

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2018 at 7.30.pm in the Chute Pavilion, Sherborne St John

A Record of Councillors Attendance at meetings during 2017/8 recorded at the meeting:

Morgan 12 Agnew 8, Rougier 12, Davies 10, Cooper 10,

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

There were no apologies to register.

2. Minutes of the AGM 15th May 2017

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

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

3. Chairman's Report 2017/8

Report from Cllr Richard Morgan Chairman

Welcome to the 2018 Sherborne St John Parish Council AGM. I can confirm that a copy of this report will be lodged on SSJ website.

Like last year we continue to be busy. There are a number of topics, some new, some recurring, where it is appropriate we review the last year's activities and anticipate progress for this year.

There will be separate reports covering the Chute and PC Finances, etc.

I'll provide a brief summary of each subject hoping to give you the highlights. After all the various reports have been presented there will be an opportunity to ask any further questions of any Councillor

Neighbourhood Plan The SSJ NP has been adopted. This gives the Council more powers to control the amount and type of development within the Parish. Already we are seeing planning applications being rejected as they don't 'fit' the NP parameters.

Many thanks to the team of villagers, particularly so the late Julian Crawley, who saw the process thru to conclusion

Chute Yet more work on the Chute over the last year – both repairs and improvements – all these major improvements have in the main been funded by various grants thereby minimising the Council expenditure.

You'll notice the new 'beds' at each end of the building extending the usability footprint of the pavilion. There is an outstanding action to paint the top of the supporting struts with non-climb paint

You'll also notice the new storage unit. This has allowed the hall to be cleared of user equipment and has led to an increase in the number of bookings. There are still some 'timing' issues re: the handover from one user to the next but we are progressing these.

We are reviewing all current contracts for use of the Chute e.g. Tennis Club and Piccolo. By reviewing I mean taking legal guidance as the form and complexity these new contracts. The new contracts will be written to complement the nature of the hiree, a club or business, etc.

A structural survey of the Chute needs to be completed. The lifespan on the roof was estimated at 25 years and were close to that. Financially the Chute remains self sufficient

Infrastructure This section covers a number of seemingly un-connected topics that I've pulled together under this heading.

The speed restriction signage on entering the village to be re-furbished – thank you John Edwards There will also be new street furniture at both A340 entrances to the village.

The council has signed up for the local Lengths man service. This buys the services of a resource to take on small improvement/repairs to the village infrastructure.

Less pleasant – dog fouling appears to be on the increase. You are encouraged to report any such incidents that you see to the local Dog Warden on 844844. The Council is arranging for additional signage to be located around the village

The village green also appears to be regularly used by travellers exercising their horses. The Council is looking at ways to restrict access to the village green by the erection of fencing. Signage will also be erected. We are also investigating the local by-laws governing access to the village green which MAY prevent a ban. Further updates will be provided.

The issue of travellers appears to be prevalent in the whole area with the likes of Bramley taking our high court injunctions in order to try and manage the issue.

Finally, potholes. We could spend the whole meeting discussing this subject. We managed to get the stretch of road outside the village hall fixed but.... Vyne Road is a mess as are parts of Cranes Road, etc. etc. I note in last week's Gazette that Tadley are also complaining and asking why the repair of the pavement in the SSJ West End area has taken precedent. We ask but see no action. On the SSJ website there is a link to the BDBC site where you can report potholes.

Finances Against the background of having to find an additional £140m of savings by the fiscal year 2019/2020 HCC raised its Council Tax precept by 4.99% and BDBC raised its precept by 5.99% but I'm pleased to say the SSJ precept for 2018/019 remains the same as for 2017/2018. This has been achieved without any impact on the Council's reserves.

Given the amount that has been spent over the last year, albeit a lot of it grant monies, the Parish finances remain in an impressively good state. The Treasurer will provide his report later.

We successfully passed this year's Parish audit

Transport Same message as last year, use it or lose it. The route of the 22 bus has been reversed in an attempt to generate more passengers. I think however that there are few regular users of the service so the message has to be it's under threat.

