

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at Sheepy Memorial Hall 1st May 2018

1) Attendance and Apologies

Jim Aldridge - Chair, Pat Bingham, Amelia Bridgewater, Jane Nichols, Andrea Johnson, and Brian May, Ian Papworth, Clive Stretton, Rob Ward.

Minute Clerk – Mavis Bassett, 8 parishioners, Kevin Morrell, Ivan Ould

Apologies – David Clarke

2) Minutes of meeting of 2nd May 2017 – were approved as a true and correct record

3) Chairman's Report – Jim Aldridge reported:

Another very busy year for Sheepy Parish Council. The Neighbourhood Plan is going well and is on track to be completed by the end of the year. Thanks must be given to the Councillors and volunteers who have spent many hours on this project.

The mobile vehicle activated sign to move around the parish. The Parish Council is only allowed to keep it in one location for three weeks (LCC requirement). The purpose of the Sign initially is to gather data. If speeding is found to be an issue, we will then be able to use this data to justify a permanent solution to the problem.

During the year we purchased three defibrillators, for Sibson, Upton and Pinwall, and also provided training on their use.

The path around the Glade was completed in the year, meaning an accessible path is available from the Playing Field to the Main Road. This work was made possible with the help of grants from the Parish Community Initiative Fund and Section 106 money which is available for green spaces.

The Parish Council continue to provide grass-cutting for the churchyard and Playing Field in Sheepy and other areas across the parish. Thanks must be given to Councillor Ian Papworth and the Sheepy Litter Pickers for the great job they are doing in keeping our neighbourhood clean.

A donation was given to the Scouts and also Sheepy Bonfire Society, who have agreed to take over the Christmas tree in the Churchyard at Sheepy from December 2018.

Thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their time throughout the year. To Kevin Morrell, our Borough Councillor, for keeping us informed on what is happening in the wider area and Ivan Ould, our County Councillor, for his support on County issues and sometimes even wider important issues. Unfortunately, we said goodbye to our Clerk, Mavis Bassett, during the year and welcomed Christine Bailey. Late news – as our Clerk, Christine Bailey has resigned, from 1st May we welcome Jason Stephenson, as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Mavis Bassett will be helping Jason to settle in during the next couple of months.

4) Financial Report – the Clerk had sent her report

The year ended with a balance of £25,897 compared to £32,473 last year.

Signed

Date

Receipts for the year were £72,161 (compared to £67,669 last year). The increase was due to the increase in precept (by £5,000).

Payments were £46,264 (compared to £35,197 last year). As well as ongoing costs for street lighting and grounds maintenance, administration, etc., the Parish Council purchased defibrillators for Sibson, Upton and Pinwall and installed a pathway through Sheepy Glade.

The precept increased by £5000 to £25,000.

Donations of £600 in total were made to the Sheepy Bonfire Society towards the fireworks for the village display (£350), Sheepy Scouts for camping equipment (£150) and to Sibson Village Hall for their Christmas tree (£100).

Insurance costs for Sheepy Memorial Hall, Sibson Village Hall and Sheepy Playing Fields Association were again paid by the Parish Council.

5) Report from Parish Representatives

i) Report from Sheepy Playing Fields – a representative was unable to attend but had sent the following report:

Financial Summary 2017-2018:

- Cash flow for the year;
Inflow = £2033.33 Outflow = £1299.68 Net for year = £734.35 Balance = £14640.84
- The main areas of spend were for the ROSPA annual inspection.
- Balance includes children's play area precept of £10,000.
- Full details can be found on-line at charity-commission.gov.uk

Fund Raising:

Main fund raising has been through football pitch rental; the annual rental fee for Sheepy Old Boys is £300.

General:

The play area is beginning to show signs of superficial wear on the play equipment and is being monitored. Weekly inspections and quarterly inspections are ongoing and concerns identified are being rectified as appropriate. Clive will continue to sow grass seeds around the edge of the play area as required. The committee agreed in principle to waiver the playing field rental fee for the 'bonfire committee', subsequently a successful event was held. We are anticipating a request to rent the field for a bonfire event in 2018.

