

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Policy Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2009 at Symondsburry School at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Streatfeild, P Smith, H Harrison, S Holmes.

In attendance: Cllr C Norman and Mr D Wragg.

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllr C Harp who had urgent business elsewhere.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 10 February 2009, having been previously circulated were taken as read and approved.
3. **Chairman's Announcements.** Members were thanked for their support at the Annual Parish Meeting. Reviewing the evening the chairman appreciated the turnout (22) and the interesting and amusing talk given by Mr Paul Atterbury. A letter of thanks has been sent.
4. **Parish Plan Action Plan.** The chairman agreed to circulate the draft mission statement to all members of the committee.
5. **Sustainable Communities Act.** The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 sets up a new process where local communities and their local district and county councils can guide policy and action to promote local sustainability and reverse community decline. This is done by proposing changes in legislation or budgets that currently only central government can influence.
DCC have now announced the process by which proposals can be made under the act. Whilst anyone can make a proposal, including parish councils, it may be prudent to forward those of the parish to BLAP for inclusion under the Bridport Area submission.
The parish council submission for extending the rural repossession fund to allow temporary interim funding and development funding was approved and to be submitted to BLAP for inclusion.
The request from Transition Town Bridport for support of their submission was considered and supported. This item is also following the BLAP route and will be for support and approval at their planning committee meeting on 27.04.09.
6. **Bridport Area Development Trust.** Details were provided of the proposal for the formation of a trust, defined as a community owned and led organisation aiming to bring long term social, economic and environmental benefits to the locality.
The concept was considered to be worthy and the future developments watched with interest
7. **Power of Wellbeing.** Local training has been requested to take place on 09.06.09 for a minimum of 80% of the councillors.
8. **Stop the Drop.** A date for the school presentation is to be fixed.
9. **Planning Obligations Consultation.** Guidelines are in course of preparation by WDDC with a preliminary consultation document for response by 18.05.09. The items which are to be covered relate to the future needs and development of future occupants, examples such as affordable housing, employment provision and transport infrastructure, as well as health care and education. Largely the information in the questionnaire can be gleaned from the parish plan but will also be discussed at the BLAP Planning meeting on 27.04.09 and from these sources it was agreed that the clerk respond to the questions asked.
10. **Planning Applications.** There were none for consideration at this time.
11. **Highways.** DCC Highways have suggested an informal approach to landowners might be better when hedges overgrow on footways and roadways. The committee supported the idea and DCC are to be notified accordingly.

The clerk reported that BLAP Steering Committee were in favour of clustering and BTC were to carry out a cost and feasibility study on the subject. A further meeting of the clerk and Bob Gillis of BTC is scheduled for 21.04.09.

12. Newsletter. The clerk has been advised that it now required that parishes should produce 4 issues of their newsletter each year. In the interests of cost two will follow the present format and two will be in the form of flyers. This underlines the need for more news from members of the parish and from councillors. The committee was urged to do all it could to gather news snippets of activities and interest.

13. Other Matters.

- The clerk reported on the present information from the Treasury Solicitor on the subject of land at Pine View.
- A quotation had been received for the fencing of the allotment plot. The subject to be investigated further.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

12. The date of the next meeting was agreed for 9 June 2009.

Signed.....date.....
Chairman

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