

Shobrooke Parish Council

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

In attendance:-

Cllr Furse (Chair)

Cllr Jones (Vice Chair)

Cllr. Squires (DCC)

Cllr Collier

Clerk - Mrs. Clarke

3 members of public attended.

Minutes

1.05.24 **Apologies** were received from Cllr. Jenkins and Cllr. Tuffin, Cllr. Balkwill

2.05.24 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023** were approved and signed.

3.05.24 **Chairman's Report** - In my mind it will always be the year we lost a valued friend and servant - John Hills. He was an excellent groundsman and lover of children and a memorial picnic bench will soon be installed in the playing field in his memory. We have been very fortunate to find a replacement whom seems to be fitting in very well.

On a happier note i would like to thank Sandra for joining us and i hope the experience has not been too traumatic. Allan and Lyndsay with Sandra are also thanked for the commitment and dedication they have given the council. Carole Mayer also does a wonderful job as footpath warden, keeping our paths in prime order, which is not easy when we have over twenty! Ben Jacobs checks the condition of everything in the playing field weekly. Thank you and everyone else who continues to contribute time and energy towards being guardians of our village. It can be sometimes seem a thankless task. Lets hope we can, at last, increase our numbers next year! There seems to be some hope on the horizon. The parish council plays an important role in the village life and in my opinion should be non-political. Long may we continue.

4.05.24 **Parish Council Financial Statement for year ending 31 March 2023**

The clerk indicated the differences between this year and the last year and explained why there were differences. The council has quite high reserves and we are in the process of purchasing new toddler swings. The council discussed the amount reserved for this and these figures have increased due to the vat reclaim. The groundsman is helping with us on this task to set the site up first.

There is a requirement to have a set amount of reserves, the normal being approximately a years supply. There is no set legal figure.

5.05.24 **Public Participation/Questions**

One member of the public asked questions about housing after a presentation last year, with reference to the letting policy and/or changing and adapting this. Cllr. Tuffin hasn't been able to attend for a number of meeting and is on the homes committee group at MDDC. The clerk ran through the minutes of subsequent meetings to provide the background to what has happened in the interim.

We were asked if we could put more pressure on the council to resolve this. MDDC is responsible for housing they meet on occasions and we will request they look into this matter further.

Local letting plans - details were provided by the mop. The clerk suggested contacting Cllr Tuffin, Cllr Squires recommended writing to the chief executive of Devon, copying in two particular people and Cllr Tuffin. To indicate what is needed and what needs to be changed. Previous MDDC were very productive in housing matters.

Signed.....

Date.....