**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 10 April 2025 at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, R Elwes, B Hamblett, P Hartmann, S Evans, B Bates and P Colfox. Natalie Bealing, Clerk. There were 8 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**:**

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

Sarah Preston highlighted an issue for the village, particularly the area around Shutes Lane, when the Estate put on the Christmas Market 6-8 December. Because the event involved paid parking, visitors tried to evade the charge by parking on both sides of the road in the village, making it impossible for residents to get out of their drives or the village. The bigger issue was the fact that emergency vehicles would also not have been able to get through if required. Ms Preston also reported that Symondsbury School had had to contact parents to stagger pick up times.

Cllr Hartmann commented that events like this need to be well marshalled. There was a Marshal at the bottom of Shutes Lane but they were not able to stop people parking there. Jane Tamone added that more Marshals are needed for events of this scale. John Preston confirmed that the community do not want the Estate to stop doing events, just for them to be better managed. Members present also asked the Estate to consider asking an entrance fee instead of a parking charge so that visitors would be more likely to park in designated car parks.

Cllr Colfox apologised on behalf of the Estate.

Derek Payne thanked the Chair and the Clerk for quick action around the blockage of Quarr Lane. A discussion ensued about more signage to help alert motorists to the fact that the hill was a no through road. The Clerk had contacted Dorset Council but they had replied to say that they were not planning on putting up extra signage at the moment. Mr Payne said he would be happy to have a sign on his own land.

He went on to ask if there had been any update on work at Eype and the A35 to make it safer. Cllr Hartmann would raise this with Jonny Hill. Perhaps traffic coming from Chideock could be faced with a flashing sign to alert of hidden turnings, or the speed limit reduction could be carried on? There was a suggestion that Highways could be asked about this again and to come and look at parking in Symondsbury village more generally – Cllr Hartmann would contact Jonny Hill (Route Manager - Somerset, Dorset & Devon (East of Exeter) to visit, as well as a Dorset Higways representative.

There were no Ward Councillors present and the Police had nothing to report this month.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: Matters arising and actions from last meeting:** The Clerk confirmed that most actions were either complete or on the agenda for further discussion. Cllr Evans had spoken to George Streatfeild regarding the next stage of developments at St John the Baptist Church and had a meeting booked in to discuss further. The Clerk had registered an interest in the phone box in Symondsbury and was waiting to hear back from BT once the consultation period was over.

**0005: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of March 2025**: To **resolve** payments and receipts for the month of March 2025: a) Clerk’s salary, b) HMRC; c) Cllr Evans expenses

To **update** on online banking: Current account £5,651.88, Savings £24,490.86

**0006: Planning Matters:**

**P/HOU/2025/01651 and 01652 Proposal:** Erect workshop, garden shed and glasshouse; repairs to paving; replacement door and windows; erect gate and picket fence **Location:** Cliff Cottage, West Cliff, West Bay, DT6 4HS **Conclusion:** Support

**0007: Reports from Lead members:**   
**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** The environmental issue at Footpath W18/42 had been resolved. The new cyclepath from Chideock was progressing well, although there was still no news on how it will join up with Bridport.

**Cllr Hartmann –c) Neighbourhood Plan** a formal request is needed regarding our social housing requirements. PH to progress. **e)Foundry Lea** No contract has been signed with a developer yet.

**Cllr Evans –h)** He had received one nomination for the **Community Awards** so far and another was being written.

**Cllr Bates- k) Allotments** had submitted a short report prior to the meeting. There was a short discussion about maintenance of the plots and next steps. There was also a dead tree on one of the Pine View plots that needs removing.  
**Cllr Hamblett** updated everyone on Resilience (on which he had produced and previously circulated a short report).

**0008: Clerk’s update:** The Council had been awarded a 2\* award by DAPTC for Cllr Development for 24/25. The Clerk had sent in a VAT return. She asked if Cllrs could refrain from sending emails externally in the middle of the night (unless there were in a different time zone and hopefully, this would be made clear).

**0009: Items for future meetings:** Cllr Bates suggested the **Exhibitions** be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. This agenda item would be discussed in June due to the nature of the May meetings.

The Clerk reminded Councillors about the plans for the May meetings and the need to assign roles and responsibilities and sign off various policies.

**0013: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 8 May, **Annual Meeting of Council** at 6.30pm, followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting** at 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 8.25pm**