**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 14 December at 7pm at Symondsbury School, Symondsbury

**0001: To receive and approve apologies** **for absence:**  **PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, T Cox, P Hartmann, S Evans. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk, and two members of the public. Cllrs P Colfox, V Kavanagh and A Streatfeild sent their apologies.

**Democratic Half Hour during which members of the public are invited to raise matters of interest and Information from DC Councillors and Dorset Police:**

Demographic Half Hour: Mr Karl Rogers updated the Council on the DMMO applications that are currently in train for footpaths at West Cliff and also explained the background. The public inquiry is due to launch soon and Dorset Council need more evidence from local walkers that they are using the routes. Mr Rogers asked for the Council’s support in advertising the applications.

Cllr Hartman took an action to contact Barbara Talbot (DC) regarding the status of DMMO Order No.3.

Mr Rogers went on to highlight a second point. This was around the lack of facilities at Eype Mouth. He requested a sign to be erected at the top of the lane, pointing out that toilet facilities are not available to help holidaymakers better plan their visit. Eype Beach would be added to the agenda for next month’s meeting. Cllr Hartmann would also follow up with Martin Cox to see if he could help, as part of his wider development plans.

Mr Selwyn Holmes asked the Council how they disseminate the Police reports as there had been a burglary recently that he was unaware of. The Clerk explained that the report is read out at each meeting and that the information is noted by the Councillors and passed on by word of mouth. It was agreed that reports would be added to the longer minutes posted on the website each month.

Mr Holmes also asked if the new Whats App group that had been set up recently for Eype could be used more widely for ‘home guard’-style communications. This would be added to the agenda for next month.

The police report was noted: On the afternoon of Thursday 23rd November, a resident of Eype noticed some minor damage to a rear door to their property.  It is unknown what caused the damage, but was concerned this may have been an opportunist trying to break in.  There has been no entry made, nothing stolen and no further incidents locally, but please be vigilant.

Whilst not in Symondsbury specifically, there was a recent theft of turkeys and a turkey plucking machine, from a farm near Bridport.  This occurred at approximately 1.30 am on Monday 27th November.  I would like to advise people to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us on 101, or online at  [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk/).  If anyone believes a crime is in progress, call 999 immediately.

**0002 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 declared.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023**: The minutes were approved.

**0004: To** **resolve** payments and receipts for November 2023: a) Clerk’s salary, b) Allotment rent; c) Neighbourhood Plan; d) HMRC. **To** **update** on online banking: Current account £4,748.69; Savings £26,495.61

**0005:** **Planning matters:**

The fresh planning application (retrospective) for Tuckers Cottage has recently been refused. The Council had recently written to the Enforcement Officer and Cllr Hartmann explained some of the background.

A recent report to Dorset Council of flooding in the underpass at the A35 was closed without action, so a new request needs to be submitted.

**0006:** **Budget review and preparation for 2024**:

The Clerk explained how the various Precept figures presented would affect the community. There are less houses in the newly-defined parish for 24/25 so even keeping the Precept the same as previous years would result in an uplift in each householders contributions. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

**0007: Reports from Lead Councillors**

Local Reports

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| 1. **Footpaths SR** | 1. **Resilience AS** | 1. **DAPTC PH** |
| 1. **BLAP Steering Group AS** | 1. **BLAP Parish Liaison NDB** | 1. **Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan – JCC PH** |
| 1. **Tree Officer/Ancient Monuments SR** | 1. **Community Governance Review PH** | 1. **Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan – Steering Group PH** |
| 1. **Symene CLT AS** | 1. **Symene Voice NDB/VH** | 1. **Coastal Matters TC** |
| 1. **Allotments TC** | 1. **Lengthsman Link SR** | 1. **Climate and Waterways SE** |
| 1. **Foundry Lea PH/AS** |  |  |

a} Cllr Ralph reported that many of the footpaths are muddy and flooded. They are being reported as issues arise. Cllr Hartmann updated the Council on the Public right of way applications:

The current position is that the DMMO application is now being considered by Barbara Talbot (Definitive Map Technical Officer) of Dorset Council. The reference for the routes is DMMO Ref: T732 - Routes through West Cliff Estate, West Bay, Dorset. Cllr Hartmann met with Barbara and Karl Rogers (who is applying for a DMMO for the short routes from West Walk to the coastal path) on 22 November and walked all the routes explaining in detail the legal position as well as fully identifying the routes and connections. This was the precursor to the public consultation on the routes. Barbara has forwarded a Dorset map document which can be put on the Parish Notice Boards and on the affected routes. She also confirmed that with regards to the routes the Parish Council is involved with she was contacting her legal department for confirmation of the Order No 3 of the original stopping up and redirection which was not adhered to but is still at large. The decision will be made by her unless there is an objection where the matter will go to tribunal.

b) Cllr Streatfeild’s report highlighted that she had contacted people during the flooding. There had been an issue over supply of sandbags with many places locally running out. The Council discussed whether we should hold reserves of sandbags and where they could be stored. The Clerk would also follow up with the Clerk of Bridport. Add to the next agenda.

d) Cllr Streatfeild attended the BLAP meeting remotely last week.  The minutes will come out soon - there are special grants for off-grid households which can be followed up once the details are clear.

f) The review of the Neighbourhood Plan will coincide with the County Council Plan. The legal letter from County regarding boundary changes is still outstanding.

j) The gardens were flooded and a lot of gravel from the garage had swept onto the area. The Trust is investigating this and whether insurance claims can be put in.

m) Cllr Cox updated on allotments. He confirmed that he still needed to go back to one of the plot holders regarding an overhanging tree and look into several other issues but time had not been on his side.

o) Cllr Evans reported that there had been much activity around the local action groups with cleaner, healthier waterways being a priority for the groups.

p) The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to prove (or otherwise) the existence of descendants of Winifred Walbridge – one of the factors needed for road naming at Vearse Farm. Cllr Hartmann also offered to write again about the Miles Cross roundabout work.

**0009: Items for future meetings**: Budget review and preparation for 2024; Eype Mouth; ‘Home Watch; sand bags.

**0010: To confirm date of next meeting** Thursday 11 January 2024, Symondsbury School, Symondsbury

Meeting finished at 8.40pm.