

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of Symondsburry Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at Broadoak Village Hall. **These minutes will be agreed at the February Parish Council Meeting. PRESENT:** Cllrs – S Ralph, A Streatfeild, P Colfox, P Allen, J Roddy, S Ainley, N Mawditt and P Hartmann. In attendance: Marilyn Stone, Clerk, and one member of the public.

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

A parishioner expressed concern regarding the public footpath that connects Broad Lane, Eype to the coast via the southern end of Watton Lane. The recent heavy vehicle activity and lack of signage is dangerous to the public, dangerous to the traffic in Broad Lane, has caused stress and become a nuisance. The SPC were asked to undertake their own research and request that it returns to full safe use. A stile within the hedgerow between land in the ownership of Tuckers Cottage and that of Highlands End allows the footpath to enter the land at Tuckers Cottage and this is where the difficulty and potential further safety issues arise. This footpath crosses at an angle towards what is a gap between a new house under construction and an existing barn construction. The footpath then follows the farm road between buildings to its connection with Watton Lane. The route has become really difficult to follow and dangerous due to these building works/excavation works and further works on the agricultural field. Cllr P Colfox stated that he had seen the area and was concerned about its poor condition and the amount of materials and debris in it. SPC have reported this footpath condition to Dorset Council back in June 2021 and again in December 2021 but as yet have not received a reply. Cllr P Allen suggested that we should request a site visit with our Dorset Ward Councillors. The Clerk will write formally to Dorset Council to request this and express dissatisfaction that their footpaths officer has not addressed this issue. **Proposed by Cllr N Mawditt, seconded by Cllr P Hartmann, all in favour.** Cllr P Colfox asked whether the culvert under A35 between Watton and Eype could be up-rated from a footpath to a bridleway. In a general discussion about access from the Vearse Farm development to the coast of Eype, great concern was expressed about pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders crossing the A35 - it was also discussed whether the old New Street Lane (opposite the picnic site) could be used. Cllr P Allen offered to write to his contact at National Highways to ask about crossing arrangements at the new Miles Cross roundabout - it was also noted that Winston Maskell, who has been researching a new cycle path from Chideock, is now focussing on the northern side of the A35 to connect to West Road and Bridport.

Cllr S Ainley joined the meeting at 19.20pm.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence: None received.

2. Disclosures of interests and dispensations

To **receive** disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from councillors and employees on matters to be considered at the meeting: Received from Cllr P Colfox regarding item 3(b) although Cllr P Colfox declared this interest, no decision was to be made at this meeting as the matter had already been decided. Received from Cllr N Mawditt regarding item 5.

3. Minutes of the last meeting:

a. To **review and approve** Parish Council Meeting 14th December 2021: The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

b. To **note** Planning Committee Meeting 4th January 2022. Cllr A Streatfeild expressed her thanks on behalf of SPC to Cllr P Hartmann for the planning report that he had completed in relation to Vearse Farm. Cllr P Hartmann advised that he had recently attended a Dorset Council Planning Committee Meeting regarding Symondsburry School. The plans that were presented to the Dorset Committee were different from those we had seen previously but the planners had taken into consideration SPC comments and despite an officer recommendation to refuse, the compromise first suggested by SPC's Planning Committee was approved by Dorset Council's Area Planning Committee. Cllr P Colfox congratulated SPC that at last we had been heard by the Dorset Council Planning Department.

4. Payments and Receipts: To resolve to approve payments and receipts for the month of January 2022:

a) Clerk's salary b) Vision ICT £1,167.60 c) HMRC PAYE £5.40

To **note** bank balances: Current £4,108.04 Deposit £27,654.50

Proposed by Cllr A Streatfeild, seconded by Cllr P Allen, all in favour.

Cllr N Mawditt left the meeting.

5. Bridleway 28 and Footpaths 19 and 89, West Cliff, Symondsbury: Cllr P Hartmann handed out a report to all Councillors. He advised that he had undertaken a lot of research; looking at historical information going back to 1902. The 1902 Ordnance Survey Map clearly shows the routes of Bridleways and Footpaths before any development at West Cliff took place. The 1950's Ordnance Map identified the initial private development of residential dwellings at the lower south eastern section of West Cliff. Within this development the roads and footpaths are in the ownership of the Trustees of this area of the private estate. The additional development of West Cliff in the 1960's required the stopping up of parts of the public routes and the continuation of the public rights of way along elements of new roads and footpaths to be constructed. This was legally required by the Stopping up of Highways (County of Dorset) (No3) Order. These new roads and footpaths were to be constructed to adoptable standards by the contractor/developer and would be used for the continuation of the public right of way. This did not happen. The original development pattern was, for whatever reason, altered to incorporate additional dwellings (these roads are not adopted as defined in the Order or in the ownership of the trustees. It appears the individual properties own the land up to the centreline of the road. It is clear that the continuation of the public rights of way was a legally binding intention as defined within the Rights Of Way – The Stopping up of Highways (County of Dorset) (no 3) Order, 1961. Cllr P Hartmann advised that the easiest solution would be for everybody (including the West Cliff House Owners Association (WCHOA) to agree to a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to rectify the failure to comply with the legally binding intention set out in the Statutory Instrument. If the WCHOA were not in agreement then an extended process would need to take place, potentially ending up in a legal Judicial Review.

