

SHEARSBY PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHEARSBY PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY ZOOM ON 14 MAY 2020

Present Councillors : M Reynolds (Chairman), D Durran, L Cosgrove, J Gunnell, A Sharp
District Councillors : Stephen Bilbie
No members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Reynolds indicated he was resigning as both Chairman and Councillor.
David Durran said he was prepared to stand.
Proposed by Cllr Sharp / Seconded by Cllr Gunnell.
Agreed unanimously.
Cllr Durran was asked to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Sharp indicated he was prepared to stand.
Proposed by Cllr Cosgrove / Seconded by Cllr Gunnell.
Agreed unanimously.
Cllr Sharp was asked to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To sign as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2019 as correct

5. Chairman's Report

A report had been prepared by Councillor Reynolds prior to his resignation – as follows:-

6. Meeting open to the public and to raise any items not on agenda

No matters were nominated.
Cllr Durran thanked the retiring Chair, Martin for his service to the Council, recognising the many achievements during his long tenure. We wish Martin well for the future.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13 May 2021 7.15pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 18:15

Chairman's Report 2019 / 2020

The team of Councillors formed at the start of last year have become a good team, working hard for Shearsby. Learning has been rapid, and they have demonstrated a willingness to get involved and not shirk from problems. Lynn Cosgrove has continued as Clerk and has proved herself worthy many times over. The operation and finances of the Council have been much improved thanks to her efforts.

The Council supported activities of Pilates, Tea Break and Table Tennis have become a feature of village life, until coronavirus brought a halt to proceedings of course, but they are strongly supported and will emerge again in due course.

Our finances are much improved. The Clerk has chased various companies to ensure we are paying the correct amount. We had a small increase in the precept. Money is being set aside to cover the cost of our future needs, but this will need to be continued. We have passed the audit.

Councillors and Clerk attended the Annual Parish Conference and the Parish Liaison Meetings.

Training has consisted of Budgeting and Financial Management, Councillor Training, and Zoom conferencing.

The drainage in Mill Lane has been partially repaired. A full repair was indicated by Highways for 2022 but I would comment that this date may be extended yet further ahead.

The website www.shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk continues to be a go-to reference for the village containing all Council and local news. The WhatsApp group, Shearsby Village Facebook and Council newsletters have supported good communications. There have been over 130,000-page visits to the website during the year.

The Council has commented on 9 planning applications in Shearsby over the last 12 months. Villagers are reminded that in this conservation area works to trees and the erection of sheds and outbuildings do require planning permission.

We are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan had a first annual review by Council. The Plan was referenced by Harborough District Council in its planning application decisions.

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The 5-year plan has been reviewed by Council and will be discussed during the following Council meeting.

The NDP will be reviewed again in January 2021.

The A5199 and Bruntingthorpe Lane have had their speed limits reduced to 50 mph in the interests of safety. 2 accidents were recorded at the crossroads in the last year.

The Council's Emergency Plan is established and will be reviewed as required. Might I respectfully suggest that learnings from the current pandemic be recorded and included for future reference.

We will continue to monitor Leicester County Councils projects regarding a Unitary Council and an A46 Expressway.

I have previously proposed we install a "clean the village day", like the litter pick day, where villagers would help clean street signs and benches etc. This perhaps just before the Live on the Green event so that the village is at its best for visitors. This is prompted by the fact that LCC will no longer be cleaning our street signage. Perhaps the Community Association can help with this? I still think this is an exercise worth pursuing.

I would like to thank all the Councillors and Clerk for their hard work during the last year, also the villagers that have helped and supported too.

I have enjoyed my time as both Councillor and Chairman. I have learned a lot, achieved some form of result in my major goals, and have made friends and acquaintances whilst doing so.

If any villager reading this has ever wondered whether they should like to become a Councillor, then I would wholeheartedly recommend it to them.

Martin Reynolds

Chairman, Shearsby Parish Council.