

Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of Shillingford St George & Shillingford Abbot

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 8pm

Present: Cllr J Parrott, Cllr P Wareham, Cllr C Dummett, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr M Saunders
Mrs J Thompson (Clerk), One member of the public.

050/22 Welcome and apologies for absence:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8:21pm
Apologies were received from Cllr P Barwell and Cllr A Swain.

051/22 Officer's Reports for the Year:

Chair's Report for 2021/2022 – read by Cllr J Parrott

This has been a very full year – full of Covid restrictions, Zoom meetings and also meetings face to face. There seems to have been more planning applications than usual, not to mention the one particular one but more of that in due course.

There have been four resignations from the Parish Council and four new councillors have been appointed. This has meant that our new councillors have taken on the responsibilities of those who have retired and for which we are grateful. The resignations have been Councillors Bernard Stamp, Wilf Turner, Les Howard and Chris Carr. I would like to register the thanks of the village for all the work they have put in over many years. We welcomed Councillors Peter Wareham, Claire Dummett, Jill Taylor and Mark Saunders. And I thank Councillor John Parrott, the vice chair of the council for the support he has given me during the year.

There have been a number of significant things to report: -

1. After much delay, the work on the new broadband for Shillingford Abbot has begun. Thanks to the work by our now retired councillor, Chris Carr and his grandson, there will soon be good and hopefully reliable broadband.
2. Our council financial affairs have moved into the 21st century. We now have digital banking and so the regular signing of cheques is in the past. We also have in councillor Saunders, a councillor who understands financial affairs!
3. The celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee in June have been planned. There was a village meeting held in the village hall car park and a committee was set up to plan this. The result will be new village signs and flower troughs, along with white painted gates on the verges. Hopefully this will encourage drivers to respect the village speed limit and be a reminder of the jubilee for many years to come.
4. As well as the new signs, the Village Hall Committee has been busy arranging a 'DO' in the hall on the 4th June.
5. The Friends of Shillingford Wood were successful in raising the funds to buy the wood and it is now owned by the trustees of the charity for the use of the village. Particular thanks should go to Mr Chris Miller who was responsible for successful grant applications and Di and Eric Trump who hosted an event in their garden. But Mr Ian Merritt, as chair of the Friends, deserves particular thanks. Events are planned for the wood and no doubt they will be advertised in the Country News.
6. Defibrillator training has been arranged for later this month, thanks to our district councillor, Andy Swain and Councillor Claire Dummett who has organised it.
7. A number of highways issues have arisen.

- a. The resurfacing of Shillingford Lane was thought to be a huge waste of money and the person in charge of highways in Devon County Council has been asked to contact us before any further large work is carried out so that we can advise on its need.
 - b. We are at present in the process of applying for a 20mph speed limit and if possible, a speed limit which will extend from the beginning of one village through to the end of the other.
 - c. We are applying for more dog poo bins especially one to serve the path behind the church.
8. The Teignbridge Plan for housing development descended on us last year and we were moved to object to the plans to build a number of housing estates in and close to our parish. Particularly horrifying was the plan to build on the land in front of Peamore House.
 9. As regards Peamore, we have been trying to find a way of repairing the wall around Peamore Monument, a war memorial erected by the owners of Peamore House to the sons they lost in the first world war. Through getting to know the residents at Peamore, a plan to do the work ourselves has emerged and hopefully, this work will be carried out later this year.
 10. A plan to develop a path on land owned by Andy Bragg has been dropped for the moment at least. This path would have enabled walkers to avoid the dangerous steep hill between our villages but the cost was prohibitive for the small number of people who may have used it.
 11. Having had to cancel a litter pick last year and the year before, we were able to hold one this year, making use of the kit donated by Teignbridge District Council. About 15 people joined in to remove the litter on our roadsides.

Finally, I have to mention the application by B T Jenkins to have a landfill site on land which is part of Lower Brenton Farm. This came as a dreadful prospect to almost all residents in both villages and it resulted in a self-appointed group which coordinated a lot of the work objecting to this appalling idea.

A film was made by one of our new residents, Graham Young. Graham is a professional film maker and he produced a remarkable film illustrating just how awful this development would be. Through publicity contacts, not least those of Councillor Dummett, the application was made an item on local TV news and local press. The 'Graham Young' film was put on Facebook and was viewed many hundreds of times.

Another local and visible sign of our objection to this landfill site was the large number of posters which began to appear – and disappear! Our thanks for the production of very many signs goes to Mr Ian Merritt who printed them.

There were a number of significant objections which must have weighed heavily on the planning authority with the outcome that before the hearing, the application was withdrawn. No one knows whether the application will be resubmitted but if it is, B T Jenkins can expect a similar response from Shillingford St George and Shillingford Abbot.

I want to offer our thanks to our District and County Councillors. Andy Swain and Alan Connett have, as usual, been greatly supportive, particularly in this year helping us to deal with the B T Jenkins landfill application.

And finally, our thanks to Juliette Thompson, our clerk who has been so efficiently and quietly managing our council.

Peter Barwell

052/22 Open Discussion for Parishioners:

Cllr P Wareham felt that parishioners were becoming more aware of the role of the parish council and were appreciative of the work they carried out.

It was asked if the parish council would now consider offering support to The Friends of Shillingford Wood; Cllrs feeling was that they would consider supporting the amazing work and effort put in by the friends.

053/22 Chairman's Remarks:

Thanks were given to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations group for their work on the village signs.

054/22 Close

The meeting closed at 8:39pm

_____ Chairman

_____ Dated

DRAFT