**SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the annual meeting of Symondsbury Parish Council held on Thursday 11 September 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 nothing significant to report from Dorset Police this month.

Deb and Geoff Cottrill highlighted the possible fate of a row of trees adjacent to the Miles Cross roundabout, after discussing the clearance plan with contractors there. Cllr Hartmann updated parishioners on an email exchange with National Highways. NH confirmed that there was currently no schedule of works agreed for the wider project. Cllr Hartmann suggested that the neighbours contacted Planning Enforcement at Dorset Council to ensure they are aware of the tree removal and what the plan is for replacements (quantity/size/species).

Chit Chong commented that the plans for Miles Cross in the Neighbourhood Plan (presented in the Town Hall yesterday) does not show a pedestrian crossing. Cllr Hartmann explained that the map does not show any paths. The Council will be asked to produce more accurate maps. Once the new junction is considered ‘operational’, plans for footpaths, cycle paths and equine crossings will be discussed with NH.

Chris Parker from the Eype Environment Protection group wanted to follow up after the letter that had been sent to SPC. Cllr Hartmann explained the Certificate of Lawfulness and the background around recent planning applications by West Dorset Leisure Holidays, confirming that everything that has been done is correct and has been regularly reviewed by Dorset Council. A discussion ensued. Geoff Pook from the group asked if **SPC would write to DC to request a meeting for the residents.**

There was a discussion about the local plan – parishioners were asked to comment on the consultation with meaningful responses regarding the proposed housing developments (especially if you are objecting) and other proposals outlined in the plan.

Claire Staveley asked the Council to discuss the next phase of the path from Chideock to Bridport. **It will be added to the agenda for October.**

Jane Tamone asked of there had been any progress on parking restrictions in Symondsbury. **Cllr Hartmann confirmed that it is being discussed with Dorset Council, in conjunction with a possible speed reduction.**

Lynne Godfrey notified the Council that some work had taken place at the back of Shear Plot. There is still the issue of the covenant which is with **Cllr Colfox to action***.*

**0001 PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, B Hamblett, P Hartmann, S Evans and B Bates. Natalie Bealing, Clerk. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Colfox and Elwes. There were 19 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 10 July 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

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

Most of the actions were complete. Several are still in train – signage and a bin at Quarr Lane; work on the stock fencing between Shear plot and the Symondsbury Estate (the estate is locating the covenant for Magna); Vearse Farm social housing.

**0005: To resolve payments and receipts for the months of July and August 2025**: a) Clerk’s salary; b) Allotment rent; c) Payroll costs. d) Cllr Evans and Hartmann expenses

To **update** on online banking: Current account £11,080.74, Savings £27,668.63

**0006: Planning Matters:** Cllr Ralph updated the Council on Sawmills.Cllr Hartmann confirmed thatDorset Council had provided a contact regarding social housing at Vearse Farm. **Cllr Hartmann would contact him.**

**0007: Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan:** There was a discussion about both plans. **SPC will need to set up a couple of consultation sessions in coming weeks for parishioners to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan**

**0008: Budgeting:** There was a brief discussion about budgets for next year. **Cllrs were asked to identify big ticket items ahead of the October meeting.**

**0009: Church Hub –** Cllr Evans had distributed some architect plans ahead of the meeting. He also confirmed that he had met with George Streatfeild (PCC) and also had support from the fundraising team at the Diocese. The Walbridge Trust had been set up to help provide a community space in the parish, so funding would be available from that source. Other sources will need to be identified.

Cllr Hartmann suggested that **SPC could help by funding an initial survey up to £2500**. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Ralph.

**0010: Parish Councils Survey: The survey needs to be completed both individually and collectively by SPC before 31 October.**

**0011: Reports from Lead members:**   
**Cllr Ralph – a) Footpaths** Cllr Ralph would prepare a letter to Stuart (DC) regarding Eype Down.

**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**. Cllr Evans thanked the Clerk for her work on the awards, which he felt were going from strength to strength.

**Cllr Bates- l) Allotments** Cllr Bates had circulated a report ahead of the meeting.  
**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. Netherbury PC confirmed that they were happy to host Cllrs from SPC to discuss joint working at their September meeting. **j) SPC** Newsletter Would like to get an edition out before Christmas. **Cllrs to suggest content.**

**0012: Clerk’s update:** The Clerk confirmed that the BT phone kiosk now belongs to the parish. She had chased Ed Morello MP to see if he had heard from Dorset Council – he hadn’t. She asked if both Cllr Bates and her could attend some online allotment training – Cllrs agreed. **Clerk to book it.**

**0013: Items for future meetings: Chideock footpath**, **Survey, SPC Newsletter** and **Budgeting**

**0013: Date and location of next meeting** Thursday 9 October at 7pm, Symondsbury School Hall.

**Meeting finished at 8.45pm**