

Shipton Parish Council

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shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Held by virtual means on Tuesday 4th May 2021, 19:30

Councillors present: Cllrs Kealy (Chairman), Griffiths, Chalklin, Hawley and McKinna
In attendance: 3 members of the public

- 210504/1 Welcome and Introductions:** Cllr Kealy welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 210504/2 Apologies:** Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and Cllr Robin Hughes sent their apologies.
- 210504/3 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Cllr Kealy advised that no meeting took place in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions and no minutes were produced from the meeting held in 2019 after the resignation of the Chair and Clerk during the meeting. Please note the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 was held in tandem with the Reading Room Trustees/Committee.
- 210504/4 Annual Report of the Chairman of Shipton Parish Council.** Cllr Kealy delivered his report. See Appendix 1.
- 210504/5 Reports from County and District Councillors:** Cllr McKinna delivered key extracts from both reports on behalf of Cllr Hodgkinson and Cllr Hughes. See Appendix 2 and 3 for the full reports.
- 210504/6 Local Community Reports:**
6.1 Reading Room Report - delivered by Susan Livesey, Chair of the Reading Room Trustees
6.2 St Oswald's Church/ Coln River – Cllr McKinna delivered key extracts from this report. See Appendix 4 and 5 for the full reports.
- 210504/7 Open Forum:**
7.1 A member of the Public raised the issue of parking and litter in the Village. He was concerned about building contractors parking on blind spots at the crossroads by the Green and contractors parking at the top of Syreford Road and dropping litter/food/drink cartons. This was noted by Reading Room Chair, Susan Livesey who confirmed she would speak to Snape contractors.
7.2 A recommendation from the Public was received, requesting that SPC formally thank the Village Support Group for their efforts during the Pandemic.
- 210504/8 Closing Comments from the Chairman:** Cllr Kealy thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 19.56pm
- 210504/9 Date of next meeting** – TBC May 2022
- Signed:**
- Meeting closed at 19:56**
- Date:**

APPENDIX 1 Annual Report of the Chairman of Shipton Parish Council 2021

Seems like there has not been a chairman's report for a while, can't think why. Here are some highlights:

Farewell and Welcome. Several councillors have stood down over the last two years, but we are at full strength again, with our newest councillor Emma Hawley, who joins Harry, Hazel, Ian and me.

Shipton Parish Council Contributes Funding to the Reading Rooms. Past and current Councillors have unanimously supported committing funds to renovate the Reading Rooms. We raised the Parish precept in January 2019 in anticipation of the overwhelming support of the village. The support means that re-construction is ongoing and should be complete by the start of the summer in 2021, coinciding with the post COVID easing of lockdown. With the costs and loan rates finalised, the precept has been reduced by 12% this year. The trustees' tireless work makes this happen and we owe them much thanks.

ShipFest returns. The re-opening of the Reading Rooms means we will have "Not ShipFest" at the start of the summer and the 3rd Annual Centenary ShipFest on Saturday 4th September.

Christmas Trees. For the last two years we have installed a Shipton Christmas tree on the Green, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive among children and adults alike, and so we plan to continue our new tradition.

Snow Patrol. A mild winter was good for snow patrol. Our warden would be grateful if cars parked along the main street could move away from bottlenecks in the narrow road so he can get the equipment through without risk of collision. If the grit bins aren't full, please let us know.

Toad Patrol. It's been a low turnout from frogs and toads this year, but good community work escorting them whichever way they need to go.

COVID Patrol. At the start of the pandemic no one knew the extent of the coming difficulties: toilet paper, wine, ammunition...Special thanks to Dan and Kate for organising the village with the Coronavirus Support Group online. They are still taking requests if needed.

Welcome to new villagers. The double whammy of COVID and the Reading Rooms have limited our ability to meet new faces. We hope that we can change that soon.

Highways and Byways. Highways have been called into Shipton and installed or repaired several areas, including the path along the A40 to Andoversford. The footpaths are also maintained throughout the village.

Looking Forward. Shipton Parish Councillors look forward to meeting the parish, in person, in our new Reading Rooms in the next few months.

