

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
1 Redwell Cottage, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EE
Tel: 01732 883 044 Email: clerk@shipbourne.com

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday, 18 January 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. M. Miles (in the Chair)
Mr. J. Raven, Miss L. Sargent, Mr. J. Sheldrick, Mr. N. Tyler

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

Councillors were reminded to disclose personal and prejudicial interests on matters to be considered at this Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. L. Cohen and Mr. S. Davis.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2009 Reference SPC/11/09, previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendment:
Page 3, Item 7, 3rd line should read: *“and who lived in the village, **was killed in action** during battle in Afghanistan two years ago.”*

7.35 p.m. The Chairman invited Mr. A. Bristow to speak.

Mr. Bristow felt that the issues regarding the Public Rights of Way Committee and Emergency Group were still unresolved and said that he failed to understand how the Parish Council could resolve in making the two groups unable to fulfill their ‘duties’. After giving the Council a full review of his involvement in setting up the two Groups, Mr. Bristow asked the Council to answer the following questions:-

- How he could obtain information as the Parish Council is not willing to include Mr. Bristow in the circulation of correspondence received by the Parish Council in relation to Emergency and Footpath matters.
- Is it ethical to disregard an informal agreement.
- Has the Parish Council notified TMBC that the Emergency Plan had been withdrawn.
- If the Parish Council thinks that running the two Committees on its absolute minimum is the best for the village.

Mr. Bristow felt that the Rights of Way Group Members should be respected and that their joint expertise should be recognised.

It was explained to Mr. Bristow that although the Council’s view was that the group did a splendid job, legally, a village group cannot be a Parish Council Committee.

8.08 p.m. Mr. Bristow left the Meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 “Green space” outside Wightwicks Row (Minute 3.1 SPC/11/09)
No further progress reported.

3.2 Church Footpath (Minute 3.2 SPC/11/09)
Refer to Item 7.

3.3 Public Rights of Way – Proposed amendments to Public Footpaths MR350 (Parts) & MR392 (Part) (Minute 3.4 SPC/11/09)

Mr. Sheldrick declared a personal interest and left the Meeting.

Kent County Council advised that the Regulation Committee Member Panel will consider the application to divert the above public footpaths on Friday, 29 January 2010. Mrs. Cohen and Miss Sargent were nominated to represent the Parish Council at this Meeting.

Mr. Miles proposed:

“That Mr. Bristow be given details of this Meeting.”

CARRIED 3 in favour, 1 against.

Mr. Miles would contact Mr. Bristow with the information.

3.4 Structure of Committees and Village Organisations (Minute 3.5 SPC/11/09)

This item was deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting. Mr. Miles would contact Mr. Bristow to explain that the Parish Council would respond fully to his questions after the February Parish Council Meeting.

3.5 War Memorial (Minute 7 SPC/11/09)

Advice received from the Royal British Legion indicated that they have no jurisdiction to existing War Memorials. Miss Sargent would discuss the possibility with the family concerned.

3.6 Telephone box & street lights (Minute 9 SPC/11/09)

RESOLVED: Not to take any action regarding the street lights – the situation may be reviewed at a later stage.

RESOLVED: Miss Sargent would form a working party to put forward proposals of ways to improve the appearance of the telephone box.

3.7 Vacancy for a Parish Clerk (Minute 5.3 SPC/11/09)

To date only one application had been received. The Clerk reported that a quotation had been obtained for an advert in the Courier (one publication, i.e. one week, would cost approximately £320 (Excl Vat).

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £320 (Excl Vat) be accepted.

The Council asked the Clerk to extend the notice period until after the February Parish Council Meeting. It was the Clerk's intention to do a proper 'handover' and agreed to extend the notice period for another month.

4. **Questions from public**

Questions from Members of the Public and Press were taken elsewhere during the Meeting.

5. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

5.1 Report from Chairman

No reports were received.

5.2 Report from Councillors

Mr. Sheldrick had arranged a site Meeting with the Highway Inspector to discuss remedial work to blocked drains.

5.3 Report from Clerk

No reports were received.

6. **PLANNING**

6.1 **Planning Applications for consideration.**

6.1.1. TM/09/00978/FL – Marchurst Barn, Hildenborough Road, Shipbourne

Retrospective application for installation of three closed circuit television cameras and apparatus at Marchurst Barn (a private domestic dwelling house).

RESOLVED: That the following response be sent:-

"The Parish Council is unable to make a decision based on the evidence provided. Full details (e.g. photographic evidence illustrating the range of the cameras) of what the cameras can record, are required in order to make a fully informed decision.

In principle, the Parish Council is not opposed to a householder installing appropriately designed and situated closed circuit television cameras, provided they cannot invade the privacy of neighbouring properties."

7. PRECEPT

The existing mowing contract for the Churchyard will expire at the end of March 2010 and Members noted that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had accepted responsibility for maintaining the Churchyard as per their letter dated 7 September 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to the PCC with the following:-

- *The Council agrees to donate £1,700 for the financial year 2010/2011 towards the Churchyard maintenance.*
- *Further donations may be considered later in the year.*
- *The Council noted that the PCC accepted responsibility for maintaining the Churchyard.*
- *Miss Sargent and Mr. Raven would arrange a site Meeting with the PCC representatives to discuss the 'take over'*
- *Miss Sargent and Mr. Raven would arrange a site Meeting with the PCC representatives*

That the Clerk should write to the current contractor to terminate the contract from 31 March 2010.

Members discussed the request from the PCC for financial assistance for the footpath improvements.

RESOLVED: Agreed that the Council makes a financial contribution of £750 towards improvements made to the Church footpath.

The Council considered the draft financial papers prepared by the Clerk. Preliminary calculations indicated a Precept requirement of around £6,000, but the Council felt it necessary to make adequate provision for unforeseen expenses and to build up the reserves.

The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, warned that this might be too high and that it was likely that the Audit Commission would ask for an explanation.

RESOLVED: To agree a precept of £9,000 for the financial year 2010/2011.

8. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

No requests were received.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payments in respect of cheque numbers 100401 – 100404 were approved and receipt No 008 (EDF Energy way leave) was noted.

10. INFORMATION REPORT

No information was noted.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15 February 2010.

The Meeting closed at 21.55 p.m.