

# SYMONDSBURY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

**Due to the invitation extended to surrounding Parishes to attend the presentation by Dr David Evans of the Localism Act this occurred before the "Annual Meeting"**

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Symondsburry Parish held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 at 7.30pm in the Symondsburry Schoolroom.

**PRESENT:** Cllr P Smith, Chairman and Mrs CM Evans, Clerk, & all of our Councillors together with 15 members of the community whose names are recorded in the attendance register.

Cllr Smith welcomed all present and thanked Dr Evans for his excellent presentation on Localism with particular focus on the Planning aspects that had been given earlier in the evening.

1. The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 April 2011 were confirmed and signed.
2. The chairman presented the Annual Report, a copy of which was available for all present and a copy was included in the March Newsletter for delivery to all households in the parish.

Thanks were expressed to the councillors for their efforts and work during the course of the year and to Cllrs Gillian Summers, WDDC and Geoff Brierley, DCC for their help and advice over the year. Particular thanks were extended to the previous Chairman, Cllr Streatfeild for her support.

In the last minutes it was noted the Broomhills site was under review as a waste station, and the decision has since been taken confirming those proposal subject to a Planning Application later in the summer (2012).

The Symondsburry Parish Council website is up and running again and we are grateful to West Bay website for undertaking the upkeep of it.

The Chairman reflected on his first year of Office and offered his thanks to the previous Clerk, David Wragg, who retired halfway through the year. His support and generosity with his time on behalf of the Parish was recognised. He continues to support Dorset Association of Parish & Town Clerks (DAPTC) and the Community Land Trust which we hope will soon be building affordable housing nearby as well as editing Symene Voice. Symondsburry School has had a change in Headteacher, and the new permanent replacement will take up post in September.

There was a slight reduction in the number of Planning Applications in the Parish, but very significant changes for Planning Policy at the national level, alongside the development of the Local Plan for WDDC. Of particular note is the proposition to allocate land at Vearse Farm for housing (and some employment & education use).

Footpaths continue to be a challenge to maintain in light of budget reductions, but Cllr Costello has ensured work has continued throughout the year to keep as many footpaths as possible clearly sign-posted and maintained.

Work is continuing on arrangements to clear the land at Pine View for allotments and hope to complete the task by the autumn.

Cllr Smith has recently taken up the Chairmanship of Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) in addition to representing the Parish interests.

Cllr Streatfeild continues to represent Symondsburry interests on the Bridport Area Local Partnership (BLAP).

The Lengthsman programme has continued to do jobs around the Parish including installing the saltbins, Cllr Smith corrected the quoted costs of the saltbins purchase, it was actually £136.94+VAT per bin, not £250 as stated in the Annual Report.

Issues raised from the residents included thanks for the Parish contribution to the upkeep of the church graveyards; questioning the value of the Lengthsman initiative (SPC responded that there is a lack of clarity of the activities undertaken and this is being addressed, but examples of the work are gully clearing and installation of the saltbins); A noisy party held on a field that disturbed local residents (Cllr Holmes agreed to investigate); request for sight of the SPC balance sheet (shared by email and available on the website).

It was agreed that the Parish Council meetings would be moved around the Parish in this year on a trial basis to encourage greater participation by local residents. Volunteers to work on Community Resilience were unsuccessfully sought.

Broadoak community are considering the placement for the new notice board. West Cliff notice board arrangements still not agreed with the Resident Association. This will be progressed over the year.

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No additional bodies to give donations to were raised.

3. The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and drew attention to the main points of the report. The format of the presented figures followed the customary format. The precept was increased by £800, which should ensure we have sufficient reserves to meet increased responsibilities caused through the budget pressures at the WDDC and DCC levels.
4. A number of questions/issues were raised. The unacceptable increased pressure on local infrastructure created by the Vearse Farm proposed housing was raised, particularly in combination to the Broomhills waste transfer site. Also the need for maximising the number of affordable housing for local people. There was a request for a 'concealed entrance' sign by London Inn; SPC agreed to support this request and will contact the Highways Agency following written clarification from the residents in the area. Cllr Summers had ensured the WDDC Local Plan allocated the Broomhills site only for use as the Waste Transfer site to avoid unacceptable alternative use should the waste plans not come to fruition.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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