**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, R Elwes, B Hamblett, S Evans, P Hartmann and P Colfox. Apologies were received from Cllr B Bates. In attendance: Natalie Bealing, Clerk. There were three members 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**:**  Cllr Colfox declared an interest in the tree, under agenda item 3.

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

Selwyn Holmes wished to discuss Martin Cox’s planned attendance at an SPC meeting back in the Autumn. Work is progressing on the planned new units at Martin’s holiday park and the villagers would like to better understand the complete plan and timeline. Cllr Hartmann said he was happy to attend a meeting between Martin Cox and the villagers, if they would like to set something up. Selwyn would discuss this with villagers to see who would like to take this forward.

Mr Holmes went on to say that he had been in touch with Cllr Sarah Williams regarding the sale of community assets, and in particular the sale of Eype Beach. He had been unable to locate any records relating to the sale. Cllr David Bolwell would follow up.

Cllr Bolwell attended and gave the Council an update. He highlighted that the Devolution bid (that Dorset had been part of) had fallen through for now. A second tranche would take place in 2027. The Local Plan is due out for consultation in the summer. Cllr Hartmann added that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is an integral part of the Plan and that changes to policies need to be made before the plans are finalised, so important work is needed on the NP **now**.

Cllr Bolwell explained that Dorset Council had now set their budget and would need to make some significant savings. There would be now freeze on recruitment at present but jobs would be lost. He added that the Council were looking to transfer a number of assets – particularly hotels – to parish and town councils.

The Housing Strategy now incorporates a policy about not using B&Bs for homeless people. Instead the Council would concentrate on buying houses to accommodate people in need. Cllr Evans asked how the sale or transfer of hotels would affect the homeless and asylum seekers.

Cllr Hartmann asked about the latest status of the Miles Cross roundabout and whether there were any legal issues, especially in relation to S106. Cllr Bolwell will check on the status.

Cllr Ralph asked Cllr Bolwell to follow up on the status of Eype Down Road being made one way (he had last been emailed about it after the September meeting and Council had not had any updates. Cllr Evans followed up with a request to also check on the status of new speed limits in Eype. The Clerk would follow up.

The Police reported as follows:  
Fortunately I have nothing to report for the Parish, at this time. However, I would like to advise of a small spate of breaks/thefts that occurred in the New Year in the area from Netherbury to Marshwood. On the night of Monday 6 into the early hours of Tuesday 7 January, Police were called by three separate residents from Netherbury, Bowood and Marshwood, reporting two male intruders on their property, attempting entry to outbuildings. The latter ending in an assault to the Victim, who confronted the intruders. A vehicle was seen and following a search, was located near Dorchester, where the occupants de-camped and made off. The vehicle has been seized with the contents, including some power tools and number plates. There were subsequently four further calls related to breaks around the same time. The investigation is on-going.

**0003: Planning Matters:**

**P/TRC/2025/00477 Proposal:** T1 Lime – Fell**. Location:**1 Shear Plot, Symondsbury, DT6 6HH **FOR INFO ONLY Consideration:** The Committee noted that no response was required to the planning authority. However, as the neighbour has also supported this application it was felt a response is required. The Committee noted the reports prepared and the potential damage that could be caused should nonaction be taken. As such the removal of the tree was found to be the most appropriate action. **Conclusion:** The Committee unanimously supported the application. **Decision:** Support

**P/FUL/2025/00562** **Proposal**: Proposed installation of four replacement lighting columns and 16 replacement floodlights. **Location**: Bridport Football Club, Skilling Hill Road, DT6 5LA. **Consideration:** The committee felt that in real terms this is a replacement position with an improvement in sustainability. The additional height and use of LED will provide a substantial improvement in environmental conditions especially for Bats and the lowering of light pollution. In addition, there will be an improvement in operational costs. **Conclusion:** The Committeeunanimously supported the application. **Decision:** Support

**0004: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0005: Matters arising and actions from last meeting:** The Clerk confirmed that actions were either complete or on the agenda for further discussion.

**0006: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of January 2025:** a) Clerk’s salary, b) CB Reid

To **update** on online banking: Current account £7,016.27 Savings £24,431.98

**0007: Community Awards:** Cllr Evans updated the Council on latest plans for this year’s Community Awards. New mementoes had been sourced and were approved at the meeting. The plan is to present the awards at the school leavers service (as per last year). To that end, Cllr Colfox suggested that a young person’s element to the awards should be added. Clerk to follow up with Emma Roberts at Symondsbury School.

**0008: VE Day:** Plans would be discussed at next month’s meeting.

**0009: Resilience:** Cllr Hamblett had distributed details about flood risk prior to the meeting.Cllr Colfox said that issues of flooding around Colmers are being investigated and preventative measures are being put in place. Cllr Hamblett raised the issue of the stream at Lower Eype and whether the newer houses were likely to be at risk of flood. Councillors thought that this was unlikely as the stream is piped underground.

Cllr Hamblett was asked to bring a list of risks to the next meeting, which could be prioritised.

Cllr Hamblett asked for support to challenge Dorset Council and other stakeholders about the reduction of care provision in the home. Councillors confirmed that the request had no relevance to the agenda item, so would not be discussed.

**0010: Asset Register:** The Clerk presented an updated asset register. Cllr Colfox suggested adding the parish’s fingerposts. Clerk to contact Selwyn Holmes to establish a comprehensive list to include in the register.

**0011: Church Hub and outside toilet:** Known plans for creating a community hub/space at St John The Baptist Church (as reported in the Colmers and Eggardon View magazine in the summer) had been distributed to Councillors ahead of the meeting, A request for £5000 had been received from the Church to help with the cost of updated the outside toilet at the church. A discussion ensued and the Council felt that they would prefer to provide funding for the bigger project. Clerk to write to the Church wis the decision and also to request more detailed plans, costings and a timeline for the proposed work.

**0012: Reports from Lead members:**   
**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** Cllr Ralph reported on progress on the footpath at Eype. Pollution had built up in the area near a cesspit. The cesspit had been moved and any overflow would now be going elsewhere.  
**k) Allotments** Cllr Bates had submitted a report prior to the meeting.   
  
**0013: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk reported on a piece of work she had been carrying out with Cllr Ralph to update the Business Banking account. A letter of thanks had been received from Wessex Education Life Trust for the money recently donated to enable to charity to deliver sessions at Symondsbury School.

**0014: Items for future meetings:** VE Day plans

**0015: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 13 March 2025, 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 9.05pm**