

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 15th May 2016 at 7.30.pm in the Village Hall, Sherborne St John

Parish Clerk requested all 5 newly elected Parish Councillors for Sherborne St John to complete and sign their 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms prior to the commencement of the meeting.

N.B The Clerk is in the process of collecting newly completed 'register of members Interests' & 'Application for Dispensation' forms from all the Councillors for filing.

A Record of Councillors Attendance at meetings during 2015/6 was added after the meeting:

Morgan 10 Agnew 9, Rougier 10, Tomlinson 3, Jones 5, Davies 4, Abraham 0

Cllrs Abraham & Tomlinson resigned during the year as Councillors and Cllrs Jones and Davies were co-opted into their vacant positions.

Present:

Cllrs R Morgan, L Agnew, N Rougier, R Cooper, C Davies Borough Councillor T Robinson and J Crawley (Neighbourhood Plan Chairman)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor K Chapman & Mr Ted Wilkinson.

Chairman and Officers from 2015/6 stood down.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Rougier proposed Richard Morgan's election as Chairman seconded by Cllr Cooper. **All in favour – motion carried unanimously.** Cllr Morgan resumed the Chair.

3. Election of Officers

The following nominations were made:

Cllr N Rougier	Vice-Chairman	Proposed Cllr Morgan	Seconded Cllr Agnew
Cllr C Davies	Treasurer	Proposed Cllr Morgan	Seconded Cllr Agnew
Cllr L Agnew	Chair of Planning Committee	Proposed Cllr Morgan	Seconded Cllrs Cooper/Davies
Cllr N Rougier	Planning Committee member		
Cllr R Cooper	Planning Committee member		
Cllr C Davies	Planning Committee member		

Councillors agreed to be responsible for the following parish roles:

Cllr R Morgan	Village Hall Management Committee Representative
Cllr N Rougier	Chute Management Committee
Cllr R Morgan	Footpaths & Village Green
Cllr L Agnew/ P Mayo	Allotments
Cllr R Morgan	Representative Basingstoke District Ass of Parish & Town Councils

All in favour – motion carried unanimously.

4. Minutes of the AGM 5th May 2015

Motion to accept the minutes and reports** submitted for the AGM 5th May 2015.

All in favour - motion carried unanimously.

Cllr Morgan as Chairman signed copies as correct. *** Copy reports signed after the meeting for filing by Parish Clerk.*

The Full reports noted below will be filed with the minutes and posted on the new website for Parishioners and interested parties to read in full.

5. Chairman's Report 2015/6

The Main points were:

The Neighbourhood Plan has been issued for consultation. The Chairman, Julian Crawley, to give update at item 7.

The new Web site is almost ready to go live (Neighbourhood Plan draft and base line report already posted for view).
New Shop in the Village. This is still very unclear, 3 options a unit provided via the Neighbourhood Plan, a commercial unit at the Village Hall and a mobile unit visiting weekly.

The Chute Pavilion & Recreation Ground. The project to update and improve the facilities is nearly completed with the tennis courts to be resurfaced and re-fenced in the next month or so. It is hoped more people will use the upgraded facilities. New rationalised charges have been introduced as no increase has been made for over 4 years while costs have risen. (*With the retirement of Mr Edwards and Dr Darmady a salaried caretaker is now in place*).

Speed watch has been effective but more volunteers needed to extend the roads covered.

Parish Event. This was a great success but it has been decided that this year's event 9th July will be free & people will have to provide their own refreshments.

Infrastructure. The roads continue to cause concern and the situation is unlikely to improve as HCC has had to severely cut their budgets by 39%.

Defibrillator. A grant has been received to install 2 units in the Village – one at the Chute Pavilion & the other at the Village Hall Planning. Nothing of concern has been received.

Finances this subject will be covered under the Treasurer's report.

On behalf of the Parish Council he thanked Judith Darmady and John Edwards for their work at the Chute, Becky Jones for stepping in to fill the vacant Councillor position, the retired Borough Councillor John Leek for all his help over the years and finally welcomed the new Borough Councillor Tristan Robinson, Ed Campbell, the new caretaker and Shawna Campbell who is now the booking secretary for the Chute and Village Hall.

He also thanked others for all their help in the past year - John Edwards, Ted Wilkinson, Julian Crawley, Helen Hooper, Keith Chapman and the Clerk.

6. Treasurer's Report 2015/6

Parish Clerk gave out comparison schedules detailing expenditure and budget (2017) for pass 6/7 years together with an Account re the Solar Panels at the Chute – income from which has now paid for the installation. This will now be an income source.

The main points were:

Most of the grant monies from BDBC have been received for the Chute Project.

Further grants have been received from Groundwork for the Neighbourhood Plan, Hampshire Playing Field Ass (re Chute) as well as for the 2 defibrillators.

Village Hall continues to repay the loan – now down to £18250 at £3000 per year.

While the precept was £27000 it is based on 635 Band D properties not 538 as last year so the figure is £42.55 down from £43.53 last year. The Parish Council hope to continue to keep the precept down.

