

**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Symondsburry Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 7.30pm at Symondsburry School

**These minutes will be ratified at the 2015 Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Smith, M Leighton, D Wragg, S Ralph, A Streatfeild, S Holmes, B Baker and Marilyn Stone – Clerk. 19 members of the Public also attended and names have been recorded in the Attendance Book.

1. **Welcome:** Cllr Smith welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the new Clerk, Marilyn Stone.
2. **Presentation of latest information by new DCC Footpaths Officer:** Demelza Hyde provided a detailed synopsis of her role. There are three area teams: Coastal, North and West Dorset, and East Dorset. Natural England comprises Lyme Regis through to Portland. Demelza looks after all footpaths and bridleways within the Symondsburry Parish. Demelza's contact details can be found on the dorsetforyou website. A few questions/queries were raised and Demelza has taken them away for further investigations.
3. **To confirm the record of last Annual Parish Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013:** Cllr Smith proposed that they were a true record, seconded by Cllr Streatfeild.
4. **To receive the Annual Report:** The Chairman introduced the Annual Report and the full report can be found on the Symondsburry Website and has been distributed to all households within the Parish.
5. **To receive the Annual Financial Report:** The Clerk pointed out the figures provided on the Annual Report. In particular reported that a Precept of £11,340 was approved, taking into consideration the increase in Band D of 6.71%, £500 to the initial cost of Neighbourhood Plan. The Lengthsman cost will increase as DCC reduce funding. The biggest expense is the Clerks salary. The increase in the Precept should ensure we have sufficient reserves to meet our increasing responsibilities in the current year. There is no refund this year in respect of VAT, however this is currently being applied for. Large expenditure items include a new laptop and plant hire to prepare for the new Pine View allotments though this will be part funded by WDDC. We have supported the organisations noted under item 8 all of which help our parishioners.
6. **Neighbourhood Plan:** It was reported that the plan upon its completion will become a legal document and will remain in force for around 15/20 years. The Parish with its neighbours will be more able to influence development fitting within the local scene. It takes around 4 years to put together. Public involvement will be sought within the next 6 months. A press release will be undertaken when its ready to proceed.
7. **To consider other questions and issues of interest:** Appalling road damage following the wet winter was a concern, especially the Broadoak area around Denhay Lane. It was reported that the council are dealing with severe road problems as a priority. It was advised to report highway problems to DCC on Dorsetforyou or letter,

or telephone if urgent. The lack of broadband to businesses was a concern and the Chair was asked whether he was fighting on behalf of all the parishioners. It was stated that the council is actively fighting for all at any opportunity but it appears the promised improvements are evolving on an almost daily basis

8. **Review of bodies to which SPC donate grants:** During the last year we received requests from and agreed modest grants to: Symondsbury PCC, Bopper Bus Service, Victim Support, Axe Valley Ring and Ride Service, and Citizens Advice Bureau.
9. **Update on progress of the WDDC Local Plan and proposed development at Vearse Farm as a site for housing and employment:** It was reported that progress on the New Local Plan has been suspended. The Government's inspector having not been happy with a number of aspects including how much new housing is required in the district. The 2006 West Dorset Plan remains in place, however, we need to apply new conditions contained in the New Planning Framework 2012 brought in by the Government. Vearse Farm is currently a standalone situation.
10. **Co-option of a new Councillor to fill a casual vacancy of councillor:** The Chairman advised that we are actively seeking a new Councillor to fill a casual vacancy and noted that Symondsbury village was not represented currently. Anyone interested should contact the clerk
11. **Reminder of the May 2015 Parish Election of all seats:** The Chairman brought this to attention of the meeting.

**The Meeting Closed at 8.40pm**

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