**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 11 July at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, R Elwes, B Hamblett, B Bates and S Evans. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk, Cllr S Williams. There were apologies from Cllr Hartmann There were two 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**:**  There were none declared.

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

Chris Scadding had come to the meeting to explain the history of family use of one of the Pine View allotments to the Council, to help them make a decision about tenure going forward. Cllr Sarah Williams updated the Council on a couple of initiatives. Cllr Evans asked her which committees/groups she sat on – she replied with Harbours, Licensing, Place Scrutiny and Dorchester Markets.

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

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2024:**  The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of June 2024:** a) Clerk’s salary, b) Printer cartridges and paper; c) Community Awards; d) HMRC; e) DAPTC training; f) Microsoft 365

To **update** on online banking: Current account £5,193.53; Savings £24,220.16

The Clerk confirmed that moving money to a higher interest, instant access account, will not contravene any rules, however the best account is currently not accepting new customers. The Clerk will review again in a couple of months.

**0005: Planning Matters:**

One item had come in for discussion by the Planning Sub Committee but it was agreed that it would be dealt with via email, outside of the meeting, as the deadline for response allowed time for that to happen.

**0006: Allotments:** Cllr Bates presented his latest paper, which had been circulated previously. A discussion ensued with the main points being that rents would go up across both allotments sites to £28 per annum, to be more in line with Bridport Town Council charges (tenants will receive advanced notice of the changes, which will take effect for 25/26); people on the waiting list would need to confirm that they would be using the plot themselves; and Bridport Town Council would be asked to improve the entrance to the West Road allotments (which are rented by SPC from them). All in favour.

**0007: Symene Voice:** Cllr Hamblett introduced the agenda item and confirmed plans for the next edition. Contributors were asked to get their content to Cllr Hamblett by 25 July. The newsletter’s name will be changed to ‘Symondsbury Parish Council Newsletter’. All agreed.

**0008: Tree Policy:** This agenda item was deferred to the September meeting.

**0009: Floods and Waterways:** Cllr Hamblett advised the Council that he had joined the River Fly project and . would be writing an article for the newsletter, to find more volunteers.The Clerk explained that local access to suitable riverside locations was very difficult, with steep and slippery river banks. Cllr Colfox offered to look into this issue on his own land where the river runs through it, to explore safer access as an alternative location.

**0010: Meeting venues:** The Council agreed to continue using the school for meetings for the time being, but to move the location to the school hall on a trial basis.

**0011: Reports from Lead members:   
Cllr Hartmann –e) Foundry Lea/Vearse Farm** Cllr Hartmann had issued a report ahead of the meeting, summarising the Working Group meeting on 3 July. Cllr Hartmann had also written - post meeting - to Matthew Pitman (Barratt Homes) regarding the development, in the absence of a management company being formed yet.  
**Cllr Evans –** **h) Community Awards** Cllr Evans confirmed that the Clerk had secured a slot at the upcoming Symondsbury School Achievers Event on 22 July for the Community Awards’ presentations. Most of the Councillors confirmed their attendance at the event.  
**Cllr Elwes** – **c) Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr Elwes fed back on a Neighbourhood Plan meeting she had attended earlier in the day (deputising for Cllr Hartmann).

**0012: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk confirmed that her updates had been covered in the main meeting.

**0013: Items for future meetings:** Tree Policy

**0014: Date and location of next meeting**: Thursday 12 September, Symondsbury School Hall

**Meeting finished at 9pm**