Mobile Shop The Mobile shop has disappeared as the folk who ran it decided to call it a day – not from lack of SSJ custom but from the wider perspective.

Planning Cranes Road/Rydon – no action and despite regularly asking Rydon as to their intent, no answer. However it is possible that Rydon will sell on the application to another developer. Further updates as the PC gets them.

Dark Lane – 7 houses Bobs Farm – 8 houses Beaupaire House – the works continue.

Speedwatch Speeding on entering and thru the village remains an issue. Our local Speedwatch team, managed by Becky Jones, continue to set up random speed checks but there seems to be a 'core' group of offenders. (I managed to sneak in @ 29 mph last week !!)

Website Reminder of the location of the website - The link is <http://www.sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk/>. You'll find onward links to a range of useful BDBC services, etc.

Village Party On the village green on the 7th July – bring your own food, drink, gazebo and good humour. Everything else will be laid on by the PC. The date for the Village Feet this year is **SUNDAY**, June 17th. Last year's event was a great success as I'm sure will this year's will be.

Allotments and Rabbits The first are in good shape, the second are perhaps not so but are fighting a strong rear guard action.

GDPR Significant legislation for the UK business community but equally applicable to the Parish Council. Basically the right to know the detail the Council holds about an individual, how it is used and the right to ask for that information to be deleted.

From a PC perspective we've asked for e-mail addresses only for Council communications – I can assure you that these e-mail addresses will not be sold to any person or persons from the African continent looking for help to release some incredible amount of funds if only you would send him/her your bank account details in order to facilitate the process.

Comings and Goings. Thank you to....

- All the villagers who regularly attend the PC meetings and volunteer their time and efforts to make this village a better place for all of us. John Edwards (x 2) and Ted Wilkinson spring to mind
- All my fellow councillors for their diligence and application in managing and enhancing all aspects of the village/parish
- The Parish Clerk, Penny Mayo. Despite some continuing serious health issues this year, she continues to keep us on the straight and narrow, both financially and operationally
- Weather wise it's been awful for the first 3 months or so of this year but you'll note that the highways and byways of the village have remained clear of litter. A big thank you to Jane Brind – our litter picker.
- Finally, after a long fight Julian Crawley died in February this year. The village is a poorer place for his passing.

What our immediate concerns for the future?

Nothing significant comes to mind at the moment but that in itself is worrying. To quote from a favourite song of mine; the real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, the kind that blindsides you at 4 p.m. on some idle Tuesday. Thank you RKM 14/05/2018

4. Treasurer's Report 2017/8

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

Report from the Treasurer Cllr. Carl Davies

Last year to 31st March 2018.

Our annual precept was £27,700. This is contributed by each council tax payer in the parish and was based on 629 band D equivalent properties in the parish. The average precept per property was £44.03.

Some highlights:

- The solar panels on the Chute continue to provide a source of income around £3,300 each year proving what a sound investment these were several years ago.
- The Village Hall also continues to repay £3,000 a year off the loan made by the Parish Council.
- The Staff Costs cover our Parish Clerk, our Chute Pavilion caretaker and our village litter picker. Costs have increased slightly from the previous year but in line with expectations.
- Points of note with regard to Other Expenditure net of VAT where appropriate during the year were:
 - Insurance of £2,787 – three-year fixed contract ensuring this will only increase as a result of Insurance Premium Tax and not through premium.
 - £4,160 Ground maintenance in Village provided by BDBC.
 - National Trust re-instigated a yearly rental charge on the allotments. Last year the Clerk negotiated a fair agreement which is fixed for two further years and will increase by RPI thereafter.
 - Chute Project Expenditure reduced this year with the only major projects being the addition of a further storage unit and refreshed fenced areas at each side of the building.

The Village Hall loan now stands at £12,250 which is being repaid at £250 per month.

