

From the Chairman

Welcome to our statutory Annual Report which I hope you will find of interest. This is in addition to our Newsletters which we put out every four or five months and endeavour to get to every home in the parish.

This has been a comparatively quiet year with only a few difficult issues, though I feel this may change shortly with the advent of the Waste Transfer Station siting, which WDDC must resolve soon. The plans for improvement of various buildings on the Symondsburys Estate have been on-going and may shortly be decided.

We are always on the lookout for ways to improve our parish, and this includes any environmental issues such as fly tipping and pollution. Please contact the Clerk if you have concerns or call the confidential Environmental Helpline 0800 807060.

Our website is: www.symondsburys.org.uk, where local information is always available and regularly updated.

We have been able to assist with enquiries from those seeking information on family connections and have had requests from Canada and Australia!

My thanks go to our Clerk, David Wragg who is so dedicated to the wellbeing of the parish and keeps me well on the straight and narrow. I also want to thank Peter Smith, vice chairman and all the

councillors who give their time to council matters.

Symondsburys School

Congratulations to our Primary School on their excellent Ofsted and Diocesan Reports this year. 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 villagers.

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 them, and there is always an opportunity to raise issues during the meeting in the Democratic Period which is early on the agenda. We also meet on alternate months as the Policy Committee to discuss some items in more depth, and these meetings are also posted.

Local Councillors and officers

Geoff Brierley, our County Councillor, has been a very regular attendee of our meetings and Gillian Summers, our DC, is always keen to support any issue we have. 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 33 applications again this year. We always make an effort to check each application with residents in the nearby area and respond to WDDC with any comments. If you have access to the internet, all information on applications is accessible at www.dorsetforyou.com.

Comments and plans can be downloaded, and it is quite easy to find relevant applications.

Footpaths

Carol Alner, our Footpaths Officer, will always check problems for us, and we are grateful for this. We have worked to resolve the difficulty of crossing the A35 on footpath 22. When the road was built it had been intended that walkers would cross the road. Today this is no longer a safe practice. An application has been made to use the underpass into Watton Lane and we are awaiting a satisfactory outcome to this application – this may take two years!

Allotments

We held a well-attended meeting in the Ilchester Arms to discuss with allotment holders better ways to help. We have now secured a 20 year lease from the County Council which has allowed us to bring under utilised land into use, to help the rising demand for gardens.

Roads and Transport

Our ideas for improving the safety at the Eype Junction are still under discussion two years later. Our MP Oliver Letwin is always most helpful in his approaches to the Highways Agency. Peter Smith attends WATAG meetings on our behalf.

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, and we have been represented at all meetings, including some Planning Group sessions. Through BLAP we have been instrumental in instituting a Lengthsman Scheme in conjunction with Bridport Town Council. We hope that it will enable the PC to provide a better service with regard to the small jobs always needed to be done around the parish such as gully clearance, litter picking and hedge maintenance.

BLAP has also assisted DAPTC (Dorset Assoc. of Parish and Town Councils) to set uplinks between our local parish clerks, again an initiative led by our Clerk David Wragg.

Correspondence

The wider use of email has meant a considerable drop in conventional correspondence. Around 100 emails are received each week, with around 60 being sent. This

does mean a reduction in office costs with regard to postage.

Clerk and Councillors

Our councillors have attended at least five training sessions and in June 2009 all attended one of the first Power of Wellbeing courses in the county, which all councils should have completed to ensure their Quality Status. Jane Nolting May sadly left the council during the year, but we have been joined by Dr. Mary Costello from West Road, who will join with Grant Butcher in representing West Cliff, but has already taken a great interest in all parish matters.

Next year there will be parish council elections and some councillors will be retiring, so do please consider taking an interest in your local community and being part of its future development, by standing for the council

Other groups

We attend PACT and the Coastal Forum meetings on a regular basis as well as the Western Area DAPTC meetings.

Symene Community Land Trust

This group still meets quite regularly to consider any opportunities for the provision of affordable housing within the parish. Sadly, there are still no offers of land within the parish so it is very frustrating for those who are anxious to remain in the parish.

Finances

Our Accounts are always open for inspection, but below is a brief summary of our income and expenditure. The precept (grant from DCC) remained the same as the previous year.

Summary of Annual Accounts **Not audited**

Income

Precept	£7,500
Grants Received	£200
Rent (Allotments)	£220
Other	£2
	£7,922

Expenditure

Admin (Clerk)	£3,690
Insurance	£212
Rent (Allotments)	£140
Subscriptions	£357
Purchases	£2125
Printing	£527
Fees	£275
Grants made	£1100
VAT	£20
	£8,446

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 6th April 2010
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**