**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 11 May at 7pm at Symondsbury School. **These minutes will be agreed at the May 2024 Annual Parish Council Meeting.**

**0001 Welcome by the Chair:** Cllr Ralph welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

**0002: To receive and approve apologies** **for absence:**  **PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, S Evans, A Streatfeild. P Hartmann, P Colfox. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Evans and Hartmann.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2022: The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.**

**0004: To receive the Chair’s report.**

**The Royal Family** - For Her Majesty's Jubilee we presented all the pupils at Symondsbury School with a commemorative mug to mark the occasion. Sadly not long after her Jubilee celebrations Queen Elizabeth passed away and we now have a new Monarch, King Charles 3rd. We have decided to mark the occasion by putting benches at Symondsbury, Eype and Broadoak, these should be installed soon.

**Our Parish Clerk -** Marilyn Stone, our Clerk of many years, decided to step down from the position and I would like to give thanks for the years she spent keeping us all in line. We now welcome our new Clerk Natalie Bealing who has taken over the reins and is doing an outstanding job. Unfortunately our bank do not seem to like the idea of us changing signatories and it has taken over eight months to sort out. Natalie has taken over the Web page and Facebook, along with our finances, attending regular training days and of course keeping us Councillors in line.

**Resilience -** This is our group of volunteers who are positively connected who can offer help and advice to their neighbours should any natural disaster arise. We are always looking for volunteers for this and if you would like to help then please contact Councillor our Clerk who will pass your details on to our Parish coordinator. We have a register of Volunteers so if you need help should a disaster strike then we can put you in touch with one of your neighbours to help you.

**Councillors -** We have had three Councillors step down from the Council, Jennifer Roddy, Sylvia Ainley and Nigel Mawditt. Jennifer was a very pro active member of the Council for many years and will be missed as will Sylvia who has also been very active on the Parish Council. Nigel represented West Cliff and was also Chairman of the West Cliff Housing Association. We would like to welcome Steve Evans onto the Council, Steve will be representing West Cliff and has valuable legal knowledge so will be a huge asset to us.

**Parish boundaries -** As you should be aware the Parish Boundaries are changing in 2024. After long discussions with Bridport Town Council, Vearse Farm will no longer come under Symondsbury Parish Council and will mostly move into the jurisdiction of Bridport Town Council along with West Cliff and Pine View. We will be gaining new parishioners from other areas so our resident numbers will remain roughly the same.

**Defibrillators -**We have now installed a defibrillator at Broad Oak so currently there are defibrillators at Eype (the New Inn), Highlands End Holiday Park and Symondsbury (Symondsbury Estates) .

**Planning -**We have set up a separate Planning Committee to look at all planning applications and have a knowledgeable Councillor, Paul Hartmann. The planning meetings are open to members of the public but I must remind everyone that we can only look at the application in front of us we cannot speculate on what the application could become in the future. The outcome is down to Dorset Planners, ours being only one view they take into account.

**Full Council meetings -** You have probably noticed that we have changed the dates of our full Council meetings to the second Thursday of each month excluding August. Members of the Public are welcome to attend you will find the dates and venues on our website and Parish notice boards. The job of a Councillor is totally voluntary and we do occasionally get vacancies, so if you are interested in becoming a Councillor and helping in the community then please contact Natalie for more information.

**Allotments -** Due to boundary changes we are unsure whether Pine View allotments will be retained by us or be taken over by Bridport. Our allotments on West Road will remain with us and there is also a possibility we will be creating new allotments in a small area of land we will be retaining near Vearse Farm. For more information on allotments please contact Natalie our Parish Clerk.

**FINALLY**, I would like to thank Natalie and my fellow Councillors for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

**0006 Disclosures of Interests and Dispensations:** To **receive** disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest from Councillors and employees on matters to be considered at the meeting**:**  None received.

**0007:** **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2023:**  The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0008: To** **resolve** payments and receipts for April 2023: a) Clerk’s salary, b) Saltbin relocation; c) Fingerpost;) d) Creeds; e) Broadoak Village Hall grant; f) CB Reid payroll;

**To** **update** onbank signatories and online banking: Current account £8,548.10, Savings account £26, 324.08

The Clerk also verbally presented the annual accounts. These will be signed off at the June Meeting.

A member of the public, Mr George Streatfeild asked what the CIL grant is for and how it might be spent. Cllr Ralph explained what the payment was for and a discussion ensued. It will be added to the June agenda to identify suitable usage of the money.

**0009: Update on SPC Community Awards 2023** : The awards have been advertised widely but the Clerk would promote them again. Closing date for nominations is 31 May.

**0010: To confirm date of next meeting** Thursday 8 June, Symondsbury School, preceded by the Planning Meeting. Cllr Streatfeild gave her apologies for the Planning Meeting.

**0011: To take questions and consider issues of interest to the community:** Mr Streatfeild thanked the Council for the donations that had been made over the last year to Symondsbiry School, the village hall in Broadoak and the church.

There was a short discussion on footpaths and cycle paths. Cllr Colfox to consider implications for the Symondsbury Estate.

**Meeting finished at 7.40pm**