**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 10 July 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:**

Apologies had been accepted from the Ward Councillors and there was no report from Dorset Police this month.

Tanya Outfin asked is a 20mph zone could be considered in the village again, particularly from Duck Street to Legs Lane. **Cllr Hartmann agreed** to explore options once more, starting with the primary school.

She also highlighted that Billets Mead has a tributary of the Symene running alongside it which is currently dry. Can any water being released from elsewhere to fill it up? **Cllr Hamblett to explore**.

Lynne Godfrey notified the Council that the fence at the back of Shear Plot is unmaintained and dangerous. There is also a lot of overgrown hedging. Cllr Colfox added that the stock fencing between Shear plot and his land was subject to a covenant. **Cllr Colfox would provide some wording** to include in the report to Magna Housing. **Clerk to submit** a report asking for maintenance work to be carried out.

Derek Payne advised the Council that a survey had recently taken place in Quarr Lane and asked if the Council were aware, which they were not. He also asked if there was any progress on a new sign being supplied by County. There was also a discussion around litter bins in the area. **Clerk to contact Dorset Council** for an update and to ask if Dorset Council would provide a bin (and be responsible for emptying it).

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, R Elwes, B Hamblett, P Hartmann, S Evans, P Colfox and B Bates. Natalie Bealing, Clerk. There were four 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: There were none.

**0003: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 June 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

**0004: Matters arising and actions from last meeting:** Cllr Hartmann went through the minutes.

Cllr Hartmann had previously taken an action to write to the local Vearse Farm team, requesting that physical copies of their latest newsletter be distributed to nearby neighbours. He would follow this up again as it didn’t appear to have happened.

Cllr Evans reported back on a series of visits he had made with George Streatfeild on 19 June to look at some examples of church modifications. Cllr Evans had also written up a report on the visits which is currently with George for comment. Add to agenda for September.

**The Clerk would** look at interest rates again.

**0005: To resolve payments and receipts for the month of March 2025**: To **resolve** payments and receipts for the month of June 2025: a) Clerk’s salary; b) Microsoft renewal; c) Payroll costs. d) Cllr Evans expenses; e) HMRC; f) Community Awards

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

**0006: Household Recycling Centre**

Things had developed since this agenda item had been added and Dorset Council were no longer including the local tip in their plans for pre-booking. However the Council noted that this was a short reprieve and that we would need to address it again in the future. **Cllr Evans** **would prepare a letter** to DC thanking them for reversing the decision and asking them to contact us if there are any updates in the future – as the centre sits in our parish.

**0007: Planning Matters:**

**P/HOU/2025/03241** and **P/LBC/2025/03242** **Proposal:** Erect ground floor extension and alterations to listed building **Location:** Lower Eype Farmhouse, Barton Lane, Eype, DT6 6AW

**Consideration:** The site was visited by a number of Parish Councillors, including the Chair, so that a full appreciation of the proposals could be understood. It was clear from the visit to the site and from the drawings that the proposed extension was clearly subservient to the main farmhouse and caused no harm to the building grouping. The internal alterations of the main farmhouse and annexe, together with reinstating previously blocked up windows offered much improved living spaces without detriment to the existing built form. There was now a clear flow of space which benefitted the form of the listed building. There was some discussion regarding the use of a timber finish to the small extension and the internal 3-dimensional shape of the room. However, it was agreed that this would be down to the requirements of the applicant as the overall position and form of the extension was found to be acceptable. **Conclusion:** The Committee unanimously supported the application. **Decision:** Support

**P/FUL/2025/03655** **Proposal:** Installation of sauna **Location:** Purcombe Farm, Purcombe Farm Access Road, Whitchurch Canonicorum, DT6 6RL Consideration: The Committee discussed the proposal especially with regard to the location and existing camping/glamping facilities. It was felt that the addition of the Sauna to the small scale established site would not cause any harm to the landscape or environment and would be beneficial to tourism and help support the farm. The building was found to be in keeping in terms of scale and materials used together with its position in association with the natural swimming pool.

**Conclusion:** The Committee was unanimous in support of the application. **Decision:** Support

**P/FUL/2024/06791 Location:** Picnic Area Café, New Street Lane DT6 6AS **Description:** Demolition and removal of existing buildings and structures and the construction of a new highway depot. Application will be considered by Southern and Western Planning Committee on 17 July.

The Planning Committee agreed that **Cllr Hartmann would attend** and speak against the proposal.

**P/CSC/2025/03665** - Consultation on the operation of a certificate exempted camping site. Purcombe Farm, Whitchurch Canonicorum DT6 6RL **FOR INFO ONLY**

There was also a short discussion about Tuckers Cottage and the fact that the latest appeal had been turned down. **Cllr Evans to write to Planning** to ask about next steps.

**0008: Asset of Community Value (The New Inn):** The Clerk confirmed that she had applied for the re-registrationof the Symondsbury village public house to the ACV scheme. This will now be reviewed by Dorset Council. Attention then turned to the New Inn whose registration had also ran out. It had been nominated previously by Eype School House trustees but they had decided not to re-apply. Councillors were unanimous in agreeing that this second nomination should be filed and **Cllr Hartmann offered to start the process**.

**0009: Communication and Data Protection –** Cllr Evans outlined his paper, which had previously been distributed. The Council generally agreed with the principles set out in the paper. There was also a discussion about .gov email addresses which the Clerk understands are a requirement If the Council ever has to undertake a full audit. **Cllr Evans will summarise** the key points of the document and Council will review in September.

**0010: Reports from Lead members:**   
**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** The Clerk had heard back from Dorset Council regarding the DMMO applications for footpaths in West Cliff. DC confirmed that as there had been a number of opposing views that the matter would need to progress to the next stage.

**Cllr Hartmann – h) BANP Steering Group -** The Council agreed to stand down from this group and concentrate on the JCC– **Clerk to let Bridport Council** know. **n) Vearse Farm** -Cllr Hartmann feedback about a conversation he had had with the Community Land Trust regarding affordable housing. **He would write to Dorset Council.**

**Cllr Evans –q) Community Awards**. The awards would be presented at the school’s Achievers Service, St John the Baptist on Tuesday 22 July.

**Cllr Bates- l) Allotments** Cllr Bates confirmed that he had heard back from Dorset Council and the planners about the Vearse Farm allotments. Next step would be to meet with Bridport Town Council.  
**Cllr Hamblett** **b) Resilience**. **An edited version of the plan needs to be produced**, working with the Clerk. **m) Climate and Waterways** There was a discussion about Himalayan Balsam and the need to eradicate it. Work needs to focus on the water source as the plant will continue to come downstream. **Cllr Hamblett to involve West** Dorset Wilding and the **Clerk to contact Netherbury PC** to look at a joint project.   
**Cllr Colfox – g) Trees** National Trust propose to establish 5.85 hectares of woodland on National Trust land between Morcombelake and Bridport.  
**Clerk – p) Lengthsman** The **Clerk would ask BTC** for the latest summary of activities carried out by the Lengthsman.

**0011: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk confirmed that she was exploring ideas locally for the BT phone kiosk by the Ilchester Arms now that it had been purchased. **She would also need** to look into insurance. She had also made some progress with payroll provision.

**0012: Items for future meetings: Church Hub, Exhibitions**, **Neighbourhood Plan, SPC Newsletter** and **Budgeting**

**0013: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 11 September at 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 9pm**