**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 November at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, R Elwes, B Hamblett, S Evans, P Hartmann and B Bates. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk. There were apologies from Cllr Colfox There was one member of the public in attendance.

**0002: Disclosures of Interests and Dispensations:** To **receive** disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest from Councillors 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:**

Karl Rogers updated the Council on the ongoing DMMO regarding footpaths around West Cliff. He also highlighted that he would be in favour of public conveniences at Eype Mouth, if they were being considered.

There were no representatives from Dorset Council. The Police reported as follows:
At sometime between 9and 10 October, unknown offenders broke into a garage and stole a jigsaw and an adjustable spanner drill in West Road, Bridport.
Whilst not specific to the Parish, we would like to advise that in September, we had a handful of thefts from vehicles reported across the patch.  There were a few in Beaminster and some in West Milton, Loders and Uploders.  This is possibly linked to a series of thefts of and from vehicles in the Dorchester area.  One of the thefts in Beaminster was of number plates, which have been found in a vehicle that was stopped and seized in Sherborne recently.
We would like to advise that whilst we have not had anything similar for a few weeks, it is worth being vigilant.  Firstly it is important not to leave any items of value inside any unattended vehicle.  Don’t even hide items, such as in footwells, under seats or under jackets or coats.  If you have a retractable parcel shelf, it is worth leaving this back to show people that there is nothing in the boot space.  I advise to review your security and keeping vehicles as close to your property as possible.  If you are able to use a driveway, or park on the road outside, you can use CCTV or doorbell cameras to monitor you property and vehicle.  Any CCTV that has alert capability, such as doorbell cameras is the best item to consider.  You can also use dashcams inside the vehicle.  Some dashcams are different to others, so it is a good idea to check their specs and capabilities before purchase, so you get one that suits what you want.  If anyone hears or sees any suspicious activity, please call us immediately on 101, or 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.

Cllr Bates also mentioned the recent theft of batteries powering the temporary traffic lights on West Road.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 October 2024:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: Matters arising and actions from last meeting:** The Clerk confirmed that actions had been dealt with.

**0005: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of October 2024:** a) Clerk’s salary, b) HMRC; c) DAPTC; d) Vision ICT; e) Cllr Hamblett conference expenses

 To **update** on online banking: Current account £9,955.02 Savings £24,340.67

**0006: Planning Matters:**

* **P/HOU/2024/06028:** Erect rear first floor extension and alterations Location: The Old Smithy, Atrim Road, Dottery DT6 5PU

**Consideration:** The planning committee felt the extension and alterations are in keeping with the form of the existing dwelling and will certainly improve the living quality of the dwelling. The pitched roof at the same height as the existing is acceptable and the new pitched roof fits in well. As such the additions to the property will fit well into the existing built form and the wider landscape environment.

There is very little effect on the attached neighbour from an amenity aspect.

**Conclusion:** The Planning Committee unanimously agreed to support the application.

**Decision:** Support

* **P/VOC/2024/06084:** Change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage with variation of condition 3 of planning permission P/FUL/2023/00176 (APP/D1265/W/23/3320929) to remove points 2-5 of condition 3 to remove the requirement for a site investigation report, details of remediation works and monitoring and maintenance Location:3 Pond End, Pymore, DT6 5SB

**Consideration:** The Planning Committee noted that the proposed change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage was originally refused by Dorset Council on the basis it would be out of character with the residential boundary patterns in this locality and would provide an uncharacteristic urban extension into the open countryside that would not respect the landscape character and as such would be visually harmful to its character and the Dorset AONB (now National Landscapes). As such at that time the proposal was considered to be contrary to Policies ENV1, 10, 12 and HOUS6 of the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015) and Policies D1 and D8 of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (2020-36) and paragraphs 130, 134 and 176 of the NPPF (2021). This refusal was subsequently overturned by appeal but the appeal stated that the following relevant conditions were appropriate.

The Committee noted that although protected by the conditions of the appeal there is a concern that this land once identified as residential could be developed in the future. In addition, it felt that the requirements of the appeal decision were fair, related to the land and should be maintained, especially around the contamination aspect. Cost was not an issue when related to the land.

**Conclusion:** The Planning Committee unanimously objected to the application.

**Decision:** Object

* **P/FUL/2024/06045:** Proposal: Raise existing patio area to form new raised viewing area with ballustrade to match existing, installation of 2no jumbrellas and festoon lighting and changes to doors and windows of clubhouse. Location: Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, DT6 5LN

**Consideration:** The Planning Committee felt that the installation was completely appropriate for the Leisure Centre. The proposals offered an increase in community provision for all sectors of the Symondsbury Parish area including the Bridport town area.

**Conclusion:** The Planning Committee unanimously supported the application.

**Decision:** Support

* Possible changes at Eype Amenity Area: The Council discussed an upcoming planning application that would be filed for re-use of the amenity area by National Highways (NH). The Council would like to preserve the area as a public amenity – a letter would be prepared to go to NH.

**0007: Resilience:** Reflecting on the excellent presentation prior to the Council meeting by Nigel Osbourne, Dorset Council, Cllr Bates suggested that Resilience should be added to the January agenda with action and discussion points.

**0008: Reports from Lead members:**

**Cllr Hamblett** – **g) Climate and Waterways** Cllr Hamblett reported that Iain Rees (Dorset National Landscapes) would ensure that the environmental measures associated with the Foundry Lea Environmental Assessment plan would be monitored.

**Cllr Bates – k) Allotments** Two meetings had taken place over the weekend with Allotment plot holders. A few issues would need to be actioned as a result but the meetings had been very productive. He also highlighted a ‘Green Allotments’ charity which may be useful to the Council in future.

**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** It had been reported that footpath W18/42 on Eype Down Road had an area that become boggy and smelly. It will be reported to Dorset Council and Wessex Water.

**0009: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk explained how subsequent Remembrance Day Wreath laying arrangements would work now that Amanda Streatfeild was no longer a Councillor. She took an action to produce a calendar of events and action points for Councillors. She requested that all Councillors took an action to audit grit bins in the parish and report back.

**0010: Items for future meetings:** Budget and Precept, Grit Bins

**0011: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 12 December, 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 8.45pm**