The overall position for last year resulted in Parish Council's reserves in total of £40,656 which is a reduction of just under £300 on the previous year. It must be noted though that a large amount was spent finally bringing the Chute up to date from a maintenance perspective. Chute income also increased and this has allowed the Parish Council to undertake these measures without impact on the Precept. The reserve figure is fiscally sound and the majority of it is already apportioned in the earmarked reserves (for example as a provision to replace/repair the Chute Pavilion roof) to ensure the viability of the Parish financially.

This year to 31st March 2019

The costs of running our Parish continue to increase and the number of grants available to the Parish Council from both Hampshire and Basingstoke and Deane are substantially reduced. We have signed up to the Parish Lengths man scheme along with a number of other local parishes and this will provide a small amount of extra funds to carry out maintenance work and small projects.

Despite these factors the 2018/19 precept has remained at £44.03 per Band D. The precept itself has increased to £30,214 due to extra properties included in our household calculation. This is welcome and helps the Parish Council as we work hard to minimise the impact of any cost increases or reduction in HCC and BDBC services on the residents.

Capital Projects - The main capital project planned and budgeted for this financial year is the A340 Traffic Improvements. This is in response to what is probably our parishioner's major concern. It follows a review with HCC on the best approach to deter speeding motorists and improve safety.

In terms of other income - we receive very little investment income at present but the Chute Pavilion continues to provide enough income to be effectively self-funding and has a healthy pipeline of regular and ad-hoc bookings.

As always, we are aiming to spend within our means and are budgeting for reserves of the Parish Council and the Chute at the end of this year and in the future to be fiscally adequate. Cllr Davies May 2018

5. Chute Pavilion Report

Chute Report by Cllr Natasha Rougier

It has been a successful year for the Chute Recreation ground, Pavilion and all the sports facilities on site.

The Chute Pavilion now conforms with all the necessary regulations relating to public use buildings – Health & Safety, Electrical, Fire and Gas regulatory regulations all of which are reviewed yearly. A number of heaters and lights have recently been replaced as well.

The Pavilion is very well used. It has been in use most days with a variety of groups – bowls, martial arts, judo, scouts & nursery and football amongst others – in total over 600 separate uses.

It has also become a popular place for both children's and adult's parties and for other local groups to meet, with 120 separate bookings last year. It is especially popular for its access to the recreation ground itself during fine weather.

All these bookings have helped to ensure the Pavilion and grounds continue to be self-funding, while also creating funds to be used to improve facilities. In addition, the solar panels provided an income of £3356 last year. As a result, we are managing to keep the charge rates down, so the area is used as much as possible by the community.

This year the 2 out of control beds, either side of the Pavilion, have been cleared of all the brambles and vegetation, which made both areas look so messy. They have been re-fenced and laid with artificial grass, so these areas can now provide an attractive area for users of the Pavilion to sit outside when the weather permits. Hopefully they will be enjoyed by the 2 weddings receptions booked for later in the year. Whilst this was costly, it will reduce the large maintenance costs that were yearly incurred to try and keep the areas tidy, as well as improving the overall impression.

A Leader Grant was obtained from Hampshire County Council, which, together with funds from the Chute's own income (this grant source does not permit ANY public funds such as precepts to be used) enabled the erection of a new storage unit, next to the Pavilion, to provide much needed extra storage room. This will be much appreciated by the users as sports facility storage of equipment is a real issue with bowls & judo mats and football equipment, together with a huge amount of nursery equipment, amongst much that has to be stored on site.

The Tennis courts are also now being well used, with the club starting to arrange coaching sessions with a professional coach. We hope the membership of the tennis club and use of the courts will continue to grow.

I must thank Terry Buller, the Site Manager, as none of this could have been achieved without his continuous work and help, to ensure the facilities are maintained and to help users to have an enjoyable experience. Because of the positive feedback, this has led to many referrals all which have increased income. He goes well beyond what is expected of him.

