

Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 18 November 2020
Remote virtual Google meeting at 6:30 pm - meet.google.com/fau-xvtb-zdx

The Annual parish Meeting is a meeting of the Parish electorate.
It is not a Parish Council Meeting.
The Parish Council Chairman calls and chairs this meeting.
There is no prescribed format for this meeting and
its recommendations are not binding on the Parish Council.

1. **Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs J Hewitt (Chair), Mr J Gredley, Mrs C Barrett, Mr T Sullivan.
No Parishioners or village residents attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on **15 May 2019** having been circulated and made available for the Parish (noticeboard and Parish website) prior to the meeting. The minutes, as a true record of the meeting and were signed and dated by the Chairman.

2. **Apologies** – Mr & Mrs Denis Carpenter, Mr & Mrs V Margrie and Miss U Goodall
3. The purpose of the Chairman's Summary is to review the Parish Council Business, that has taken place over the previous 12 months and to highlight the major issues your Parish Council has addressed and will continue to do so in the future. Each year an Annual Parish Meeting is held at which residents can air issues and ask the Parish Council to investigate certain matters, which may be of concern and require the council's support. Although the event is NOT a formal Parish Council meeting it is facilitated by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. The Parish Meeting is governed by specific legislation under Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The meeting is an opportunity to discuss 'parish affairs' it is not an opportunity for electors to make complaints about the Parish Council.

Separate minutes must be kept which are then approved at the next Parish Meeting, which is sometimes a whole year on. As the event is only held once a year the DRAFT Minutes of the most recent meeting will be placed here pending their formal agreement at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman's Summary May 2019 – November 2020

The Chairman provided the council with a copy of her summary prior to the meeting, but did not read the summary as there were no residents/parishioners attending the meeting. The Chairman thanked the members present for their attendance and suggested that they could read her summary at a more leisurely opportunity. The council agreed unanimously to read her summary as suggested and moved onto the business of the November 2020 Parish Council meeting.

At earlier Annual Parish Meetings (APM), when not locked down and life was considered normal, I usually thank the public for attending and supporting this important meeting, reminding them that this meeting is their opportunity to speak to the Parish Council about what they consider the parish council ought to be doing on their behalf. However, these are not normal times. Virtual meetings are the safest method for carrying out the business of the council and for parishioners to join us, as advertised and explained for this meeting. The parish council acknowledge that this current method of holding meetings and the technology that allows the council to meet to discuss matters, does, unfortunately exclude some parishioners. Parishioners are regularly encouraged to contact the council members and the Parish Clerk personally if they wish to bring a matter to the attention of the parish council.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors who have represented this community in the past year: Councillors Caroline Barrett, John Gredley, Hector Gibson-Fleming and Tim Sullivan. Former Councillors Kevin Morris and James Milmer, left the council during 2019. The parish council works hard to provide excellent and safe facilities for the community and provides services, within its budget, that are considered value for money. The council sets an annual Parish Precept which forms part of the Council Tax Bill. The council continually encourages parishioners to access the parish website www.shroton.org for information about council matters i.e. minutes, agenda, finance matters, planning applications, public notices and much more as well as promoting the information on the noticeboards at the bus shelter.

The Parish Council continues to maintain the Glebe for the Parish and local community. The Glebe green remains a unique, well maintained green area for the residents and visitors to the village to enjoy. The Parish Council actively encourages and supports community activities taking place on the Glebe, and takes particular care to advise organisers of their responsibilities for its use and enjoyment by residents and visitors alike. The Glebe, its trees, furniture and play area facilities are insured and regularly maintained under the stewardship of the Parish Council. The Glebe trees were formally inspected February/March 2019. Routine maintenance of the species identified for specific Arboricultural work was completed in October 2020 under authority in Planning Application 2/2020/0115/CATREE.

