

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Thursday 29th May 2014 in the British School Rooms at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Parish Council Chairman, Mr John Matthews took the chair.

Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Wood and 25 residents.

Mr Matthews welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the format of the meeting.

1. Convening notice

Approved

2. Apologies

Maureen Joliffe, Trevor Moody, Claire Browett

3. Public Question Time

Lorries - The issue of the increase of lorries driving at speed through the village going to the quarry was brought up. The parish council were made aware of this problem during the previous week and contacted the firms involved. The reason for the increase is due the Bristol Water Pipe Renovation Scheme, because the weather has been so poor they have been unable to remove the overspill of soil, and so when the weather did improve there was a sudden increase of movements to the quarry due to the backlog.

Wiltshire Councillor John Thomson informed the meeting that he has been speaking to Bristol Water and they have virtually finished with this part of the job so the amount of lorries will start to decrease. Mr Thomson has also asked two Highways officers to contact the lorry companies in order to examine the vehicles speedometers to see what speed they were doing while travelling through the village.

The question was asked by a member of public as to the conditions of the quarries application regarding what limit they have on infill and lorry movements. John Thomson will look into the Quarry's license application and the item it will be on the agenda for next month's agenda. Mr Thomson reminded all at the meeting that the Bristol Water Shipton Moyne Pipe renovation was a once in a 90 year occurrence and locals should expect inconveniences and is surprised that there has not been more experienced.

Signage - A member of the public thinks there are too many signs and adverts in the village and how she believes there are too many and they look terrible. Wiltshire Council is the authority to contact regarding clarification over the rules and regulation on signage. The parish council does ask event organisers to only put up posters 6 weeks before an event and to remove it straight after, but it doesn't have any legal powers to enforce action only Wiltshire Council.

Dog Fouling – A member of the public who has contacted the parish council before regarding the amount of full dog bags that are being discarded near the stile on the footpath behind the Tartars. They removed thirty bags at one time but asked if a bin could be put there. The clerk replied to the initial e mail to inform them that Sherston have reached its quota on how many bins a village its size could have, and if a new bin is needed the parish council would have to purchase and finance the servicing of it with a private contractor. Another bin could be moved and resituated to the site in question however which bin? To remove another bin might cause the same problem somewhere else. The clerk has asked Wiltshire Council if they could provide information on which bin is most underutilised, in order for a decision to be made. Councillor Caine explained that the parish council are undertaking a new scheme to literally highlight dog fouling with spray painting the evidence. This is meant to help identify the dog owners that are letting their dogs foul and also can deter future fouling. The problem is not with the parish council but with irresponsible owners who let their dogs foul and don't pick up or do pick up and yet don't put the bags in the bins.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of 23rd May 2013

Agreed unanimously

5. Report by the Parish Council chairman

Mr John Matthews summarised the events of the past year:

The wettest winter on record

The closure of the bridges and roads has been a major inconvenience

The state of the roads, number of potholes

Fire in the Rattlebone

The closure of the Carpenter Arms and the sad state that it is now

Mr Matthews thanked all on the parish council for all their work and all the volunteers in the parish, especially those involved with the Cliffhanger. All these volunteers help make Sherston a vibrant, great village to live in and long may it continue.

6. Update on the Neighbourhood Parish Plan and Workshop facilitated by Foxley Tagg

Presentation - Sally Tagg from the town planning consultancy Foxley Tagg introduced herself to the members of public. The company has been appointed by the NHP Steering group to assist with the creation of the plan; the cost has been funded by Wiltshire Council as Sherston was awarded £20,000 as a Front Runner village for creating a NHP (Neighbourhood Plan)

Sally Tagg, runs through a presentation that explains the planning policy and its various layers, which include National level, County level (Wiltshire Core Strategy) and local level – (Neighbourhood Plan).

She ran through the process and what is expected of a NHP and at which stage Sherston Steering Group is currently at. In the June Cliffhanger there will be an article about the vision and objectives so far put forward by the group those objectives need to be turned into policies and she asked everyone to look at these objectives and give the steering group feedback and comments on those objectives. Everyone needs to get involved in order for a successful and viable plan to be produced; it is a village NHP created by the village and for the village.

Questions

A question was asked about whether one of the policies could be 'not to overdevelop and ruin village'. Sally Tagg explained that a NHP can't conflict with the Core Strategy and the point of a NHP was not to prohibit development but to have some control over it. If no NHP is created, the village could be forced by developers into a situation that they have no control over, a plan you have power to shape the future.

