

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Symondsburry Parish Council held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall, West Bay.

PRESENT: Cllr A C Streatfeild, P R Smith, S Holmes, S Ralph, M Leighton and B Baker.

In attendance: Cllr G Brierley DCC, Cllr Summers, Mrs C Evans, Clerk and 4 members of the public whose names are recorded in the attendance record. .

Democratic Half Hour. The footpath in West Cliff known as Donkey Lane had been reported as very badly damaged in the July flooding yet nothing had been done about it. Cllr Brierley responded that there was such enormous amounts of storm damage across the County that DCC staff were dealing with it on a priority basis and will get around to Donkey Lane in due course.

The issue of the speed limits on the A35 were raised. The original position that the Symondsburry Parish Council took to the Highways Agency review in 2010 was questioned. It was clarified that the response was that the Symondsburry Parish Council's preferred option was a single speed limit of 50 mph from Chideock to Bridport but failing that, the proposed change to 40mph would be helpful particularly if it could be extended to beyond Miles Cross. The clerk wrote to the Highways Agency in August requesting a meeting to reconsider the options in light of the recent residents' views (and copied to Oliver Letwin MP, as he was engaged in the issue in 2010).

Information from DCC and WDDC Councillors.

Cllr Brierley advised

- that forming a local Speed Watch in response to the A35 issue could prove very helpful to resolve the situation as this approach had proven to have dramatic effect in reducing speeds in other areas.
- the future of the Lengthsman scheme was under scrutiny (costing DCC £120,000 annually). Clerk to forward to Cllr Brierley the report on the work undertaken in Symondsburry Parish to add evidence of the benefits to the locality.
- he, and some other County Councillors, were challenging the DCC proposal to charge Parishes to fill the salt/grit bins.
- the issue of the progress of the Broomhills Waste Transfer development was raised, Cllr Brierley responded that no Planning Application had been made as yet.

Cllr Summers advised

- Olympic arrangements had gone very smoothly, apart from the over-provision of parking (but all agreed better that way than too little).
- the new Council Offices are almost complete and staff will begin to migrate there over the next few months. Further joint work is planned with Weymouth & Portland District Council to achieve greater efficiencies and save money.
- the Planning registration process is still behind but hope to return to the normal 2 week process and the quality to improve.
- continuing concerns over the impact of the Localisation of Council Tax.

Apologies Apologies from Cllr Costello (on holiday) were received which were accepted and approved.

Declaration of Interests. None were declared.

Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July were approved and signed.

Chairman's Announcements None

Co-option Cllr Baker proposed a resolution to co-opt David Wragg onto the Council, seconded by Cllr Ralph. **Resolved** that David Wragg should be co-opted onto Symondsburry Parish Council with immediate effect.

Finance.

- a). Bank Balances. Current a/c £4,745 Deposit a/c £3,920
- b). **Resolved** to buy a replacement gritbin to replace the stolen one and **resolved** to buy a printer/scanner for the Clerk's use.

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Planning Applications.

Formal endorsement given for decisions taken at the Policy Committee Meeting held on 12th June 2012 as follows –

1/D/12/000924: Heatherbell, Hill Close, West Bay, DT6 4HW (retrospective) to replace garage flat roof with a pitched roof. No objections raised. (since Approved by WDDC)

1/D/12/001031: Highlands End Holiday Park, Mount Lane, Eype, to site touring units (on the parts of OS 1800 and 2800 shown cross-hatched on the approved plan HEF.1) between the Thursday before Easter and 31st October inclusive each year, with reconstruction and (Variation of condition). Object on grounds that: It is contrary to WDDC Local Plan Policies SA1, SA2 SA3, ET11 and ET12.

1/D/12/001121: Cliff Cottage, West Cliff, West Bay, DT6 4HS External & internal alterations (Listed Building Consent): No objections raised.