The children's play area remains a valuable asset to the community. It is inspected annually together with a rolling self-help maintenance schedule for visual inspections and basic maintenance i.e. cutting the play area grass, weeding and replacing play bark. The ongoing costs of insurance, equipment replacement and maintenance for pieces of existing play equipment is a matter of continued concern for the council. The most recent registered inspection has highlighted the need for the central wooden climbing frame to be replaced due to its continued deterioration. Natasha Monaghan and her volunteers are to be congratulated for their focus and drive whilst fundraising for this new play area equipment.

The area of the Glebe dedicated to a wildflower and fruit tree garden is an ongoing project in its seventh year. I am pleased to report the continued support of the North Dorset Ranger Team (Dorset Council), who kindly cut this area in August with equipment that shakes seedlings back into the soil, and the Ranston Estate for facilitating the removal of gardening waste from this area. It is planned to support a local initiative by planting '*common Barberry*' bushes to encourage a breeding colony of the local Barberry Carpet Moth, which is considered an endangered species.

The Parish Council owns property which includes, 5 village benches, the stone Millennium Cross, the stone War Memorial, 4 grit bins, the Jubilee Bridge (Glebe), the brick bus shelter and a recycled red telephone box. The recycled telephone kiosk is now the home of the village book recycling scheme and the council wishes to thank Mrs Jane Morris for organising and maintaining this facility. The council also owns various pieces of furniture on the Glebe as well as 6 traffic calming gates situated at the entrances/exits to the village. The dog waste bins installed in Bessells Lane and Frog Lane are appropriately used and much appreciated by dog walkers.

Road safety in the Parish is of paramount importance to the Parish Council. The road traffic gateways for the hamlet of Farringdon were installed in February/March 2020. The Parish Council will remain involved with the lobbying and activities of the A350 & C13 Community Group concerning the road safety issues on these main arterial roads to and from the coast. The council is involved in lobbying activities to reduce the seasonal noise pollution caused by motorcyclists using the A350 passed the village as a race-track. In March 2020 the council adopted a Scheme of Delegation which provided the council with the authority to act in circumstances that included the organisation of virtual meetings, being able to address urgent decisions that may arise between scheduled meetings and to ensure that the Parish Council with its duties and business is managed effectively during the COVID-19 situation. The government has published a new planning White Paper to shake up the English planning system. The council discussed this Government White Paper into planning reform and returned its comments for the consultation late October 2020.

The Parish Council is currently discussing the Parish Precept for 2021 – 2022 which is part of the Council Tax Bill. Parish Councils can raise revenue to help meet their spending requirements by issuing a 'Precept'. This is the total amount to be raised through the Council Tax from all the dwellings within the Parish area. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill. The precept pays for the administration of the parish council including the Clerk's salary, insurance cover, hire costs, audit expenses, inspection costs, maintenance of the play area, maintenance of the Glebe and its trees plus subscription fees to the county association for local councils.

Planning applications received and commented by the parish council during 2019 – Nov 2020 totalled eight: Hambledon House, 'Hedges', Church Farm, 'Fourways', Littleport, Main Street, The Old Barn, Little Grange, Main Street and Hambledon Hill Farm. Where appropriate and available Parish councillors take it in turn to review the proposed planning application by conducting their own observations and obtaining comments from neighbours or the community (if appropriate). These applications were mainly to falling into improving existing properties by forming single storey extensions, rear extensions, installing roof lights, erecting detached garages or garden stores.

The Chairman acknowledged and thanked all the people in the Parish who contribute voluntarily in carrying out the many tasks that need doing in the Parish. The Chairman particularly thanked all those parishioners who have supported their neighbours, organised assistance with shopping, dog walking, prescription collections and continue to provide help during the COVID-19 situation and called on the community to celebrate together once this COVID cloud has been dealt with.

Open Forum

No matters for discussion were forthcoming.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their attendance and participation.

The meeting was declared closed at 6:15 pm

Signed

Date

(Signed on original by Cllr Hewitt 5 May 2021)

Presiding Chairman
Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council

Parish Clerk 19 November 2020