Another question was put forward regarding concern over the quantity of houses that has been previously mentioned. The NHP must not conflict with the Wiltshire Core Strategy in which states that a certain amount of new houses must be built within the next 20 years in this area. A member of the public asked how many of the overall amount will be allocated for Sherston, and of those how many have already been built or are being built which would reduce the figure. It was explained that until the Core Strategy is adopted and final figures set, it is hard to quantify. John Thomson did explain that indeed a large number of houses have now been earmarked for building since the original figures in the Core Strategy, Mr Thompson will follow back at a future meeting with exact figures. The question was also asked why Sherston was considered a large village yet Brinkworth was not, Mr Matthews will report back at the next NHP meeting.

Sally Tagg explained that the quantity is totally up to the community to decide, no one on the steering group is going to force a certain number. At the NHP workshop held in March 2013 which was attended by over 70 people, the figure put forward by the participants was in the region of 60 – 80 houses which totally surprised the steering group. The steering group believed a figure of 30-40 was more realistic to forward with.

SITES

Mr Matthews informs the group that Diocese have been in talks with Wiltshire Council regarding redeveloping the vicarage site , which would allow for a new fit for purpose vicarage , funded by a few new houses on the site as well as a new area for extra burial space . This is independent from the NHP and the planning process has already begun. There is also an opportunity for 6-10 houses for the elderly in Sherston funded by Wiltshire Council; talks have taken place between WC and the landowners to discuss the possible scheme.

One of the stages of the process is site analysis in which a site is put forward for possible future development and then examined under certain criteria in order to evaluate how sustainable the site is. Issues like if the site is or near a flood zone, or if is in a very visible position etc. Sherston Steering Group is currently at this stage and Foxley Tagg has looked at sites put forward by the group and done its own independent analysis on each area.

NOT SURE TO INCLUDE BELOW

(see map)

Sites Discounted – not appropriate for future development

- Site blue 2 - too outside setting
- Site 14 - too outside setting
- Site 3 - too outside setting
- Site 1 - too visually prominent
- Site 7 - too visually prominent and questions where you would seek to maintain development.
- Sites 8, 9 and 12 - remote and not ideal
- Site 9(front half) - potential but the end of site 9 is not possible.
- Site 16 - land locked and would have detrimental effect on neighbouring properties
- Sites 5 and 15 (the recreation ground and the allotments) - vital to be kept for the community as they are real assets and in perfect positions.
- Site 13 -like above and should be kept safe from development

Possible Sites – which might be appropriate for future development

(Foxley Tagg still needs to analyse the land owned by the Shipsey residence)

- Site 1 - the L shape piece of land which is frontage of 1 - prime and good location for that use. Also for new doctors' surgery, makes good planning sense and community sense. Good suggestion they think.
- Frontage of site 6 - (round off the remainder) may be pressure in future for more development however.
- Site yellow 4 - could bring that site forward for development. Good site as near school and not all of it would have to be used for housing. New sport field could be moved to rear of site 6; this would stop future development and bridge sites 6 and 7. Regarding benefits for the community would be a good opportunity for new sports facilities. Foxley Tagg thinks the village is lacking a decent sporting provisions and decent size surgery.
- Site 11 small plot - very small plot
- Site 10 - Vicarage site and already in progress.

There are a significant number of individual plots that still qualify for development but not for the NHP.ST agreed not to worry about these small sites as they will have to go through own planning process. Sites like 9 and 11 don't need to be considered as they are too small, thus can be discarded. If they are in settlement boundary they will be considered in normal way by WC.

Participation - The members of public were put into smaller groups and given maps of the village showing the sites that have been put forward as options. They were asked to look at each map and discuss their thoughts on the sites and ask themselves if and where they might like see provision for the elderly or a new doctors surgery , improved facilities , etc.

After a given amount of time the groups were asked to report back, due to time restraints not all of the groups had a chance to present their views however below is a summary of some of the feedback –

Table One - thought that the land near the school, Easton Town Land, Sportsfield and Sandpits Lane field stood out not necessarily for housing specifically but for possible recreation, and other opportunities

Table two - a new doctor's surgery would need to be central, and thought Anthony Close might be a possible option and relocate new homes for the elderly to the Vicarage side of the recreation ground. Also thought the field near the school and the Easton Town site stood out for possible housing.

Table three - Field near school would be suitable for some housing but they would prefer it to be for community use mainly. The Sportsfield if sold for housing would allow funding for much improved sporting facilities on alternative site

Sally Tagg thanked all for coming and participating in the discussion, apologised that not all tables had given feedback however there will be many other opportunities and events where views can be given. As previously mentioned in the June edition of the Cliffhanger there will be an article outlining not only the objectives but the timescale and process of the NHP. The Steering Group would like to hear from as many people as possible regarding their views and thoughts on the NHP, Sally Tagg asked the members of the public to read the article, spread the word to neighbours and friends and give feedback. Everyone needs to take responsibility for the plan, not just the Steering group; it's in everyone's future interest, the current residents of the village, their children and their children's children.

7. Other Parish Business raised by residents

None.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm.

Mrs Sarah Wood

Clerk to Sherston Parish Council