

Lower Sapey Parish Meeting

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 20th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Ashley Jones (Chairman), S. Everitt (V/Chairman), C. Connolly, D. Milward, H & S Rigby, M & M Griffiths, N. Denniston, S. Younge, J. Bowden, A & J. Jones.

Apologies: County Cllr D. Chambers, District Cllr C. Palethorpe, J. Denniston, L. Younge.

1. Minutes of the annual meeting held 24th September 2021: The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed M. Griffiths, seconded H. Rigby. All agreed.

2. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes: None

3. Financial Matters: The meeting noted that finances were satisfactory.

3.1 Precept 2022-23: The meeting raised concern that the precept had remained static for a long time and the parish risked a possible huge increase in future if for any reason it needed to join with Clifton upon Teme parish, whose current Band D is approx. £90 higher per household. This may happen if ever the church closes. The parish needs to be able to financially support the church to try and avoid this happening as it is the only community facility for the parish. If the precept is raised, then it will also contribute towards community events. It was also noted that the church has not been funded for the last 2 years as meetings have taken place on Zoom, but the church outgoings remain the same. No invoice had been received by the Clerk. Further to discussion, it was proposed by H. Rigby to increase the precept from £600 to £800 per year (33.3% increase), justified as necessary to retain local facilities, including the church as a community building. Seconded N. Denniston. All agreed. Clerk to notify MHDC. S. Younge agreed to invoice the Clerk for the last 2 years church funding.

3.2 Payments: A payment was agreed for £125.00 payment to the Clerk for Apr – Sept expenses, plus £20.00 reimbursement for village hall hire fees paid. Proposed S. Everitt, seconded A. Jones. All agreed.

3.3 Bank balance: The meeting noted that the bank balance to 2nd Jan 2022 was £1226.44.

4. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: It was agreed to hold a parish party, and it was proposed by A. Jones, seconded by S. Everitt, to donate £200.00 towards the cost. All agreed.

The Chairman A. Jones left the meeting and S. Everitt, Vice Chairman, continued.

5. County & District Councillor Reports:

Reports were received by email and will be uploaded to the website.

6. Parish Lengthsman: Thanks to R. Wilks for all the work done within the parish. Tasks requested –

- drain blocked outside Stone House, Hollybush Lane
- flow of water across the road, 300 yards from the turn on to High Lane, by the 90-degree bend, is eroding the tarmac – highways ditch.

7. Highways Matters:

7.1 Traffic cone still in the manhole cover at the end of Harpley Lane. There is also a finger post missing in the same location. Clerk has reported.

7.2 Traffic concerns: The meeting noted that there had been a further road traffic accident at Upper Sapey crossroads. There is also to be a roadworks diversion via Harpley which residents consider dangerous. The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the 'slow vehicle' signage requests. A temp sign will be in place during the roadworks, via Worcs CC. Permanent signage has been requested from Hfcs Council, and the local PCSO and Safer Roads Partnership are also involved.

7.3 Clifton Lane is being damaged by HGV developer traffic from housing sites. There is signage off the Stourport Rd to say no HGVs but nothing at the Clifton end. Clerk to report to Highways.

8. Planning Matters: S. Everitt suggested the parish check the affordable housing allocation for new developments and publicise locally for Harpley. The information is available within the MHDC s106 document, which could be linked to the parish web page. Clerk to arrange.

9. Police matters: PCSO Ness Snape is working with the Clerk to look into signage options along High Lane for slow moving vehicles. The parish thanked PCSO Snape for her assistance.

10. Harpley & Lower Sapey community vision: The meeting noted the document as circulated by C. Connolly via the Clerk.

11. St Bartholomew matters: The meeting noted that churchyard management is struggling for volunteers and so the aim is to try and simplify the work required. The Yew tree and roots are to be removed, and grave markers moved. Notices have been published widely across the parish and comments are welcome. The car park building belongs to Rooftop Housing and is to be put up for sale. The agreement is also being redrafted for use of the carpark. The document will be brought to a future parish meeting. It was noted that historically, residents used to contribute towards churchyard maintenance. It was noted that MHDC s.106 funding is not currently allocated towards the church or anything within the parish, as nothing meets the criteria due to it being owned by the Church or Platform Housing. J. Bowden updated the meeting regarding the s.106 project at Clifton playing field including delays regarding land ownership issues.

12. Parish Matters:

12.1 Broadband provision – Openreach are now doing phase 1 of the installation, phase 2 to follow and then completion expected by end Feb.

9. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting was provisionally agreed as 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm at St Bartholomew's Church. Next agenda to include a review of the Clerks fees.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Michelle Alexander
Clerk

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