Pete Kealy

Chairman of the Shipton Parish Council

July 2019 to May 2021

2020-21

Looking back on the last year the County Council had one major challenge – to deal with the pandemic.

Covid

Who would have thought that 2020/21 would have panned out in the way it has? A year which many of us will want to move from, I'm sure. For the County Council, responsible for Public Health in Gloucestershire, it has been a massive challenge. But a challenge which council staff and residents have stepped up to the plate for in offering support for the vulnerable.

I do, however, feel optimistic about this coming year. Why? Because covid infections at the time of writing have fallen to low levels (just 17 new cases in the Cotswolds in the last week) plus there is the hope of the vaccine working effectively (66% of adults have now had at least one jab).

I'd like to personally thank all the volunteers in the villages (including Shipton) who did such an amazing job during the various lockdowns.

Roads

Highways and road safety always feature highly on people's list of issues. My goal to get Highways to clear signage of vegetation and make sure they are legible continues. Much more needs to be done to keep the roads and pavements in a decent state. The A436 had much needed work done to it. Also, the 'No Crash' group which I chair met in February and Highways were tasked to get the A40 junction markings into a better state (I chased again on this yesterday).

The A417 Air Balloon 'Missing Link' project continues to move ahead, albeit at a slower pace than I would like. Last year saw the final public consultation on Highways England's solution for the new dual carriageway. Construction work starts in around 18 months' time.

Cleaning up Gloucestershire's Rivers

Gloucestershire plays host to 28 rivers, including Britain's longest and second longest waterways – the Severn and the Thames. However, many of these rivers are flooded with harmful pollutants including raw sewage discharges from water treatment operators, Severn Trent Water, Thames Water and Wessex Water. Untreated sewage is only meant to go into rivers in exceptional circumstances, but a survey of the River Windrush showed that this happened for 25% of the entire year in 2019.

Recently I have led a push to clean up our filthy rivers, bringing a motion about this to the County council meeting in November 2020. This resulted in a recent meeting with the Environment Agency and the establishment of a task group to bring these operators into line. I will keep you posted as work proceeds in the New Year, but this is a real problem and one which people are becoming more and more aware of.

Best wishes.
Paul

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
(Gloucestershire County Council, Bourton and Northleach Division)
www.paul-hodgkinson.org.uk

Ward Member Report to the Parish Council APRIL 2020 TO APRIL 2021

The year has of course been dominated by the Covid Pandemic, and whilst I don't plan to spend much time talking of this, I would like to say how impressed and encouraged I've been by the way our villages have pulled together to ensure that everyone was looked after and the needy helped. You might wonder sometimes about the state of our society, but when the chips are down there is always a tremendously heart-warming response – 'Community' is alive and active here!

March 2020 saw a change in the refuse and recycling operations with the roll-out of new bins, a weekly food waste collection and a reduction of garden waste collection to every other week. The permit is increasing by 33per cent (£30 to £40). Replacement bins/bags will also be chargeable at £5 per container from now on.

Following on from the previous year's increase in parking charges (+30%), this year brought the news that the option to pay cash at Cotswolds car parks was to be removed (in stages through this coming year) and payment could only be made through an 'app' on a smart phone or by card. Given that some 9,000 adults in the Cotswolds don't have a smart phone and 72% of all payments in 2019 were cash, this doesn't seem rational. I have (and will continue to) challenge this decision; so far the only change has been to drop the 'cost' argument and replace it with a 'green' reason for the change.

During the year there have been major changes in the senior management at the Council, with Nigel Adams (Head of Paid Service with 28 years' service) and Bhavna Patel (Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services) both leaving (at a cost of £330,000) to be replaced with a new Chief Executive – Robert Weaver and an interim Monitoring Officer. An additional 8 people have been recruited to fill various positions to deliver manifesto promises.