Cllr P Allen advised that it had been a public right of way for a very long time. Cllr S Ainley asked why a sign is on display diverting walkers away from West Cliff towards Eype and then back to West Bay and advised that a stile and a gate had been removed and therefore livestock could get through. Cllr P Colfox added that his interpretation of the statutory instrument was that it imposed a duty on the land itself, not just on the original developer, to complete the road to adoptable standard and to reinstate the footpaths and bridlepaths as detailed in the statutory instrument. These were liabilities attaching to the land and inherited by subsequent landowners and therefore the proposed DMMO was a good compromise and all should get behind it including the Errors and Omissions insurers of all the conveyancing solicitors used by all the homeowners when they bought their houses on the estate. Cllr P Hartmann added that whilst he has to fully complete his research there was already sufficient information available and he would like to prepare the DMMO paperwork to start the process for approval at the next meeting of the Council. **Proposed by Cllr P Allen, seconded by Cllr J Roddy, seven councillors in favour.**

Cllr N Mawditt re-joined the meeting at 19.47pm.

6. Field Clearance – West Cliff: Cllr N Mawditt reported that Dorset Council had sent a team in to cut everything down in the field at the top of West Cliff owned by Dorset Council. It would appear that no assessment in relation to wildlife had taken place. Something similar had happened in the past which was reported to the police at that time. Cllr P Colfox advised that he had mentioned this at the recent Asset Transfer webinar with a request to see if the land could be transferred to SPC. The Clerk to write a letter to Dorset Council asking who they consulted with and to ask for a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment in relation to the protected habitats and species. **Proposed by Cllr P Colfox, seconded by Cllr P Hartmann, all in favour.** After the initial proposal it was further agreed to prepare forms and investigate the implications of requesting an asset transfer from Dorset Council to SPC. **Proposed by Cllr P Colfox, seconded by Cllr P Hartmann, all in favour.**

7. Bridport Energy Champions Initiative: No further actions required at this stage.

8. Defibrillator project: A plan of defibrillator locations is being sought and this will be discussed further at our meeting in March.

11. Climate Change – The Way Forward: Cllr N Mawditt had attended a recent meeting with the Bridport Climate Forum. He advised that the group were looking into the possibility of setting up a website around resilience and climate change as a single focal point that all parishes could access. The group were looking at funding and whether it would be viable. SPC were asked if we could look at ideas within our parish eg gas boilers being replaced, electricity supply, grants available. Cllr P Colfox added that we should look at biodiversity and phasing out fossil fuels and asked whether we should employ a 'guru' to take this forward? In

the meantime SPC should have a 'climate change' inspirational speaker at our Annual Meeting in May and the Clerk will contact Dorset Council for suggestions.

12. Reports from Lead Members:

a) Footpaths SR	b) A35 JR	c) DAPTC PC
d) BLAP Steering Group	e) BLAP Parish Liaison MS	f) Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan – JCC
g) Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan – Steering Group	h) Lengthsman Link SR	

- a) Cllr S Ralph reported that mountain bikers had been destroying some of our footpaths and also riding dangerously.
- b) Cllr J Roddy read out a communication received from Chris Loder, MP, advising that Cllr Sarah Williams is the SPC representative on the A35 working group. The Clerk will invite Cllr S Williams to our next meeting to provide SPC with an update.

Community Governance Review Cllr P Allen reported that the presentation to Dorset Council had taken place and will be in the public domain during February which may result in questions being raised. Cllr P Allen felt that Dorset Council were sympathetic to proceed with what we had suggested.

Vearse Farm Cllr P Allen reported that three of the councils in the Neighbourhood Plan were submitting responses to the Reserved Matters consultation but the JCC had not, as yet, made a submission. As chair of the JCC he is not pushing for a JCC submission, as not all parish councils involved have a common view.

Commemorative Platinum Jubilee: Cllr P Colfox advised that Symondsburry Estate had applied for a grant to undertake a woodland pasture on various areas within the Estate. The Clerk read out a communication received from Lucy Rowland, Bridport Tree Planting offering three free tree saplings to each residence which had been communicated via our Facebook page. Cllr A Streatfeild asked whether SPC could offer Symondsburry School some fruit trees to plant in their orchard. The Clerk advised that she had researched the cost of Platinum Mugs to give to each child at Symondsburry School based on their full roll of 112 students at a cost of circa £400. The Clerk to offer the fruit trees and mugs to Symondsburry School **proposed by Cllr P Hartmann, seconded by Cllr J Roddy, 7 in favour (Cllr P Colfox abstained because of his interest in the trees).**

13. Items for future Agenda

To **raise** items for inclusion on a future Agenda: February – Bridleway 28 and Footpaths 19 and 89, West Cliff, Community Governance Review, Guest Speaker Annual Meeting, Commemorative Platinum Jubilee, Climate Change. March - Defibrilators

13. Correspondence: The correspondence list had been previously circulated. **Dorset Council Proposed Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy** – Dorset Council are proposing to offer two concessions: a) provide 3 hours free parking for Blue Badge holders who receive certain allowances and b) to provide 1 hour free parking to all Blue Badge holders when a valid pay and display ticket is purchased. SPC felt that under b) 1 hour free parking is not adequate and felt that 2 hours was more reasonable with no requirement to purchase a parking ticket. **Proposed by Cllr P Colfox, seconded by Cllr P Hartmann, all in favour.** The Clerk will forward our response.

14. Date of next meeting

To **note that** the next scheduled meeting of Symondsburry Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.00pm, Broadoak Village Hall. A Planning Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.00pm, Broadoak Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20.45pm.

