

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Symondsburry Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 November 2005 at 7.00pm in the Symondsburry Schoolroom

PRESENT: Cllr A C Streatfeild, Chairman and Cllrs R N Lidington, S L Holmes, R M Baker, C E Harp, A W Harrison, V O'Farrell, P R Smith and Mr D N Wragg, Clerk.

092 **Apologies** were received from Cllr G Brierley.

093 **Minutes**. The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2005 were approved.

094 **Matters Arising** from those minutes.

- a) Work on parish lanes and highways. Of the work detailed for improvement some had been started. In particular sweeping had been done in Eype and Symondsburry. Drainage in Symondsburry had been increased though it was unable to cope with the rainwater due to the stream rising to a level higher than the outflow. Concreting of the drain adjacent to the Ilchester Arms had yet to be done. Broadoak sits saturated and forlorn, suffering from neglect.
- b) Chalet colours at Eype. Cllrs. Holmes and Baker are to report back local opinions on this at the next meeting.

DW
SH
RB

095 **Information from DCC and WDDC Councillors**.

There was no information under this heading. Cllr Brierley had submitted a brief report of the A35 meeting and this would be discussed at the appropriate time

096 **Community Policing**.

There was no report under this heading and no matters to be raised.

097 **Democratic Half Hour**.

There was no business under this heading.

098 **Chairman's Announcements**.

A previously circulated letter from the chairman outlining the need for, and the function of, an advisory committee had received an excellent response from the council as a whole, who could see the wisdom of such a move as well as the benefits to be derived. Entitled the Policy Committee, and on the proposition of Cllr Holmes, seconded Cllr Harrison it was:

Resolved that the policy committee comprising five councillors be formed in order to consider in depth and subsequently advise and make recommendations to the full council on such matters that the chairman considers beneficial to the community.

Reviewing the Parish Plan, the chairman advised that progress on the affordable housing project was not promising. The holding factor is the availability of suitable land. Searches to date have proved fruitless.

Tree Planting at Eype. Details of the scheme and costs are to be forward to Richard George and the council is both supportive and enthusiastic at the possibility that this project is coming to fruition.

BLAP Meeting 24.11.05. The chairman is unable to attend this meeting and Cllr O'Farrel agreed to attend on her behalf.

VoF

099 **A35 and Transport**.

Consideration was given to the report of the meeting of the three local parishes on 21 October 2005 to review progress and action of various problems with the A35. Work has now commenced on cutting back foliage at the Miles Cross Junction and it is felt this will improve visibility at this point.

Whilst the introduction of a fifty mph limit at Miles Cross, promised before Christmas 2005, is welcomed, it does in no way give assurance that the

measure will cut the accident rate. In proposing this measure Mr Sledge advised

that a forty mph limit was not a possibility on the road. The council was reminded that this lower limit has been imposed on the A31 at Wimborne and could see no reason why it should not be imposed from the Crown roundabout through to Morcombelake.

The attitude of the representatives of the Highways Agency was deplored and there was agreement that the council is unable to acquiesce to their summation of what could be done and when it will be done.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact Cllr. Brierley in order to acquaint him with mood of the council and advise him that it was the intention of the council to write directly to the Minister responsible for highways with a view to securing action in the short term.

DW

Cllr Smith also gave a brief report of the latest developments of the local transport problems.

100 **Finance.**

- a) The balance of the current account was reported as £866.50 and of the deposit account £2152.64.
- b) Account for payment. BDO Stoy Hayward LLP £58.75 Annual Audit fee. On the proposition of Cllr Lidington, seconded Cllr Smith and **RESOLVED** that this account be paid.
Following the Annual Audit an amendment was required to the Annual Return. The changes had been previously agreed with councillors and formal approval of the amendment was now requested. On the proposition of Cllr O'Farrell, seconded Cllr Harp and **RESOLVED** that the amendments be approved.
The clerk drew attention to a request from the auditors on plain (not Headed) paper for confidential details including disclosure of bank details. The clerk had declined to reveal this information and the council endorsed the correctness of the action.
- c) Clerk's salary. The chairman informed members that the salary was well below the level of the Nationally agreed pay scales for clerks and this situation required remedial action at this time in order to incorporate the new levels into the budget. With the pay scale of LC1 which has a range of SCP15 to 25 it was recommended to the council SCP 17 was applicable based on 6 hours per week @£7.99 per hour, rounded to £2500 pa. To be backdated to September 2005 and firm until 1 April 2007. Following discussion and on the proposition of Cllr Harp, seconded Cllr O'Farrell it was: **Resolved** that this recommendation be accepted and the revised rate of payment applied.
- d) Approval of Budget. The budget as submitted by the clerk was considered. Expenditure is expected to rise by £2321, of which salary (£1230) projects (£750) donations (£250) and insurance (£56) are the main increases. Projects include the provision of notice boards in strategic locations, donations, which have fallen over the past two years, will be reverting to the previous levels to those causes where there is benefit to the parish. Cllr Lidington proposed, Cllr Smith seconded and it was; **RESOLVED** that the budget as presented be accepted.
- e) Based on the approved budget and on the proposition of Cllr Harp, seconded by Cllr Lidington it was; **RESOLVED** that the Precept for the financial year 2006/7 be £5800.
- f) Responding to the letter from Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance Service it was agreed that the clerk should write to advise them that the council would support their work in the coming financial year in a similar amount to that donated in the current year.