Following investigation of the costs of improving the container, plans have now been postponed.

The Playing Field constitution has been scanned and stored (on Google Drive).

Charity registration for trustees has been updated.

General Thanks:

Parish council for the continued support with mowing services & public liability insurance for field and play equipment.

Oz Hall (deceased) and his family for their donation to the Playing Field.

All committee members for their continued participation and support.

Concerns/Actions:

Initiate official consultation process with the charity commission

Scan original documents (plans, etc.) and store (on Google Drive)

Signed

Date

ii) Report from Sheepy Memorial Hall – a representative gave the following report: Committee members have been working very hard over the last year to consolidate on the progress made in 2017.

There continues to be very supportive regular bookings for the use of the hall facilities. This year's maintenance and improvements have seen a new fence installed in the car park and the removal of the golden leylandi tree.

The lighting units in the hall have been replaced with LED units and our thanks go to Cllr Amelia Bridgewater who kindly donated these units.

The guttering has been renovated and improved.

A replacement oven and hob were kindly donated and we are waiting to find out if our bid to the Parish and Community initiative funds to replace the tables (which are cumbersome and heavy) with smaller and lighter units which will be safer and easier to handle by hall users has been successful. These tables would be stored by the disabled toilet and the current trolley and table space in the main hall would store the chairs- which will free up space in the store room making this area a much more user friendly environment.

We are also going to decorate and dry line the back of the hall which has been on hold while the guttering was repaired.

New bollards have been donated to help with traffic calming and car parking for the village sale- these of course will be available for use for other planned events in the village.

Following on from last year's success, our third Village sale will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May and is proving to be enthusiastically supported by local and neighbouring villagers, and will continue to be an annual event. Funds raised greatly help to maintain and support the Memorial Hall, but also create a Community event that the entire village can join with. Following on from last year's feedback greater emphasis will be placed on controlling and managing the traffic flow and we have a number of volunteers to help on the day-which we are very grateful to for giving up their time.

Other planned events are yet to be finalised but we will be contacting the local History group to see if we can assist in the WW1 celebrations in any way. Sheepy

Please encourage use of the "comment book" to highlight any concerns you may have, or alternatively contact either Kevin Morrell or myself for a quicker response

The finances continue to be in good order and well controlled.

The year end balances as of 30th of September 2017 were £10422.54 and the current balances as of 30th April 2018 are £9633.45 We have budgeted to perform very closely to last year's performance after spending over £4000 on maintenance and improvements

The Memorial Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help, support or fund our cause in any way, with special thanks to Sheepy Parish Council for their continued support.

As Chair, I would personally like to thank each and every Committee member for all their hard work, support and enthusiasm over the last year and look forward to another rewarding year ahead.

iii) Report from Sibson Village Hall – a representative gave the following report:

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This last year has been another quiet year as far as major projects go.

The hall is still used regularly by the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies. The hall is still used fairly frequently for private functions, usually at weekends. We are still trying to find other users during the week, especially during the day. We have so far only one person who is using the hall occasionally during the day.

Our bank balance has increased from £5519 on the 31st. of March last year to £6703 this year. We are organising social events to increase the funds further:-, Pop-up Restaurant, barn dance Christmas Party etc.

The Village Hall Committee would again like to thank the Parish for paying the Village Hall Insurance.

iv) Report from Sheepy Local History Society -Lynne Percival presented the following report:

Now in our 9th year & totally relying on the generosity of those attending our monthly meetings, our accounts show a balance of £555.91. We continue to attract new supporters & have once again supplied information at no cost, to several local organisations such as the church, the new landlords of the Black Horse, Sheepy WI, the Memorial Hall & family history researchers.

Over the last 10 months we have been posting photos, which are not subject to copyright, onto our Facebook page, sharing these with History of Leicestershire in Images, Memories of Sheepy & the village Facebook pages. We have over 100 followers & old photos of the mill & Sheepy schoolchildren in particular have resulted in reuniting former residents & prompting recollections...

Liaising with the Parish Council, Magna Display systems & the National Library of Scotland, we supplied the image which is now affixed to the restored village pump.