While the PC had £54580 reserves at the end of March the majority have already been apportioned as noted below:

£20,000 – towards the Chute improvement project

£11,000 – prudent management requires approximately ½ year's precept in hand

£10,000 – Reserve re Chute Pavilion and grounds for maintenance etc

£ 3,000 – To complete the Neighbourhood Plan

£ 3,000 - Addition caretaker salary

£ 1,000 – new computer and printer for the Clerk

£ 800 – Refundable Allotment deposits

£ 2,000 – new Chute signage

Expenditure has stayed fairly similar – insurance £2410 per year by taking a 3 year contract, £3562 for ground maintenance (which will rise as more is added) & £4160 for the speed indicators.

However while cost of running the parish has stayed constant there will be increased costs due to the employment of a caretaker at the Chute.

The new Chute hourly charges are £21.60, £17.28 non-commercial, £13.82 parish residents. Regular users will receive a lower rate in thanks for their continued support. These will assure the health of the Chute facilities for the future.

The parish finances are in good condition and adequate for all needs with sufficient reserves retained for any unforeseen event.

7. Village Hall Chairman's Report

There was no official report available due to the election of a new Chairman.

8. Chute Pavilion Chairman's Report

As already noted there has been extensive renovation work carried out which will mean improved facilities – a new storage unit, new flooring, redecoration and finally renovated tennis courts. Charges have gone up in order to create sufficient income to maintain the facilities to a high standard. The Parish Council hope that with the work many more parishioners will be encouraged to use the grounds and hall in the future.

9. Borough Councillor's Report

The new Borough Councillor Tristan Robinson gave a short report.

The main points:

The Conservative group retains overall control of the Council with 33 of the 60 seats.

The revised Local Plan which included the 853 houses per annum recommended by the Inspector will hopefully be adopted very soon. This would then protect the strategic gap so important to Sherborne St John. It is then hoped that this will provide a defence to speculative development in the Borough areas.

He has been appointed to: Economic, Planning & Housing Committee, the Scrutiny Committee & the Joint Manydown Committee.

Oakley & Deane is likely to be the first parish to have their Neighbourhood Plan adopted

Particular areas he wishes to be involved in are: redevelopment of the Leisure Park, revitalisation of the top of the Town and issues regarding 'affordable' housing - the need for starter homes for purchase by first time buyers as well as social housing.

10. County Councillor's Report

Parishioners are directed to Cllr Chapman's comments from PC meeting 25th April 2016 item 37.16 copied below:

Cllr Chapman gave a short report on HCC which had expected a 19% cut in rate support from central government but the cut was in fact 39%, needing savings of £350million so they are in the process of identifying the further savings necessary. They are allowed to raise the general rate by 1.99% and a 2% rise for social care. While HCC enjoys 'economies of scale' unlike other authorities they still need to make significant other savings to the budget. – such as reducing school transport provisions. There had been a fire authority review which had improved services by implementation of new equipment – smaller fire appliances and the use of 'lancers' – which go through walls etc & inject a mist which reduces the heat of the fire inside buildings extremely quickly. Retained fire fighters can now attend calls with only 2 people, instead of the previous need for 4, and fire fighters have also been trained to provide some emergency medical assistance prior to the arrival of the paramedics so that they can start recovery earlier.

11. Police Officer's Report

There was no report available. Monthly reports are circulated to Parish Council when received.

12. Neighbourhood Plan

Julian Crawley presented his draft report.

The Draft Plan and Baseline report has been sent to statutory consultees, residents and interested business and leisure groups for comments. Consultation closed 16th May and he is at present reviewing comments received ready for a Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting on 23rd May to decide on any amendments needed prior to the Plan being officially sent to BRBC for review. He has a meeting on 25th May with Matt Melville at BDBC to go over the draft plan. Following this meeting & any amendments necessary the Plan will be submitted to SSJ PC at the June meeting for approval prior to be submitted to BDBC.

'.....the objectives of this exercise.

Objective 1: Deliver an appropriate level of housing that will meet both local needs and contribute towards the strategic needs of the Borough.

Objective 2: Retain Sherborne St John as a viable rural village with its own distinct identity through the preservation of its historic and rural setting and character.

Objective 3: Protect and enhance the important green spaces, habitats and natural environment of the Parish and establish and maintain green corridors within the Parish.

Objective 4: Maintain and promote key village amenities placing an importance on retaining or providing the shops and services that the underpin village life.....'

He thanked Mike Harrison for his continued hard work producing /recording/collating a Wildlife Map for the Parish:

*'..... SSJ NP colleague Mike Harrison in recording and collating the numerous and diverse species present in SSJ. The result will be a **Wildlife Map of SSJ**, including mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, moths and butterflies, other insects and invertebrates, higher plants, fungi, mosses and liverworts and lichens. ... It is a scientific study in its own right, and the hope is that this knowledge base will also be used to dissuade unsuitable and unwanted development in the future.'*

The time line is as follows: review > re write > present to SSJ PC June > BDBC > Inspector > referendum 2017

The Official meeting was closed and the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and their contribution.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman Cllr Morgan at 8.50p.m.