

# Sherston Parish Annual meeting



# Agenda

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## **1. Apologies**

## **2. Minutes of Sherston Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

- Distributed for consideration
- To be Proposed and Seconded

## **3. Council Report for 2022/23**

## **4. Representations from organisations**

## **5. Questions / Representation from parishioners**

## **6. Close of Meeting.**

# Sherston Parish Council Annual Report 2023

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# Introduction

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It's the time of the year to take stock, to celebrate the highs and reflect on the lows, as well as taking the time to thank the significant number of individuals and organisations who devote their time and effort to help make our village the one we are all so proud of.



# Financials

- **Budget**

- 2022-23 - £89,664

- 2023-24 - £97,450

- **Precept** - increased by just over 10% 2023-24 – equates to £10.55p.a. on a Band D house. We continue to try to make up a deficit in accruals for future maintenance of village assets to future proof budget

- **Grants and Donations received - £12,860**

- Electric Vehicle Points - £11,960

- Area Board Grant for Jubilee - £900

- **Grants and Donations made - £16,086**

- Village Hall - £15,000

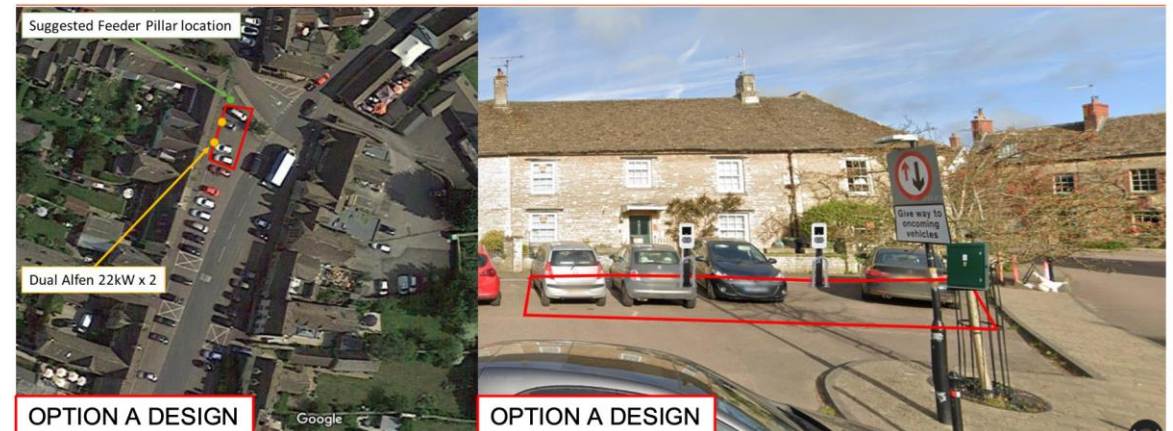
- Jubilee - £486.00

- Blooming Sherston - £600

# Highlights – what have we been up to/supporting?

- **Maintenance** - part-time maintenance person contracted
- **Speeding** – gates delivered awaiting installation from Wiltshire Council. Speed monitoring devices installed around the village
- **Asset Register** – revised version of comprehensive Asset Register produced
- **Village Hall Extension** - grant awarded
- **Blooming Sherston** – improve overall look and feel of the village
- **Tennis Courts** – fir trees felled to preserve the surface of the courts. Courts now generally open to public due to closure of Tennis Club.
- **Recreation Ground** - various items of play equipment replaced

- **Footpath Group** - revitalising Grove Wood. 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of 8 year coppicing plan complete. Trees planted in various locations by Sustainable Sherston & 2<sup>nd</sup> set of steps renovated. Accessible gates replaced stiles on the majority of PROW
- **Consultation on Electric Vehicle Charging Proposal** – 30th April 2023



May 19, 2023

# Lowlights – what didn't go so well?

- **Recreation Ground Charitable Trust** – liaising with the Charity Commission **to respond to** a complaint raised by a resident in relation to the status of the Trust and how it has been managed
- **Neighbourhood Plan** - progress of the development on Sopworth Road has been slower than expected. Further delays are now expected as a result of the Developers withdrawing their latest application pending a re-submission
- **Pre-School Closure** – this news, received 5 weeks before Easter was disappointing to all concerned. Neither ourselves or Wiltshire Council have been able to attract a new provider as a result of market conditions. Work underway to drive a recreational use for the building
- **Vandalism** – increased reports of issues across the village. Local police patrols instigated
- **New Doctors Surgery** - NHS/ICB (Integrated Careboard) funding process proving problematic for GP's resulting significant delays in the application process
- **Speeding** – whilst a highlight, generally, we have struggled to move forward at the pace we would like as we are constricted by leadtimes from Wiltshire Council
- **Attracting New Councillors** – we continue to struggle to attract new councillors to fill vacancies.
- **Cliffhanger** – not making best use of or engaging effectively with the Cliffhanger team
- **Resident engagement** – we continue to struggle with engaging our residents for input and help

# Goals for this year

## TOP 5 PRIORITIES

- **Communication** - increase transparency and flow of information to residents
- **Pre-School Building** – find a recreational use for the pre-school building on the Rec
- **Doctors Surgery** – influence and encourage the NHS to approve and support proposals for the new GP surgery
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – work with Developers, Surgery and Wiltshire Council to obtain planning permission
- **Speeding** – install gates at various entrances to the village (and planters). Circulate results of speed monitoring around village and layout plans to address if appropriate

- **Refurbish steps** - into the Recreation Ground
- **Pre-School** – work with the school to provide pre-school facilities on the school site
- **Boules Pitches** - Install pitches on the Recreation Ground
- **Allotments** – transfer of this asset from Wiltshire Council to Sherston Parish Council to ensure asset is protected and retain as a village community allotment.
- **Ways of Working** - review and update our ‘ways of working’ to increase effectiveness and efficiency
- **Cliffhanger** - relaunch
- **Grove Wood Coppicing** - Phase 3
- **Footpath/Highways improvements**
- **Volunteers** - establish a bank of volunteers to help with various initiatives around the village
- **Electric Vehicle charging points in the High Street** - conclude proposal to install.



# Thank you!

- **Current and past Councillors** - for their efforts in the last year to support the Parish Council to service the local community. It has been a challenging year again this year with a high turnover of Councillors.
- **Parish Organisations and Volunteer Groups..... to name but a few:-**
  - **The Cliffhanger team** - for consistently producing the quality monthly publication on behalf of the Parish Council
  - **SOSCIC** - (The Old School Committee) for managing a well regarded and well used facility within the village
  - **Village Hall Committee** – for developing and expanding this wonderful offering in the village
  - **Boules Committee** – for organising a fantastic weekend of Boules attracting a significant number of visitors to the village each year
  - **Football/Cricket/Netball/Tennis** - all those who give up their time to coach, play and support these clubs
  - **Sustainable Sherston**
  - **Blooming Sherston** – in it's 1st year, we are looking forward to seeing what they have planned
  - **Jubilee Celebrations** – all those residents who contributed to and supported such a wonderful event
  - **Remembrance Sunday** – Chris Pickthall, Kevin Noble, Nigel Freeth and all other who plan and manage and help on the day.

# Summary



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- **We are getting stuff done**
- **We are servicing 1800+ voting residents and growing**
- **We are becoming more transparent**
- **We need to improve the way we communicate**
- **We are getting better at forward planning**
- **We need more help**
  - we need to attract and retain Councillors
  - We need to encouraging more volunteers from the Community to help out
- **We need input from residents .....**
  - what is important to them
  - what should we be doing and why
  - what should we be spending their money on



**Thank you**

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