The Heritage Room continues to open on the last Monday of the month for local research and cataloguing of the vast amount of records we now hold and this is attended by a small but loyal, hardworking team. An annual subscription to a genealogy website has resulted in the acquisition of digital images of original parish records dating from 1607 to 1993, Sheepy Parish electoral rolls from 1863 to 1931, military records, & scores of wills & inventories dating from 1513. We are extremely grateful to Mary Ould who transcribes these documents for us on a voluntary basis. Thanks also to the owners of Temple Mill who granted us access to their property records & members of the Wheatley family, former village blacksmiths, who donated original photos from 1873 of the Smithy & several postcards of local properties. During the year, local metal detectorists have been active around the area & have kindly donated several of their finds.

On 27th March Hanson auctioneers were offering for sale around 100 original 18th & 19th century vellum indentures all relating to Sheepy, estimated at £200 to £300. Unable to attend on the day, I went on the viewing day and they were as described and in excellent condition. I left a commission bid of £350 thinking this would be enough to ensure that they were saved for the Society & the community. Unfortunately we were outbid at £400. I have asked Hanson to pass on our contact details to the successful buyer.

During the year we visited Merevale Abbey ruins & Abbey Farm. Richard MacKinder who supervised the project to locate the battlefield in Fenn Lane gave a talk entitled "Putting the Battle of Bosworth into the Landscape". We have supplied him with some information of the landholdings of Merevale Abbey in the parish as this received

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Date

compensation after the battle. It is documented that Henry VII stayed at the Abbey the night before the battle & it seems possible therefore that his retinue would have camped in the area between Merevale & Fenn Lane. In light of this, we have submitted comments on planning applications at Pinwall & to the Neighbourhood Plan Team suggesting that archaeologists investigate prior to any development in the parish.

We regularly contact the Senior Planning Archaeologist regarding the progress of the report by Rubicon Heritage, the firm which carried out investigations at Trout Ponds Farm & which has still not been published almost 2 years after their investigations.

As part of the Scarecrow Festival Weekend, we will be holding an exhibition on Sunday 2nd September and grateful thanks go to the Memorial Hall who have waived their fee for the occasion

v) Thomas Leaving Charity (previously recorded as Poor Pieces Charity) – a representative gave the following report:

Poor Pieces: These pieces of land are rented and are ongoing.

Twitchell Cottages:

Both cottages are rented bringing in steady income to boost the reserves for the maintenance of the properties.

There has been some maintenance work carried out on No. 2, electrical maintenance, shower room maintenance, electrical testing carried out for both properties, and gas check for no 1.

The piece of land at the end of the gardens of the cottages; approximately half of this has been used as garden extension for the tenant of No 2, and the remainder has been converted to hard standing parking area for both properties to free up the frontages; and remove pressure on the road surface affecting the drains below.

The premise upon which the Charity was founded is “Relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the parish of Sheepy Magna who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress”. The Trust has advertised a book bursary for scholars going onto further education, there was one application and they were granted the bursary. Other grants awarded were to the school for the peace garden and church towards some of the new pews.

Trustees are currently: Cllr. Kevin Morrell (Chair), Rev. Julia Hargreaves, Angela Forsyth, and Amy Parkinson. **Clerk** - Michelle Nelson.

Stuart Hawksworth was the Parish Council's nominated representative.

vi) Sheepy Bonfire Society

Sheepy Bonfire Society was founded last March 2017

In the end the following funding was received

£350.00 From Sheepy Parish Council

£190.00 From Rob Thomson who repaired and restored the village pump - although we had said we would be the guardians of the trough, this was passed onto the pub by someone, the pub have said they will now upkeep the trough. - funded by SPC

Signed

Date

£730.00 From Hinckley and Bosworth Council
 £155.00 From Polesworth garage for our insurance (Which ended up being £505!)
 £1335.75 From Sheepy's first scarecrow festival to bump up the funds bringing us a grand total of
£2760.00 towards the bonfire party.

From this money we spent **£122** on our scarecrow festival, in the end 49 households took part.

We are very grateful to all the villagers who made an effort for this event.

