

## **From the Chairman**

This may be my last Annual Report as we come up to elections on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. It is a more detailed list of our activities this past year and is in addition to our Parish Newsletter which is going to come out every six months. We hope to look more to the future in the Newsletter whereas this summarises the past year.

West Bay Websites have been working on our parish website during the past year, but it does need more input from our parishioners. Please let us have ideas of what you might like to see on it. It is there to keep you in touch with what is going on in the parish. We are really keen to develop this a little more and would love pictures or notices from you all. Please contact the Clerk if you want anything added.

[www.symondsbury.org.uk](http://www.symondsbury.org.uk)

We always put up agendas and minutes in Broadoak, Eype, Pine View, Symondsbury and West Cliff. The new parish noticeboard will be going up in Pine View shortly.

## **Symondsbury School**

We hope that the Extended School programme will keep the school in the heart of the community. We are grateful that they are always keen to be involved with their surrounding villages.

## **Meetings**

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of every other month (January onward) at 7.00 p.m. in the School. Do feel free to attend, and there is always an opportunity to raise issues at the start of the meeting, so you don't have to sit through the rest if you don't want to!

## **Local Councillors**

Gillian Summers, District Councillor and Geoff Brierley, County Councillor, attend our meetings occasionally and we are always grateful for their input and advice. We are sorry to say goodbye to PC Iverson, our last community officer, who has always been most helpful on his visits. We welcomed PC Drew Manton, our new Community Beat Officer to our March meeting.

## **Planning Applications**

We have dealt with 37 applications this year. We always make an effort to check each application with those in that area.

## **Vital Villages Parish Plan**

Affordable housing has come to the top of the Agenda at last, and we have several ideas that we are beginning to work on. Much of it hinges on the Symondsbury Estate Whole Estate Management Plan which is being discussed at the moment. There will be an opportunity at the Annual Parish

Meeting to see some of the plans the Estate has.

We will be updating the Parish Plan of 2001 this year, and will welcome support for this.

## **Footpaths**

An assessment of the Marshwood Vale Footpaths and Bridlepaths has been completed and we are grateful to Carol Alner for her work with this. A Rights of Way Improvement Plan is going before DCC this year, so any comments on improving facilities and access are always welcome.

## **Allotments**

We had hoped to install water here for the allotment users, but unfortunately people felt the costs were too high.

## **Roads and Transport**

We have had various meetings with both Connect and Balfour Beatty during the year, to discuss the situation between Eype Junction and Quarr Cross. The new 50mph sign has finally gone up and the new SID (Speed Indication Device) may or may not be working as you read this! We are sorry that the limit stops short of Eype Junction and Quarr Cross, as there was an opportunity to have speed restrictions covering all three of our accident black spots. Councillors have spent time checking on parts of the road and reporting problem spots to the relevant authorities.

We will continue to keep this on the priority list.

Do call Clarence yourselves 0800 232323 if you spot something that needs doing on the local roads and lanes, or contact David so that he can add it to his schedule. The A35 is the responsibility of the Highways Agency and we can pass on items to the relevant section. We are represented on the West Dorset Transport Action Group which meets bi-monthly to discuss mainly public transport issues. First Bus and sometimes the rail operators are represented there.

## **Bridport Local Area Partnership**

We are on the Steering Group of BLAP which endeavours to bring together as many community groups in and around Bridport as possible. We can always learn from listening to others, and the sharing of ideas and information has been most useful as well as the louder voice created by several communities joining together to raise issues. The New Action Plan highlights several issues that directly affect our parish and it is good to have the support of the wider community for various issues we want to tackle.

## **Correspondence**

Our clerk has dealt with nearly 200 items of correspondence. The wider use of email has meant that we have considered or actioned over 2000 items. Not sure if this is good or bad!

## Clerk and Councillors

David Wragg, our Clerk, has completed his training to gain his Clerk's qualification which will enable us to raise our standards considerably and become a Quality Council. With the reorganisation of Local Government looming, this will enable Symondsbury PC to take on more responsibilities which in turn will hopefully allow us to deliver better service to the community. We are considering employing a lengthsman to help keep on top of all the little, annoying jobs there are around our villages. This will be a very exciting departure for us.

We have sadly said farewell to Cllr. Mike Davis, who represented Watton and did sterling work on the council and we are pleased to have a councillor from West Cliff, Jane Nolting-May, who was co-opted on during the year.

Grateful thanks to all the other councillors who make the effort to attend meetings and investigate any issues which arise.

## Finances

We have again increased our precept in order to fund the new opportunities we might have if we are able to obtain Quality Status. It is still a tiny amount in the overall Council Tax payment, and if you feel unhappy with this, you have the chance to make your

point at the elections, by standing as a low tax candidate. We do welcome the chance to defend our position at the elections.

For charitable donations we try to select those that apply specifically to our parishioners, and those that would not be funded by other councils. Please let us know what you might like us to be involved with.

Our Accounts are always open for inspection, but I give below a brief summary of our income and expenditure, to give you an idea of where your money comes from and goes to.

### Summary of Annual Accounts

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	£5,800
Grant (tree planting)	£184
Allotment Rent	£160
From Reserve	£350
	<b>£6,494</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Salaries (Clerk)	£2,499
Admin (Other)	£734
Insurance	£197
Rent (Allotment)	£190
Subscription	£333
Fees	£368
Grant (tree planting)	£350
Donations	£250
Symondsbury PCC	£500
Pine View Noticeboard	£529
Printing	£329
Contract work	£50
Miscellaneous	£53
VAT (recoverable)	£108
	<b>£6,490</b>

## SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT

2006/7

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007  
at 7.30 p.m. in Symondsbury  
School**

**A chance to see the plans for  
The Symondsbury Estate**

Refreshments!

#### **Councillors 2006/07**

**Amanda Streatfeild (Chairman)  
Vince O'Farrell (Vice Chairman), Ronnie Baker,  
Julia Colfox, Clifford Harp, Harry Harrison, Selwyn  
Holmes, Jane Nolting-May, Peter Smith**

**Ancient Monuments Officer: Paul Atterbury  
Footpaths: Carol Alner**

**Clerk: David Wragg, Acorn Cottage,  
Broadoak, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5NN  
Tel: 01308 458000  
Email: acorn55@btinternet.com**