

From the Chairman

This is our statutory Annual Report which I hope you will find of interest. This is addition to our six-monthly Newsletter which we endeavour to get to every home in the parish. We are always keen to have contributions from you for the Newsletter.

We are still hoping that someone might like to help us with our website input. 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

We always put up agendas and minutes in Broadoak, Eype, Pine View, Symondsbury and West Cliff. We have put new boards up in Eype and Symondsbury and a new parish notice board will be going up in Broadoak before too long.

Quality Status is something we are still striving to achieve, but it requires much paperwork and commitment from both Clerk and Councillors; the criteria for this changes each year which makes it difficult to achieve the required status.

Symondsbury School

The school goes from strength to strength and our vice-chairman, Peter Smith, is also Chairman of the School Governors. We are grateful that they are always keen to be involved with the 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 our meetings, and there is always an opportunity to raise issues during the meeting in the Democratic Period which is early on the agenda.

Local Councillors

Gillian Summers, District Councillor and Geoff Brierley, County Councillor, attend our meetings regularly and we are always grateful for their input and advice. PC Chris Forshaw is our very proactive Community Officer, and is supported by Mark Jones, Community Support Officer. We do appreciate their interest in our communities.

Planning Applications

We have dealt with 43 applications again this year. We always make an effort to check each application with residents in the nearby area. We have set up a new system to ensure that neighbours are informed and that all the views are represented.

The Council has been able to prevent some applications which have been detrimental to the local community but have also supported applications which have not been considered valid by the District Planners.

The application for development of the Manor Barn area of Symondsbury has finally been approved, and the Estate is now working on grants to enable it to renovate the magnificent barn area alongside the road in the village.

Footpaths

Carol Alner, our Footpaths Officer, will always check problems for us, and we are grateful for this. But do let us know when you have problems. We have assisted with moving some paths in the Eype area to make them more useable for the public.

Allotments

We are reviewing the allotment use at the moment, as these are now much more valued by parishioners and we have to ensure that they are utilised to best advantage for the parish.

Roads and Transport

Our ideas for improving the safety at the Eype Junction are still under discussion a year later. Our MP Oliver Letwin has been most helpful in his approaches to the Highways Agency. We are constantly trying to get the general state of our

lanes improved, or at least maintained.

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 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

The wider use of email has meant that we have considered or actioned many, many more than the 200 approx items we used to deal with and over 4000 messages were received or sent.

Clerk and Councillors

Our councillors meet each month, either at our main meetings or our interim Policy Committee meetings and attend other meetings and seminars in between. Julia Colfox has retired from the council, due to the pressure of other commitments, but we have been joined by Chris Norman from Symondsbury whom we are delighted to welcome.

PACT

This is a new group set up with the input from the local police, neighbouring councils and other Bridport and district community groups. It is a way of prioritising local issues and with the support of our local police, pushing them up the county agenda. The group meets every six months.

Symene Community Land Trust

This is a group of local residents and others who want to provide affordable housing in and around the village and who meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month, usually in the Ilchester Arms. Opportunities are proving slow to present themselves, but the group is preparing the way to initiate an affordable housing scheme when a suitable plot is found. Please contact the Clerk if you need more information about this.

Connecting Dorset

In addition to the Parish Council computer, we have been able set up computers with internet access in both Broadoak and Symondsburry for general use by the community. This is a great step forward, and we are most grateful to those on both the Broadoak Hall Committee and in Symondsburry Pottery, who make these facilities available to the community. Do contact the Clerk if you need more information.

Finances

We have made a small increase to our precept in order to fund the new opportunities our Quality Status may give us. We have felt it important to ensure that we have some reserves, and can now balance our expenditure and payments whilst ensuring that we are "living with our means"! We have also built in some depreciation, as we have various items for the parish, such as the new computer equipment and filing cabinets.

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

Summary of Annual Accounts **Not audited**

Income

Precept	£7,500
Grants	£1,953
Rent (allotment)	£200
Other	£372
	£10,025

Expenditure

Admin (Clerk)	£3,543
Insurance	£204
Rent (Allotment)	£100
Subscriptions	£330
Noticeboards	£1941
Donations	£900
Printing	£561
Course Fees	£564
VAT	£318
	£8,461

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 7th April 2009
at 7.30 p.m. in Symondsburry
School**

Councillors 2009/10

**Amanda Streatfeild (Chairman)
Peter Smith (Vice Chairman), Grant Butcher,
Clifford Harp, Harry Harrison, Selwyn Holmes,
Chris Norman and Jane Nolting-May**

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

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