DW

101 **Planning Applications.**

Details of the current situation re planning applications were as per circulated list.

102 **Eype Matters.**

Responding to a question of when the finger sign at the junction to Lower Eype would be in place the clerk advised that the work was in hand and the replacement would be installed shortly. Cllr Baker again raised objection to the sign being replaced stating that it was an unnecessary waste of money for a sign which was not wanted by those residents of Lower Eype he had spoken to, though he was unable to say how many or names. Cllr Holmes made a rejoinder that there were a number of villagers who wished to see the retention of the traditional and historic features of the village for the pleasure of present and future generations. The chairman ruled that as the matter had been discussed in council on a number of occasions coupled with the fact that the previous finger sign had been removed without authority, the replacement was to be proceeded with. Cllr Baker advised the chairman that he would be writing to WDDC to express his views on this unnecessary expense.

103

Allotments.

The clerk reported a change of policy on the part of Bridport Town Council (BTC) in the allotment rental paid by tenants resident in other parishes, imposing a surcharge of £12 pa and advising the tenant that the difference can be reclaimed from their parish of residence.

This measure was implemented without notice or consultation and without advice to the parish.

Symondsburry has one tenant so affected. The clerk was directed to write to BTC expressing disappointment at the arbitrary manner in which the precipitant action was effected. DW

There is a demand for allotments in the area and the council discussed the feasibility of utilising the area at Pine View for the purpose. Cllr Harp agreed to survey the area and assess its potential and the work necessary to bring the idea to fruition. CH

104

Coastal Matters.

Cllr O'Farrell reported on the recent BLAP meeting which had expressed concern at the over zealous use of hammering when fossil hunting, causing damage to the cliffs. On balance it was not considered a serious problem when viewed against the monumental damage caused by the sea. Largely the problem lies with amateurs. The professionals have a more responsible approach and do make a contribution towards the cost of preservation.

105

Footpaths

News is awaited of the date for the proposed public enquiry into the footpath through Eype Churchyard.

106

Code of Practise.

The draft Code of Practice for Handling Complaints, having been previously circulated to all councillors, was discussed and on the proposition of Cllr O'Farrell, seconded by Cllr Lidington it was;

RESOLVED that the Code of Practise for the Handling of Complaints be approved and applied.

107

Reports.

- a. Cllr Smith reported on the recent Councillors Update course he had attended in company with Cllr O'Farrell. The course was well supported, content and presentation good. Very good for new councillors and a worthwhile exercise.
- b. Cllr Harrison attended the re opening of the Bridport Youth Centre on behalf of the council. The refurbishment was striking and attractive and the new sound recording studio impressive.
- c. The clerk circulated a report of the AGM of DAPTC.

All three reports were adopted.

108

Correspondence.

The clerk read out those items of correspondence received since publication of the list.

Attention was particularly drawn to the following.

- a. Paragliding. Following the previously reported complaint from Mr Redpath of West Cliff of paragliders overflying his property, Mr Duggan of Environmental Services had investigated the safety of this practise and had found the measures in place to be satisfactory. Mr Redpath has now drawn the attention of Mr Duggan to a number of seeming points of contention in his report and has asked that copies of the original complaint, together with current correspondence be forwarded to the British Hang Gliding Association as well as the Civil Aviation Authority for further investigation.
- b. A consultation draft of the West Dorset Partnership Plan has been received and comments are requested by 23 December 2005.

109

Any Other Business.

Cllr Harp sought confirmation of the continuing tradition of providing a wreath from the council for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. The chairman confirmed that this should be done and that she would be present at the ceremony to lay the wreath.

ACS

The clerk enquired if the council would extend the hospitality of the parish to host a meeting of the DAPTC Area Committee on a date to be agreed. The chairman confirmed the council's agreement and the venue would be Broadoak Village Hall as previously.

DW

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

110

Date of the next meeting 10 January 2006

Signed.....

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Cllr A. C. Streatfeild, Chairman

D N Wragg Clerk
09.11.05-min9-spc