

A drumming workshop is planned to take place at Cowleaze as part of the Jubilee weekend celebrations.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Cripps said that footpath maintenance would remain the same as the previous year with the County Council providing two cuts.

No decision had yet been made in respect of the application for a footpath at Piece Lane.

LENGTHSMAN

The District Council had withdrawn funding for Lengthsman Schemes but Areas North & West have agreed a one-off contribution of £2,000.

RAMBLERS

There are approximately 40 members, of whom 7 live in the village. They enjoy two walks per month of approximately four miles, mainly in South Somerset, followed by a pub lunch.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A report had been received from Ian Hawkins stating that, at the AGM in March, Joan Kennedy and Jeff Knipe were elected Churchwardens. The Church has regular contact and a weekly assembly with the School, there is a small youth group and monthly services are held at Buttle Close.

The PCC is grateful for the Parish Council's support towards churchyard upkeep.

VILLAGE HALL

Sue Stone sent a report stating that the Village Hall is used regularly by the Pre-School, Toddler Group, Art Group and Table Tennis Club as well as for private functions.

She thanked the Parish Council for their support and said that, in the not too distant future, considerable maintenance will be required to the roof and heating.

ST MICHAEL'S GUILD

Norma Hawkins reported that the Guild has 25 members, who meet on the third Friday of the month and have a varied programme of speakers. They also take part in songs of praise and other services in Church.

YOUTH GROUP

Jackie Priddle sent a report that the Youth Club has been running for ten years and is self funding. Meetings have taken place in the Village Hall for the last six months, where members have enjoyed card making, drums, card games, board games, table tennis and cooking. They will shortly be moving to the Recreation Field for cricket, football, tennis and rounders.

PRE-SCHOOL

Shelley Bacon sent a report of a turbulent year due to a fall in numbers in September and running at a loss for the Autumn term. Donations were received and numbers increased in the Spring. Branstons are kindly giving money for a sink, a computer and toys. The opening hours are to be extended in the Summer Term.

ART GROUP

The Art Group has now been running for nearly 28 years and has members of all age groups. The annual exhibition in the Village Hall is very well supported but they are short of models for Costume Life Drawing. The group is self funded, with no tuition costs.

CHARITIES

Cllr Rowswell reported that rent reviews had taken place on the land owned by the Charities and the rents increased. Education grants had been given in October, the Pre-School had received funding and the over 70s had their Christmas bonuses.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mary Clarke reported that meetings would now be held every three months. She said the type of crime in this area tends to be calls from conmen and anti-social behaviour. Contact with the PCSO has not been easy and there has been little feedback from the Police.

MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

Concern was expressed about the smell from a manure heap at the end of Brimgrove Lane and it was wondered if this could be sited further away from houses.

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

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 11 April at the Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Fowler, Hallett, Lewis, Rivers, Wakely, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), P Maxell (County Councillor) and 2 parish ioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr B Walker (District Councillor).

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

MATTERS ARISING

Jubilee Weekend Insurance It was confirmed that the leader of the proposed drumming workshop has public liability insurance. Cllr Cripps will look into the other queries raised by the Parish Council Insurers.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

F Rowswell – planning application at Ashfield House (relative)

R Cripps – planning application at Hill Farm (neighbour)

E England – planning application at Manor Farm (relative)

E Wakely – planning application at Hill Farm (applicant)

DC REPORT

Mr Thompson reported that, following the withdrawal of funding for the Lengthsman Scheme, Area North had agreed £1,500 and Area West £500 as a one-off payment towards it.

The Core Strategy will be considered by the Full Council on 23 April.

The Area North Community Event will take place at Long Sutton Golf Club on 26 April but none of the Councillors were available to attend.

CC REPORT

Mr Maxwell has been invited to submit Highway Improvement Schemes for consideration and it was suggested that some of the kerbstones on the pavements in the village need resetting.

PLANNING

Cllr Rowswell left the room, and Cllr Fowler took the Chair, while the Parish Councillors considered an application for demolition of porch and erection of single storey extension to Ashfield House, Great Lane. There were no objections to the application.

Cllr England left the room while the application for conversion of barn into dwelling and conversion of single storey building into workshop, store and office on land opposite Manor Farm was considered. There were no objections.

Cllr Wakely left the room while Councillors considered an application to erect single storey rear extension to Hill Farm House, Lambrook Road. There were no objections.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

Peeks – Jubilee Street Party supplies	£342.83
Bullfinch – Jubilee Beacon	370.80
Diocese of Bath & Wells – Rent for School Play Area	25.00

It was agreed to purchase more dog waste bags and the Dog Warden will be asked to carry out more patrols.

PARISH PLAN

Tickets are now available for the Jubilee Dinner.

LENGTHSMAN

The Clerk was asked to contact South Petherton Parish Council to check that the other parishes involved in the Lengthsman Scheme have agreed to fund the shortfall caused by the District and County Councils withdrawing their funding.

HIGHWAYS

A letter of thanks will be sent to the Highway Authority for the resurfacing work carried out in Great Lane.

Cllr Rowswell asked for the potholes in Buttle Lane to be reported.

Metal protruding at the entrance to Washcross Lane will also be reported.

A reminder will be sent about the repositioning of the hatched markings near the Great Lane junction.

Mr and Mrs Winters will be thanked for looking after the flowers in the pump trough while they were at the Butcher's Shop.

RECREATION FIELD

Cllr Rivers queried whether he is considered a full member of the Recreation Committee or whether his role is just to attend meetings and report to the Parish Council. The Councillors consider him to be a full member, representing them. He asked the Parish Council's views on building a new pavilion and it was felt that wider consultation would be necessary.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Councillors were sorry to hear that Chris Powell, one of the Allotment Holders, had passed away.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 14 May at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies For absence
- 2 Election of Officers
- 3 Public Participation
- 4 Approval of minutes of last meeting
- 5 Matters arising from minutes
- 6 Declarations of Interest
- 7 Reports from DC/CC
- 8 Planning – Erection of two dwellings and formation of new pedestrian/vehicular access and demolition of existing attached garage and the erection of new detached garage for existing dwelling at Crofters, Lambrook Road.
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Accounts – Approval of 2011/12 Accounts
- 11 Parish Plan – Jubilee Exhibition
- 12 Lethbridge Trust
- 13 Lengthsman
- 14 Highways
- 15 Footpaths

2011/12 Officers

Chairman – Fiona Rowswell

Vice Chairman – Kim Fowler

Planning – Toby Lewis, Fiona Rowswell

Allotments – Roger Cripps, Elizabeth England, Malcolm Rivers

Footpaths – Jane Bishop, Roger Cripps

Highways – Kim Fowler, John Hallett

Charity Trustees – Fiona Rowswell

Emergency Contacts – Kim Fowler, Ed Wakely, Blue Walshe

Parish Environment Warden – Elizabeth England

Representative on Cowleaze Project – Roger Cripps

Representative on Recreation Committee – Malcolm Rivers

Tree Warden – Debbie Welch

The Planning Application can be viewed at the Post Office.