A number of Strategies and Reports have been proposed at Council, covering: -

- Ecological Emergency declared (July 2020)
- The Climate Emergency (Sept 2020)
- Corporate Strategy and Plan (Sept 2020)

In addition, there have been a number of other changes to: -

- The Council's Constitution
- The Community Grant scheme has been replaced by 'Spacehive', a crowd funding platform (costing £30,000 p.a.)
- Removal of the Ward Member's ability to automatically refer planning applications to the Planning Committee where considered appropriate. (This particular decision is causing a considerable amount of annoyance to effected Parishes and is the subject of ongoing discussion.)
- A new additional crest for the Council, designed for use on social media and new road signage including the crest and the parish's name. These being part of a £200,000 'Civic Pride' scheme.
- A new fly-tipping reporting tool has made this a much easier process and there has been a substantive increase in the numbers being reported. I presented a motion to Council to increase the spending on this bane and I believe this has been given through the 'Civic Pride' scheme (to be confirmed).

In February, the revised budget for 2021/2 was presented to and approved by Council. I was not able to support this vote due to lack of detail on the £65 million borrowing proposed.

It has been necessary to support the CDC Leisure Centres during the pandemic (circa £650k), some of which we will get back as and when normality resumes.

The Planning Department is currently suffering from large workloads and a lack of Officers – recruitment is currently taking place and I would ask for your patience whilst these matters are being resolved.

Cllr Robin Hughes
Sandywell Ward
Cotswold District Council
robin.hughes@cotswold.gov.uk

We had the second formal progress meeting with Snape Contracting this morning. We are in week 9 of the project and in the main things are progressing well.

External Works

The drainage field and septic tank has been installed and signed off BY BCO.

Extension foundations and floor in place – walls due to be erected this month.

Internal Works

Internally they have cut through the existing entrance into the main hall and taken down the walls between the existing toilets and the lobby.

The existing fireplace has been sandblasted. It looks good but will require some further repair and restoration.

The vaulted ceiling has been sandblasted ready for timber treatment.

Work had begun on installing the veluxes.

ROAD OIL LEAKAGE

The only way to properly remove the stain from the hydraulic oil leakage is to resurface that area of the road. The trustees are asking the PC to make a decision as to whether that should be done.

Timescales

As of this morning they are reporting a 1-week delay to the schedule however SR believes they are 5 weeks behind the original contract program. Obviously, there are things they can do to get back on track. We will be monitoring this closely.

We will send out a general village update later this week.

Susan Livesey, Reading Room Trustees Chair

APPENDIX 5

St Oswalds Church, Shipton. Report to Parish Council

Over the last year, in spite of the restrictions, the church community of St Oswalds has continued to meet every week at services conducted over Zoom. Around 50 members of the church community across the Coln River Group have regularly attended with many more participating at special festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

The PCC was delighted to hold the annual carol service in the farmyard at North Farm. Our thanks go to the Baillie-Hamiltons for their kindness and generosity in allowing their space to be used. Around 100 members of the community gathered in the cold and dark to sing carols and hear Bible readings. It was wonderful to see so many people we've not seen for so long and to celebrate Christmas together.

The Harvest Festival is an important time in this rural community, and this was celebrated at the Bailey's estate in Charlton Abbots with the Bishop of Tewkesbury leading us in worship while we sat in our cars (for safety reasons!)

St Oswalds has continued to be the collection and co-ordination point for donations to the North Cotswold food bank. These donations are so important for supporting the less fortunate in our community and the PCC would like to thank all those who have given so generously and to those who have arranged the collection and distribution of donations.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, church funds have been affected by the lack of face-to-face services and collections. People gave generously to the appeal that was made. There are a number of areas of repair work that are needed on the building itself which will be addressed the restrictions are lifted further.

The PCC would also like to thank those members of the community who have given so generously with their time and have ensured the church grounds remain in good order. These efforts are very much appreciated not only by the church members but by many others as they walk past.

Singing inside buildings is still not permitted by law but we are very much looking forward to the day when this changes. In the meantime, we will be holding services in the church from May 23rd May and the weekly Zoom services will continue. We are also now running a monthly live stream service from the Community Church in Andoversford. Everyone is welcome to attend these services.

The annual service at St Mary's Shipton Sollars will take place on Thursday 13th May at 7.30pm which is Ascension Day.

We are looking forward to the opportunities of the coming months and are considering ways in which the church can serve the community of Shipton Oliffe.

Al Hogg, Churchwarden, St Oswalds, Shipton Oliffe