

## **STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023**

**Location: The Main Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllr Leonard (Chair), Cllr Tapper, Cllr Dallison and Cllr Cottle.

In attendance: N Duke (Parish Clerk), Wiltshire Councillor J Seed and 20 members of the public.

1. Welcome from Chair – Cllr Leonard welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence – Cllr Jones.
3. Minutes of APM 2022 and Matters Arising – The minutes of the 2022 APM were duly approved and signed. No matters arising.
4. Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/2023 incl. Finance – Cllr Leonard provided an Annual Report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes. The method of reporting issues to Wiltshire Council was discussed and it was agreed to publicise information on how to do this on Facebook and the Newsletter. A member of the public offered to act as a contact point to log issues and would pass her contact details to the Clerk after the meeting.
5. Wiltshire Council Update - Cllr Jonathon Seed reported the following:
  - 5.1. In 4<sup>th</sup> term and in second year of current period of office.
  - 5.2. New division of western rural.
  - 5.3. Busier year rejined planning committee and chair LHFIG for Melsham Area Board and more work with that.
  - 5.4. Last bounrary review olst Seend Poulshot and Bulkington gained Melksham without berryfield and Broughton Gifford as well,
  - 5.5. Plenty of work to do in villages but one matter crossed division and pressing hard on is police presence had help from SA – felt not getting money worth out of the police been taken seriously be local inspector and message has got across. Local police turning out in the village shop thinkgs that's really important – low level intelligence can get fed in there positive change.
  - 5.6. Great see resurgence of CSW in village makes a bid differneec to local road safety urged support.
  - 5.7. Winter not helpful to highways potholes and carriageway delamination increased and roads are in a pretyy poor state. Injection of sig central gov unding cd not have come at better time for road repairs – hearing potholes being repaired indication being used.
  - 5.8. Urged anyone to report damage and potholes – mywilts app is hugely useful and saves huge aount of money in highways details in automatically, get a reference number and follow up if not done. Great success. Anyonw with smart phone can take photo or add to map.
  - 5.9. Too many issues with drainage in village, blocked gullies in the High St and flood damage Common Hill being chase don weekly basis. Will continue to push over the blocked gullies.
  - 5.10. Gets involved in planning matters in the village, part of role. Happy to help with commjnity issues. Try to work closely with the parish council. Do a great job, always been a PC that has got on with things and made things happen for the village but they

do need help and strength in numbers. Short of members. Urge to give it a go, give help.

- 5.11. Environmental impact of incinerator – what do you think how parish react o it. JS will happen and hghly unlikely will be any change to decision how control impact have to wait and see don't know how affect exactly, deep conern in Wetvury. 3 correspondenes from this area over the whole period from Great Hinton. Not something which has come to the top of the issues of concern in this area. Hope EA does job and monitors it.
- 5.12. The Sanctuary – cofirmed as still a live enforcement issue. Dented confidence in the planning not handled that well during covid. Officers, back at work but not back in the offices. No reduction in communication and efficiency, sometimes better. County Hall is very quiet. WFH long before covir. Will perhaps start let out parts of County Hall and a lot of the buildings be reduced.
- 5.13. Common Hill – what is the problem. JS talked to senior drainage engineer – water run off from lane into it taken debris into the drain and blocked them cant get in to fix properly until have a dry spell. Carriageway fixing – not getting very far will keep trying. Water still run off so would take tarmac off. JS Needs to be the drain which is dealt with – into the drain fix then fix the tarmac. How long prepared to accept cones there for the sake of a bit of tarmac. Referenced the recent road closure, which was investigation into the drains, not the repair.
- 5.14. RL next draft of Local Plan whats the report – JS had a meeting with Housing Minister largely because joint surgery lots of issues raised with planning – WC can demonstrate 5yhls are assured this is to be changed via bill to 4yhls Wiltshire can demonstrate 4.7 so will be able to stic to LP. Wiltshire started work on the next Local Plan. Without a LP wont be able to defend appliations. Hopeful moving forward.
- 5.15. White van parked side main road A350 from Bleet. JT live there and when van being used not too bad, not been used long time and start falling apart. Rpeorted to police and they are looking at it. PCSO emailed yesterday to say visit would be made and further enquiries woud be made. Aware and police aware and will take whatever action is required. JS can also report abandoned vehicles on the mywilts app. JT not abandoned, owner is aware of wish to move it.

## 6. Village Groups - Short Updates

- 6.1. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - Francesca Buffery-King provided a report as Chair of the NPSG, a copy of which is appended to the minutes. Questions were taken:
  - 6.1.1. It was confirmed that the planning consultants would assess the sites independently and details of the consultant were confirmed. Cllr Seed reported that the benefit of the NP was the ability to identify where housing allocations could go.
  - 6.1.2. The sites will be publicised once the potential sites had been identified and the analysis completed. A further consultation would take place once the potential sites had been identified, this was expected in 3-4 months.
  - 6.1.3. The developing of a NP was reported to be a lengthy process and it was important to properly complete each step along the way.
  - 6.1.4. Information boards were available in the Hall.
- 6.2. Community Policing Team - James Twyford had provided a report, which was introduced by Cllr Tapper and a copy of which is appended to the minutes:

- 6.2.1. JT passionate about neighbourhood policing.
- 6.2.2. Report would be available and hard copies in the village shop.
- 6.2.3. James Twford had sent apologies.
- 6.2.4. SA one of the safest places to live in an already safe county.
- 6.2.5. Police presence as reported by CLlr Seed, how to improve visibility had been looked at. Made inroads into police presence encouraged to visit them in the shop to make visit worthwhile.
- 6.2.6. Went though the police report.
- 6.2.7. Highlighted under reporting and encouraged to make reports.
- 6.2.8. Speeding – south end of the village Home Farm and the pub. Public offered use of drive if helpful. JT would pass on contact details.
  
- 6.3. SID/Speed Watch - Paul Vince reported the following, introduced by JT reported that the CSW had been supported by the PC:
  - 6.3.1.
  
- 6.4. The Friends of Steeple Ashton - Mike Beard reported the following:
  - 6.4.1.
  
- 6.5. St Mary's School Building Management Committee - Malcolm Bond had provided a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
  
- 6.6. Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers - Beryl Francis reported the following:
  - 6.6.1.
  
- 6.7. West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle - Robin Jarvis and William Lang reported the following:
  - 6.7.1.
  
- 6.8. STASH (Steeple Ashton Village Shop) Guy Bagnall had provided a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
  
- 6.9. Steeple Ashton Guides - Diane Bouault
  
- 6.10. Village Hall Management Committee - Clive Little had provided a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
  
- 6.11. Natural History Group - Roger Ferguson reported the following:
  - 6.11.1.
  
- 6.12. SAGE (Steeple Ashton Gardening Endeavours) – Mel Burge provided a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
  
- 6.13. Acreshort Park Group – Mel Burge provided a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
  
- 6.14. SA Recreation Working Group - Rachel Pearson reported the following:
  - 6.14.1.

6.15. SA Womens Institute - Marian Little had provided apologies for absence.

## 7. Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting was closed at pm.