

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th May 2017 at 7.30.pm in the Chute Pavilion, Sherborne St John

A Record of Councillors Attendance at meetings during 2016/7 recorded at the meeting:

Morgan 11 Agnew 9, Rougier 11, Davies 10, Cooper 10, Jones 1

Present:

Cllrs R Morgan, L Agnew, N Rougier, R Cooper, C Davies, Borough Councillor T Robinson & County Councillor R Vaughan & 2 parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Julian Crawley, Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

2. Minutes of the AGM 15th May 2016

Motion to accept the minutes proposed by Cllr Agnew & seconded by Cllr Rougier.

All in favour - motion carried unanimously. Cllr Morgan as Chairman signed copies as correct.

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

3. Chairman's Report 2016/7

The main points were:

- a. The completion of the Neighbourhood Plan in the process of adoption.
- b. The improvements carried out at the Chute facilities.
- c. The continuing problems re infrastructure – conditions of the roads – and the likelihood of any resolution due to the reduction in HCC funding.
- d. The financial position of the Parish Council.
- e. The continuation of the local bus route which could be in danger due to lack of use although the Friday bus to Chineham run by Basingstoke Community Transport is well used.
- f. Continuing need to reduce traffic speed in the parish.
- g. The village party to be held on 8th July on the Village Green.

He thanked all the councillors and parishioners for all their help and efforts throughout the year & welcomed the new County Councillor Rhyddian Vaughan who has replaced Keith Chapman who retired this year.

4. Treasurer's Report 2016/7

Parish Clerk made available comparison schedules detailing expenditure for pass 6/7 years for anyone interested.

The main points were:

Village Hall continues to repay the loan – now down to £15250 at £3000 per year.

The precept 2017/8 is £27700 so based on 629 Band D properties a slight rise to £44.03 per band D property. While the Parish Council try to keep the precept down the slight rise was necessary to replace the loss of grants from BDBC.

The Chute Pavilion after considerable, and necessary expenditure, was still in credit at the end of the year. Current projections for the year are on course to ensure a healthy surplus for this year as the Parish Council start to build a reserve for any major works needed in the future.

While the PC had £40940 reserves at the end of March the majority have already been apportioned as noted below:

£13,500 – prudent management requires approximately ½ year's precept in hand

£12,000 – Reserve re Chute Pavilion and grounds for maintenance etc

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

£ 880 – Refundable Allotment deposits

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

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Rougier read out the report submitted by Julian Crawley, Chairman. It went through the detailed procedure followed in trying to get the best/least worst option for the Parish required by BDBC to source a site to accommodate 15-18 new houses.

Unfortunately the preferred site, Bobs Farm, was withdrawn by the owner from the process. If no site had been chosen the Parish would have been vulnerable to BDBC picking a site of their choice. *'Given the fact that BDBC did not have a '5 year supply' of building land (which means that developers are able to promote alternative development sites against the wishes of BDBC and local Residents), there was a real threat that BDBC might be forced to accept up to 80 new houses at this (Cranes Road)*

location. It is only with the agreement of the Parish Council that any building can happen in the Strategic Gap, so they will be able to fight vigorously to ensure no further infringement happens.

6. Chute Pavilion Report

The Chute Pavilion & Recreation grounds are now in very good condition –with many improvements. There is now a part-time Site Manager to oversee the facilities which is working extremely well with an interface between the many and varied users and the Parish Council. Bookings are extremely strong and have creating sufficient income to cover expenditure. Now that all the improvements are finished a larger surplus can be used as reserves for future larger needs or to increase the range of facilities on the site. Storage is the major problem as sports users need space for all their equipment, hence the Parish Council is applying for another grant to erect a further storage unit on the site.

7. Borough Councillor's Report

Borough Councillor Tristan Robinson gave a short report.

The main points:

There is a Conservative majority on the Council

A new Cabinet post has been created specifically to oversee and investigate the digital needs and the provision of superfast broadband in the Borough.

After negotiations with BDBC the AA will remain in the Borough – what will happen to their current building is unknown.

They hope to complete a contract to regenerate the Leisure Park area.

There will be further improvements to A33 in the near future.

The new CIL is to be voted on this week. The funds will only be able to be used for Capital projects, although he will fight to ensure that any relating to development in our area are used within the area. With a Neighbourhood Plan the Parish will receive 25% of the CIL monies for their own projects.

He continues to argue for weekly bin collections.

SSJ's NP will be presented at Cabinet on 16th May 2017 & go to full Council for ratification 18th May 2017.

8. County Councillor's Report

The new County Councillor Rhyddian Vaughan introduced himself to the meeting. And confirmed he would work hard to resolve any issues of concern brought to his attention by the Parish Council.

9. Police Officer's Report

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

Chairman and Officers from 2016/7 stood down.

10. Election of Chairman

The Parish Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Cllr Rougier proposed Richard Morgan's election as Chairman seconded by Cllr Agnew

All in favour – motion carried unanimously. Cllr Morgan resumed the Chair.

11. Election of Officers

Cllr Morgan proposed that Councillors continued in the position & responsibilities as last year.

Cllr N Rougier Vice-Chairman Cllr C Davies Treasurer & Planning Committee member

Cllr L Agnew Chair of Planning Committee Cllr N Rougier Planning Committee member

Cllr R Cooper Planning Committee member

All in favour – motion carried unanimously.

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 L Agnew/ P Mayo Allotments

Cllr R Morgan Representative Basingstoke District Ass of Parish & Town Councils

Footpaths & Village Green - unfilled – Cllr Cooper considering whether to accept the role.

12. Residents Comments

The extremely poor state of parish roads was raised.

The position of the planning application by Rydon Homes in Cranes Road was raised. The Parish Clerk will contact the BDBC planning officer to ascertain the position and to obtain up to date copies of the plans.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman Cllr Morgan at 8.45p.m.