

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Lower Sapey held on 5th March 2020 held in St Bartholomew's Church Harpley at 7 pm.

1 Chairman Ashley Jones. Parish Clerk Susanna Everitt.

2 Apologies; none received.

3 Minutes of the last meeting were read by the Chair. Proposed as correct by Jan Jones, seconded by Sue Rigby and unanimously approved.

4 Matters arising: Daffodils planted last autumn are now flowering all over the parish. Marion West reported that a patch of the green had been trashed by a farmer. The amount of lorry traffic along Hollybush Lane was also discussed.

5 Water issues: The fire hydrant pressure has been tested and reported as adequate. A leak on the pumping station hill has been reported.

6 Eco awareness: Candy Connolly discussed the church management plan. Weed killer only to be used around path edges and main church structure. Graves; no floral foam, plastics or ribbons. Increased development of wild flowers for pollination. Seeds will be purchased by the parish for distribution around the churchyard and lanes. Solar panels can be installed on the church roof. Mark Griffiths suggested an investigation into the possibility of a battery based energy storage system. Rob Wilks described how Sapey Village Hall was funding their solar panel installation.

7 Lengthsman Scheme: Rob Wilks was welcomed by the chair. He reported that he had scraped some road surfaces and cleared ditches and gullies. He also informed the meeting that ditch clearing is often the responsibility of the landowner and the local authority can enforce maintenance work. Grit bins will be filled in the autumn. During the recent floods, many large stones are washing down from the fields onto the road. Rob will speak to the landowners. We will ask John from Clifton on Teme to provide advice on footpaths and bridal ways. Finger post signage can be obtained from the Public Rights of Way Officer at County Hall. Parishioners are doing litter picking along the lanes and verges. Litter picking from brooks has also been carried out.

8 Code of conduct not required for a Parish Meeting but it was felt that all should highlight any personal interest in matters.

9 Planning. Ellie Savage discussed the proposal for 23 dwellings within the parish boundary. Section 106 money may not be available but our project may fit into the Community infrastructure levy under Community and cultural village assets. The meeting was keen to progress with that option and is very grateful for all the work Ellie has done.

10. Coronavirus. Liz Younge gave an excellent update. For most it will be a mild infection. We are currently in the containment and delay stage of a pandemic. The main thing is to wash hands properly and frequently and not touch your face. The older generation with comorbidity are most at risk. Children do not appear to be affected. Keep social distance. Ring 111 with any symptoms of a virus to be advised on swabs or self-isolation. Advice also posted on Facebook.

11 Date of next meeting. Thursday 4th June 2020. 7:00pm at St Bartholomew's church.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Susanna Everitt. Parish Clerk