I must also thank Penny Mayo for her tireless work in taking bookings, getting quotes for maintenance and repairs and dealing with all and any problems, on top of her work as Parish Clerk. We are aware it is difficult at times and we are very grateful to you both.

As the Pavilion is now over 20 years old the Parish Council is creating a reserve fund – to which they add yearly from the income – ready for large costs repairs, such as roof maintenance, which will inevitably happen in the next years.

6. Borough Councillor's Report

Borough Councillor Tristan Robinson gave a short report.

The main points:

There will be boundary changes reducing Borough Councillors from 60 to 54, details still under review, however each ward will have 3 ward members and cover a larger area.

It is hoped that the Manydown situation will be approved by the end of the year for 3400 houses. Discussions are in progress about road access, with the potential for one or 2 roundabouts.

Unfortunately while it is still under consideration it does have an impact on the BDBC Local 5 year housing plan.

The total redevelopment of the Leisure Park is still ongoing and hoped to be in place by 2012/1/2. There is an exclusivity agreement with 'New River', with options of an aquadrome/belladrome, cinema, ski slope all being considered. There will hopefully be a Retail centre outlet such as Bicester which the Borough Council do not feel will affect Festival Place as it is a different type of retail site.

There is no information about the Rydon Cranes Road site still, and the Dark Lane site will probably go to Committee in June or July. It is hoped a Parish Councillor can attend to state the PC's backing to the development which it is felt will enhance the area

7. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Rhydian Vaughan gave a short report.

He has 11 parishes under his remit mostly rural areas.

The County Council have managed to make the necessary £140M savings and do in fact now employ 100 more people in Winchester as they provide paid outsourcing services for other Councils.

The problem with travellers needs a law change to make it a criminal not civil trespass. The MP Ranil Jayawardena is pursuing this.

HCC is looking at various other options to make savings such as the 1949 act that granted free transport to school for children living over 3 miles away from the school. This provision costs HCC £32M per year.

Unfortunately central Government perceive the south as 'rich' when allocating funding:

Per person funding from central government per year is £503 in Manchester, £455 in Hackney and £115 in our area.

The roads are still a major issue and being tackled as soon as possible but with only 2 dragon machines this is slow work. He confirmed that he will continue to fight hard to ensure rural areas road problems are not overlooked.

8. Police Officer's Report

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

Chairman and Officers from 2017/8 stood down.

9. Election of Chairman

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

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

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

10. 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*

* The Parish Clerk recorded that she advised the Parish Council that this represented a conflict of interests, as Cllr Morgan's wife is one of the Trustees of the Village Hall, however the Parish Council decided to ignore her advice.

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 still considering whether to accept the role.

11. Residents Comments

a. There have been many instances of fly-tipping – Cllr Robinson will report as will the Parish Clerk.

There are several allotments or concern and the Parish Clerk has written to the tenants to inform them that they must immediately deal with their plots or tenancies could be terminated.

b. Cllr Morgan thanked John Edwards for all his work around the Parish painting & removing vegetation.

c. With Sherborne St John now signed up to the Lengths man scheme it is hoped he will be able to clean the road signs and remove overgrown vegetation etc – Mr Edwards will e mail the Parish Clerk with areas of concern so she can contact the Lengths man to see what he can do.

d. The Parish Clerk informed the Parish Council that her other Parish of Stratfield Saye had produced an IT & Data Policy (as required by the new GDPR) covering all the requirements and suggested they could contact to obtain a copy and make a contribution towards Stratfield Saye's costs. The Councillors asked for a copy to be sent to them to review. Upon reflection the Parish Clerk did not think that this was a correct course of action and would suggest that the Chairman of Sherborne St John Parish Council contact the Chairman of Stratfield Saye Parish Council direct to request sight of this document.

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

**AFTER DISCUSSION THE PARISH COUNCIL DECIDED THEY HAD TO
CANCEL THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 21ST MAY 2018**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL THEREFORE BE 25TH JUNE 2018 AT THE CHUTE
PAVILION.**