**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 5 June 2025 at 7pm at Symondsbury School.

**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 Bolwell** presented a short update to the Council. Cllr Evans asked for an update on the A35 amenity area at Eype and Cllr Bolwell confirmed that there was nothing new to report. There was also a discussion on Miles Cross and the new roundabout.

Cllr Elwes asked about the status of Carters Lane. Cllr Bolwell recalled the last conversation and asked Cllr Elwes to get in touch with the lead Cllr for the project.

**Police report:** At sometime between 2 and 5May, a burglary occurred at a farm building in the West Road area.  We do not have a lot of details at this time, but a window was broken to gain entry and items were found in fields nearby.  It is possible this could be young people “messing around”, but please be vigilant and consider security, especially around out buildings and dwellings that may be uninhabited.  For any security advice, please contact Dorset Police.

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

Cllr P Colfox arrived at 7.05pm.

**0002: Disclosures of Interests and Dispensations:** To **receive** disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting**:**

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 May 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: Matters arising and actions from last meeting:** Cllr Hartmann went through the minutes. He updated Council on the meetings he had had with Dorset Highways and National Highways.

There was a short discussion on Vearse Farm and Cllr Hartmann took an action to write to the local team, requesting that physical copies of their latest newsletter be distributed to nearby neighbours.

Cllr Evans had spoken to George Streatfeild regarding the next stage of developments at St John the Baptist Church and had a further meeting booked in for 19 June.

**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) Stationery; c) CB Reid; d) BT; e) Brights

To **update** on online banking: Current account £13,032.18, Savings £27,551.88

**0006: Budgeting:**

Cllr Hartmann explained that there was no money due from CIL in the next few years and that we have a slightly reduced household figure for the parish – both factors have a negative impact on our budget and therefore even more careful consideration needs to be given to allocation of funds going forward.

Cllr Bates asked for more information on the context behind our current budget – September’s meeting will include a session on budgeting.

**0007: Planning Matters:**

P/VOC/2025/03018 **Proposal:** Erect temporary essential rural workers dwelling (with variation of condition 3 of planning permission WD/D/14/000269 to permit ongoing occupation of rural working dwelling) **Location:** Eype Down Sawmill, Eype Down Road, Symondsbury, DT6 6AH **Consideration:** The Committee acknowledged that the business of the sawmill and charcoal production had been in existence continually for some time and that the temporary approval was granted in 2014. The business had expanded up to the present time and was a successful asset to the Parish. The form of the building on site fits well into the environment and is essential to the running of the business, which the Parish Council needs to support. **Conclusion:** The Committee was unanimous in support for the continued temporary permission for the residential dwelling which is part of the small successful building. The application is for the continuance of a temporary consent and it is left to Dorset Planning department to confirm the period. The Committee felt that perhaps the owner should apply for permanent consent with an agricultural tie, due to the nature of the proven business on site. **Decision:** Support

P/LBC/2025/02635 **Proposal:** Replacement of Crittall style metal windows with matching windows **Location:** Ilchester Arms, Symondsbury, DT6 6HD. **Consideration:** The Committee felt that the Ilchester Arms was a very important part of the village and vital to the community as well as visitors. It realised that the internal environment would benefit from refurbished or new windows especially in the winter. It noted the disparity in window forms across all elevations but recognised the importance of the front elevations. The hierarchy here was important as the order of significance of the windows in question was a) the stone surrounds, b) the leaded light glazing c) the slim painted Crittall metal window inserts. It was felt that new inserts of a very similar section to that of the original Crittall form would not be detrimental when viewed as a whole window form. In addition, and in the current business environment it was felt the community and visitors to the area would be detrimentally affected by any closure. It was also noted that consideration should be given to removeable secondary glazing for the winter period which was felt would not detract from the environment and atmosphere of the premises internal public areas. It is recognised that care must be taken when the works are carried out to the windows to protect the stone mullions, jambs, heads and cills. As such an approved method statement of how the windows will be removed and new ones secured to the stonework as well as the general works will be undertaken is recommended. **Conclusion:** The Committee unanimously supported the application. **Decision:** Support

**0008: Asset of Community Value (The Ilchester Arms):** The Clerk had previously circulated the draft application form for the re-registrationof the village public house to the ACV scheme. Councillors were unanimous in agreeing that the nomination should be filed and suggested a couple of additional items of content.

**0009: Exhibitions –** Cllr Hamblett outlined his paper, which had previously been distributed. Working in conjunction with Bridport Museum, he recommended two separate exhibits to be displayed for a set period of time– one covering Eype, the other featuring Symondsbury.

There would be some costs associated in pulling the exhibits together – insurance and build to name but two. Cllr Hamblett will use the village fete as an opportunity to promote the idea and see if there is any interest from within the parish to form a working group and also offer up content.

Council will review in September.

**0010: Reports from Lead members:**   
**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** There was a discussion about the relocation of footpaths around the Vearse Farm development. Cllr Bates flagged that at least one did not have an exit towards Miles Cross (a favoured route with walkers to the beach). Cllr Ralph explained that there will be opportunities to apply for other routes in the future.

Cllr Elwes raised the issue of the new footpath from Chideock and the fact that there is a path that could be used for stage two, with suitable strimming and undergrowth management. Cllr Ralph agreed to contact the Ranger to progress.

**Cllr Evans –d) BLAP Steering Group** Cllr Evans had attended a meeting that afternoon – nothing significant to report. He had also now received three nominations for the **Community Awards**. The closing date for this year has now passed.

**Cllr Bates- l) Allotments** Cllr Hartmann asked Cllr Bates to lead on discussions with Dorset Council and the planners.  
**Cllr Hamblett** **b) Resilience**. A meeting of Responders has been called for Wednesday 18 June. **m) Climate and Waterways**  A River fly survey was due to take place at Black Brook soon.

**0011: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk confirmed that the BT phone kiosk by the Ilchester Arms had been purchased by the Council for £1. Added to next month’s agenda for a discussion on how it might be used.

The Clerk had also contacted the Old Schoolroom Trust at Eype regarding their lapsed ACV application for the New Inn and was waiting to hear back from a scheduled meeting where this would be discussed.

Payroll processing charges have tripled for 25/26. She had sought advice from the DAPTC and they had suggested administering the payroll as an extra duty of the Clerk. The Clerk would investigate this, including contacting the Council’s Internal Auditor – who has experience in this area - for advice.

The Clerk reminded Councillors about the process for emailing Cllr Evans. This should always be done through the Clerk. Cllr Colfox suggested that Cllr Evans could be referenced in emails for transparency (for example on planning matters) by simply writing “Cllr Evans, via the Clerk”.

**0012: Items for future meetings: Exhibitions** and **Budgeting** for September. **Phone kiosk ideas** for July.

**0013: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 10 July at 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 8.50pm**