Consider the following Applications:

1/D/12/0001211: Manor Farm, Mill Lane, Symondsbury, Bridport, DT6 6HH. Variation of Condition 9 of P.P. 1/D/11/000096 to allow opening hours of the premises between the hours of 7am to 12 midnight Monday to Saturday & 10am to 12 midnight Sundays & bank holidays. (Variation of condition). **Resolved** to object on the grounds of WDDC Local Plan DA6 iii). "they [developments] do not generate a level of activity or noise which detracts significantly from the character and amenity of the area or the quiet enjoyment of residential properties" and the Parish Council felt noise after 11pm from both the venue and the traffic leaving the premises would not be acceptable. However in the interests of ensuring the business remained viable, felt this position should be reviewed after a year of usage to re-consider in the light of experience.

1/D/12/0001217: Brithaven, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport, DT6 5LA. Construct dormer window (Full) **Resolved** no objections raised.

West Dorset Draft Local Plan Considered next steps in the light of Symondsbury Parish Council, Bridport Town Council and the Community Land Trust all in agreement regarding the desired approach for the allocation of land for affordable housing in the Vearse Farm development. **Resolved** that a meeting be sought with WDDC in the next few weeks to seek agreement that a Community Land Trust is the best route to ensure the affordable element is delivered.

Best Kept Village competition 2012 Considered Symondsbury and Eype communities should be approached to see if there would be community support. Cllr Baker to take forward Symondsbury and Cllr Smith to take forward Eype and report findings back to the Council.

Dissolution of the Symondsbury Policy Committee **Resolved** to dissolve the Policy Committee and increase the number of Council meetings to monthly, apart from August (when an extraordinary meeting may be held should Planning Applications warrant it).

Snow Clearing Operations and preparedness for winter The Clerk reported back from a Dorset County Council meeting about their emerging policies in this regard. The gritbins are being assessed as to their priority from a County perspective and there will be charges for filling them in the future. There is a current system of local farmers undertaking snow-ploughing for DCC to keep the local minor roads open. DCC are looking to replace this with Parish Councils drawing up a winter maintenance Plan and being given £200 and a snow plough each (plus support on the connections to the selected farmer's tractor) to organise and fund any snow clearance themselves. The intention is to save money (in DCC) and give greater control over the order of clearance to local people. There were concerns expressed over the potential costs to the Parish and whether a change was needed in the Parish. Agreed that a winter maintenance Plan should be drawn up and further exploratory work undertaken with DCC.

Reports

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Footpaths - several reports of damaged and over-grown footpaths have been submitted to DCC but with a limited response due to the quantity of similar across the County. ____

Transport - WATAG are looking to gain information on the progress of the revision to the timetable of the 31 bus service.

Allotments – a meeting is to be held of the London Inn allotment holders. A waiting list has developed.

Coastal matters – increasing numbers of cyclists are using the coastal path and causing damage to the paths. The Clerk to ask DCC to position ‘no cyclist’ signs along it.

Flood and Emergency – **Resolved** that Cllr Leighton become the Flood and Emergency Officer.

Lengthsman – Clerk to explore best practice for administering the Lengthsman scheme to ensure the Parish get maximum value.

Correspondence. as per circulated listing. Particular attention was drawn to:

Withdrawal of the Planning Application for the conversion of garage to commercial kitchen at 192 West Bay Road. (1/D/12/000836)

Advance notice of the temporary closure of Eype Road (Clerk agreed to approach DCC to agree the best way to manage this in light of the very dangerous alternative route onto the A35).

Notice of BDO being appointed as the Symondsburry parish external auditors for 2012/13.

Items for next agenda (Policy meet). Symondsburry Notice board; revised Code of Conduct, Councillor Expenses and Clerk’s hours.

The meeting was closed at 8.59pm after the following dates were confirmed:

next Council Meeting on 13/11/2012

next Policy Meeting on 09/10/2012.

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Signed.....Date

Cllr P R Smith, Chairman

Cathy Evans Clerk 23/09/2012

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