We spent **£2760** putting on the bonfire event.

In total the two events cost **£2883.22**

The bonfire party raised a total of **£2785.00** The event sold out and when we realised how popular tickets became on the last few days we increased our insurance and hired toilets.

Meaning we had a total income this year of **£5545.7**

We spent approx. **£30** on Christmas Decorations for the Tree Lantern Parade: We bought 120 lanterns + leaflets at a cost of **£146** and donations came to £172.00 which was donated to the church.

We now have a grand total of **£2574.69** in our bank account,

We hope that by the end of this year we will be in a position to give back to the community, we are registering as a charitable trust, with the aim to help small local groups such as the brownies, scouts, and also families who are suffering a long term illness or bereavement.

We have applied for planning Christmas lights, these are to light up the trees on the two lay-bys in the village, and the two grass verges onto the housing state next to the pub, in total 15 trees. The highways have granted us permission to light the trees, we await the quote for the electricity points to be fitted to the light posts from HBBC. We had applied for funding, however due to an error on the application for the big lottery funding, we will need to reapply, we therefore withdrew our application to the HBBC for funding as this was to be 50% matched. – We may apply for funding later in the year or see if we have a profit after this year's events.

Finally due to the bonfire being so popular, we have been advised by the borough council to apply for a premises licence, this will give us the ability to hold licenced events throughout the year without seeking a temporary event licence - we would be willing to extend this licence for other events on the field held by other local groups, as long as all terms are followed, and a donation is made to the group.

Our intentions for 2018 are -

To hold the scarecrow trail in the first weekend of September, this year, the school will be taking the children on the trail on the Friday and the children can all vote on which scarecrows they think should win.

To hold our bonfire party on the First Friday of November, this year the Black Horse will be on the field with a mobile bar and tickets will be sold both online and via the pub.

To put up the village tree - We had been offered a village tree for 2018, but sadly the donor just recently passed away, we will have to see how we will source and fund the tree this year.

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To hold (subject to approved funding) A winter festival on the 2nd Sunday evening in December, this will include, the lantern parade, the light switch on, carols around the church tree, followed by drinks in the pub.

We would like to once again extend our thanks to the council, HBBC, Polesworth Garage, the Black horse, Rob Thomson, and all those who took part in the scarecrow festival to bring, what we have been told, "the best Bonfire and Firework party the village has ever seen"

vii) Sheepy School and PTA

We currently have 108 children on roll with approximately 50% of these living in our catchment area. We are full in all year groups except for Year 3 and several year groups are oversubscribed.

We split the children into five classes each morning and four classes each afternoon. Many of our staff are local people who have a strong affinity and feeling for the school. We really feel that this helps with the family atmosphere that we try and foster. We currently have vacancies for an After School Club Leader and a part-time Admin Assistant. We are also looking for a co-opted governor at this time.

Our links with the community continue to be strong. The 'Open the Book' team come and lead Collective Worship weekly; our Reception children enjoy 'Tuesday Church'; and Year 6 attend Communion once a month. We are delighted to be able to help the church community and open our doors for Sunday worship whilst work on the church building is being carried out.

Our PTA meets regularly and is currently raising funds to put towards resurfacing our trim trail so that pupils can run around and enjoy themselves all year round.

We have worked hard this last year to further improve the experience that our pupils receive so that they leave our school as well rounded individuals with a strong sense of self and confidence in themselves. We have a regular programme of enrichment days as well as doing our very best at all times to create a balanced, broad and bubbly curriculum. Our mission statement is 'Working together to secure success for all our Sheepy flock'.

Everyone is welcome at our school and should any of the Parish Council like to come and visit, we would love to see you. The children are welcoming and polite and would be keen to share their experience with you. We regularly post our newsletter on our website along with our 'Just to let you know' which gives details of upcoming events – do take a look.

6) Any Other Business – as Stuart Hawksworth had resigned from the Parish Council, Amelia Bridgewater agreed to be the Parish Council representative for the Thomas Leaving charity.

7) Date of Next meeting

The next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on first Tuesday in May, i.e. 7th May 2019. (this may change depending on election date).

Signed

Date