

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SHIPLAKE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL ON
THURSDAY 28th APRIL 2016 at 7.45 P.M.

1. PRESENT.

Mr Tudor Taylor (Chairman), Mr G Thomas, Mr C Smith, Mr D Pheasant, Mr R Curtis, Mr M Leonard, Mr R. Head, and Mr D Bartholomew (CC)

An apology for absence was received from, Mr G Davies, Mr F Maroudas and Mr P Harrison(DC)
In addition, there were approx. 42 members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the public.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 13th 2015 The Chairman said that he understood that these minutes had been approved by the Parish Council at their meeting in May 2015 and asked that they be taken as read and be approved. This was accepted by the meeting and unanimously approved on a motion proposed by Mr D Pheasant and seconded by Mr C Smith.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

None were raised.

4. POLICE MATTERS.

There was no police report, The Chairman commented that the village was a relatively low crime area

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman, Mr T Taylor then made a presentation of his report, a copy of his full report can be viewed on the village website

The Chairman asked for questions on his report, there were none at this stage.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF SHIPLAKE, HARPSDEN, DUNSDEN AND PEPPARD SICK POOR FUND.

The chairman discussed the Fund within his presentation.

7. GUEST SPEAKERS

The Chairman introduced the Rt Hon Mr John Howell MP

Mr Howell made a short presentation covering his support for the cycle path initiative proposed by the PC and urged council to work closely with Network Rail .He expressed his support for our application to review the AONB and reminded members present that an application should be at least 30 Km ² so the project of joining with local Parishes was very sensible, he reminded everyone that it is a slow process and Natural England estimate that our application should be considered in or around 2018 at earliest .Mr Howell then discussed Planning issues and in particular he has been charged by Government to improve the speed of development of a Council /Local Plan which can be a very slow and iterative process. Mr Howell spoke of the issues in Planning and the conflict between 5yr land supply and the housing requirement data produced under SHMA guidelines a complex issue which hopefully his recommendations will simplify and clarify.

8. OPEN FORUM SESSION.

Chairman then immediately opened the Open forum session at 8.28 pm to allow questions /comment from the floor

Mr B Jones asked when the recommendations were due for release Mr Howell replied that the recommendations are out for consultation and the results are expected imminently. Mr Howell when challenged by Mr Oliver, expressed his objection to the revised Thames Farm application on the basis that it was outside the JHNP of which he is a very strong supporter especially as he was

closely involved in designing and setting up Neighbourhood Plans. When asked if the recommendations would have an impact on the TF application Mr Howell said it depended when and if they were adopted. A new Shiplake resident, Mr Loose, asked if his impression was correct that applications on the outskirts of villages were more likely to be approved by Councils. Mr Howell said that this was not the case and each case was assessed on its individual merits. Mr Howell in response to a question from Mr D Pheasant urged the council to consider local neighbourhood plans to increase the influence local parishes have on planning issues and that he was aware of a number of cases of several local parishes joining together to create a local plan. Mr Howell and Mr D Bartholomew discussed the subject of the 3rd Reading Bridge, why it is the 3rd bridge is unclear. The current status is that there is a traffic modelling study, being undertaken by Wokingham BC, and has now been incorporated into the Outline Strategic Business Case. The Henley Standard has reported on the Outline Strategic Business Case proposal document, which Mr D Bartholomew briefed them on after reading it. Mr Howell stated that he has not received the document despite requesting it. The report on the results of the traffic modelling study is not yet ready. The first set of results are not due until the autumn. The main contentious issue is, apart from the location, which appears to be off the A329 spur is what happens to all the traffic that arrives on the Berkshire /Oxfordshire side. Mr Bartholomew stated that of his 9 parishes 7 were against the project. Mr Taylor said that he would like to see the final report to allow Council to confirm its views and requested the subject was included on the next PC agenda. Mr Bartholomew commented that the PC had submitted its views in February 2014 against the bridge proposal.

Mrs J Lewis and Mr R Curtis asked about the proposal to make all schools “academies” and was there evidence to support this approach? Mr Howell used the example of Oxfordshire where there is high affluence and low unemployment, yet only 6 schools are rated as outstanding, he said there was good evidence available and would forward to the Clerk, Mr Loose also requested a copy of this evidence.

Mr Oliver asked about section 106 and the revised CIL and how this would benefit a school like Shiplake Primary which is desperately short of space for pupils from local residents. Land for expansion is a premium and any significant development would be hugely expensive, much more than is available through CIL from e.g. Thames Farm development. This is before the influx of children from that particular development, which would necessitate children being bussed to the nearest available school, in all reality, a distance away from the village and wasn't this another reason for rejection of Thames Farm?

The Chairman thanked Mr Howell for his frank and open answers and requested questions on local village issues.

Mr I Bolton asked about the police attitude to the number of roadside a development along the A4155 and that there was significant likelihood of an accident due to emerging vehicles. Mr Thomas responded that the police had not raised any objections to these developments and that OCC highways had thoroughly reviewed the application and against the PC views had recommended their acceptance. Mr M Hall and Mr G Skillitoe asked about parking issues within the village and police activity to enforce in particular Station Road and Crowsley Road which are both used by commuters many non-locals and is it time to consider parking charges in the Station. The chairman responded saying that this had been an issue a few years ago and the introduction of yellow lines was seen as the way forward, it would seem that the issue has again escalated and maybe the Council should revisit this. Mr B Jones asked if the 20mph zone had been monitored and was it a success. The Chairman stated that only anecdotally he has noticed a reduction of speeds but in answer to the question the zone had not been specifically monitored, there is a road safety working group headed up by Mr R Head which is looking at a number of safety issues within the village and will be taking advice following a meeting with the area steward.

Mr C Batten commented that the appearance of the Station was enhanced by the work done by a group of volunteers who tend to the gardens and carry out small painting jobs in conjunction with GWR

Mr B Nicholson asked whether trees will be cut back when electrification occurs. Mr D Pheasant said that vegetation will be cut back to within 6.6 metres of the outer rail of the track or the limit of NR property.

Mr M Howell commented that the Badgers Walk playground was unfit for play due to long grass debris and broken glass when he last visited it and that if we wanted a local playground it should be maintained in a fit condition. Mr G Thomas responded by saying that he had visited it recently and it was in much better condition.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further questions or business the Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and closed the open forum session and meeting at 9.12pm.