**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 13 June at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, P Hartmann, R Elwes, B Hamblett, B Bates and S Evans. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk, Cllrs D and B Bolwell. There were no apologies There were no members of the public in attendance.

**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**:**

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

Cllr D Bolwell updated the Council on several items including Councillor changes, Nature and Climate Emergency plans and changes to car parking charges. Cllr Hamblett asked whether there had been any thoughts about increasing fines for non-payment of parking to offset some of the parking charges.

 The Clerk had not received anything of significance from the police to report.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2024:**  The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of May 2024:** a) Clerk’s salary, b) Key cutting; c) Noticeboard Allen keys for Allington

To **update** on online banking: Current account £5356.84; Savings £24,189.63

Cllr Colfox arrived at 7.20pm

**0005: Financial arrangements:** The Council discussed options for ensuring that our reserves are making money to e re-invested in the community. Our current savings account is only attracting 1.5%. Clerk to explore options and ensure that moving money to a higher interest, instant access account, will not contravene any rules.

**0006: Planning Matters**

* P/HOU/2024/02910 Proposal: Installation of a 28 panel solar PV array in the SW corner of the garden utilising low level stands for panel fixing. Location: Denhay Corner House, Broadoak, DT6 5NN The Committee unanimously supported the application. Clauses INT1, ENV1, ENV2, ENV3, ENV13, ENV16, of the local plan apply. Clauses, CC3, CC4, L1, L2, L5 and D9 of the BANP apply. **Decision: Support.**
* P/HOU/2024/03082 Proposal: Proposed Outbuilding Location: Plot 2, Land West of Watton Lane, Bridport DT6 5JY - The Committee felt that the additional building and hard standing still constituted overdevelopment of the plot. It added a more suburban feel to the immediate environment, created more harm to the landscape feel of the area and created loss of amenity to the surrounding dwellings. Clauses INT1, ENV1, ENV3, ENV10, ENV12, ENV16, of the local plan apply. Clauses, L1, L4, L5, D1 D3 D8 and D10 of the BANP apply. **Decision: Object**
* P/HOU/2024/03083 Proposal: Replace two dormer windows with an enlarged dormer window Location: Farthings Mead, Broad Lane, DT6 5JY The Committee felt that the proposal was a good solution and unanimously supported the application. Clauses INT1, and ENV16, of the local plan apply. Clauses, D1 and D9 of the BANP apply. **Decision: Support**
* Proposed New Barn at land off Higher Eype Road. The Committee updated SPC on a recent site visit to meet with landowners who were planning on submitting a request for barns in the near future.

**0007: Councillor Training:** New Councillors confirmed that the training they had received so far had been useful and that there were no other requirements at the moment.

**0008: Allotments:** Cllr Bates presented his paper, which had been circulated previously. West Road will need more management, particularly around ingress and egress, and also maintenance around each plot. A number of questions had been posed in the paper. The item would be added to the agenda again next month to resolve some of the points raised.

**0009: Confidentiality:** The Chair reminded Councillors about guidelines for use of email, speaking on behalf of the Council and about dealing with the media.

**0010: Symene Voice:** Cllr Hamblett introduced the agenda item and highlighted his plans for the next edition. It was agreed that a map showing the new boundary would be included and plans would be made to get copies to new parishioners who are not in receipt of the ECV magazine – Symene Voice is delivered at the same time. An update would be given next month on progress.

**0011: Reports from Lead members:
Cllr Ralph –a)** FOOTPATH REPORT One problem reported on footpath W18/49, A35 West Road to Symondsbury Village, of a tree fallen over a stile.  Russell Goff, head Ranger at Dorset Council has been informed. PROPOSED CYCLE PATH from Chideock to Bridport. Winston Maskell sent out newsletter #10 in May and it is very much as before as work has come to a standstill.  The path was started but they uncovered a main gas pipe so had to stop.  Negotiations with the gas company and Dorset Council are continuing.
**Cllr Hartmann – c)** There are plans to set up a meeting with Dorset Council to discuss the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan and the implications for review of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. **e)** There had been no response regarding Miles Cross so far. Cllr Hartmann will start a conversation with the developers direct., as there is no management company in place yet. We will need to request funding from National Highways for the crossing.
**Cllr Evans –** **f)** Cllr Evans had attended his first BLAP Steering Group that afternoon. Nothing of significance to report. **h)** Three nominations had been submitted for this year’s Community Awards. A discussion ensued about possible events at which to present the prizes. The Clerk was actioned to identify something suitable.
**Cllr Colfox – j)** 5 West Gables – West Allington. Application to reduce a beech tree subject to a tree preservation order. Comments. Clearly this tree should never have been subject to a tree preservation order. The area is heavily wooded and full of houses. It is like living in a forest. The tree is a young beech and has already been heavily managed and is an eyesore. **Recommendation – Approve**
Foxleigh, Shutes Lane, Symondsbury. Application to reduce the height of 4 alders or Russian elms which are damaging walls. Comments These trees are in a conservation area. They are in a new development and have been planted by a previous owner. The objective of the conservation area is to preserve the large gardens. This clearly falls outside that objective. **Recommendation – Approve**.
**Our Tree Policy** Tree Officers cannot negotiate but they have done so heavily in the past and applicants (and their agents) appear now frightened of the tree officers, who rarely receive comments from councils. Trees grow every year and in urban areas quickly become a nuisance to everyone. We should have a policy what to do about such trees. And such issues are important to our electorate. Recommendation – We should make an observation that unless tree officers can make the case that trees should not be felled, we will approve all such applications in built up areas. The Council agreed to add this to the agenda for the July meeting to discuss in more detail.
**Cllr Hamblett – m)** Cllr Hamblett highlighted some areas around resilience which he had been considering, including portable solar panels and mapping out areas of signal black spots. **g)** Suggestion around setting up an Upper Symene Action Group to look at soggy dams. Cllr Hamlett was asked to write a report to be discussed at a future meeting.
**Clerk – s**) It was agreed that bin emptying in Symondsbury could be reduced to fortnightly in the winter months as a trial.

**0012: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk confirmed that the insurance policy was up to date after discussions via email with Councillors over the last few weeks.

**0013: Meeting venues:** In the interests of time, this agenda item was moved to next month.

**0014: Items for future meetings:** Allotments, Tree Policy, Floods/waterways

**0015: Date and location of next meeting**: Thursday 11 July, Symondsbury School

**Meeting finished at 9.15pm**