

Minutes of the Puncknowle & Swyre Annual Parish Assembly held In the Village Hall on Tuesday 29th April 2008, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mr A Edwards (Chairman) together with 26 local electors

IN ATTENDANCE: C Buckland (Parish Clerk), Malcolm Davenport (Dorset Police), PCSO Laura Thompson, Simon Thompson (Dorset Community Action) and Sarah Jackman (Age Concern)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Rev Bob & Jean Thorn & Councillor M. Buckland.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 24th April 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Mr Edwards reported on the main issues considered by the Parish Council during the past year. (See Chairman's Report Attached).

4. PRESENTATION BY MALCOLM DAVENPORT ON HOMEWATCH

Malcolm Davenport thanked Andy Marshall for all his work as co-ordinator of the Homewatch during the last five years and for setting up the successful "Traffic Light System". The new co-ordinator will be Robert Reeks; Janet Jackson had agreed to be the representative for West Bexington, with Paul Pritchard continuing for Swyre.

5. PRESENTATION BY DORSET COMMUNITY ACTION

The meeting was given a presentation by Simon Thompson from Dorset Community Action on updating the Parish Plan. His main role is to help get funding for these Parish Plans. Broadmayne had already completed their update and may be willing to help/advise if Puncknowle decide to carry out an update. This will be discussed at a later meeting. Simon also raised concerns about village Post Offices -Dorset could lose up to 30 rural Post Offices- further details of Post Offices at risk would be released on 15th July 2008.

6. DORSET POPP (PARTNERSHIP FOR OLDER PEOPLE PROJECT)

Sarah Jackman advised the meeting of all the things that Age Concern could do to make life better for older people. This service is available to the over 50's, enabling them to stay in their own homes safely with fire safety and security issues dealt with by appropriate people free of charge. The POPS board were looking for another member and funding was now secured for several years.

7. PRESENTATION AND REVIEWS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

a) Allotments

Ms Debbie Legge advised that there were now 17 Allotments with 2 people on the waiting list. There was now an "Allotment Pack" for members. The committee had met the previous night and completed an Inspection of the plots. The Orchard at the top of the Allotment field was now established.

b) The History Society

Debbie Legge reported on the recently formed History Society which had 10 to 15 members with 4 meetings held each year. They were doing a "Living Memories Project" and had a folder with all the bits of history of Puncknowle – any further photos or information would be appreciated. They were planning to produce a historical map for Puncknowle– similar to the one done for Swyre. A visit to the History Centre in Bridport was planned. There would be a Coffee Morning held on Saturday 31st May -10am until 12 in Puncknowle Village Hall.

c) Bride Valley Fledglings

Mrs Carol Bennett kindly gave an update on the Bride Valley Fledglings Playgroup. (See attached Report).

d) Crown Puncknowle Fundraisers

Mr Malcolm Bush advised that the Crown Puncknowle Fundraisers had been reformed with the new tenants of the Crown. (See attached Report)

e) Footpaths

Robin Pither gave the Footpath report and advised that there would be a working party on the footpath to Knackers Hole. Lizzie Heathershaw had left WDDC and no there was no replacement for her yet.

f) Puncknowle & Swyre Homewatch

There would be a meeting of the new Homewatch Coordinators shortly.

g) Villages Web Site

Additional information was needed to complete the Web Site and active members needed to keep it updated.

h) The Playing Field

Liz Slater advised that there were plans to revitalise the village Playing Field for local children and all in the community. 2 new picnic tables were planned and tree surgery would take place. She thanked Tony Edwards and all the helpers who had attended the “working party”. The dry stone walling around the Old Blacksmiths Forge would be repaired.

i) The Village Hall

Mr David Buckland reported that the improvements to the toilet block had been completed, the central heating installed and the kitchen improvements will begin shortly (the funding for this was now in place). The floor will need to be replaced in the future. The Committee were looking into the possibility of a Broadband connection (through Connecting Dorset) and want more activities to take place in the hall. There was a Quiz on the last Friday of each month. A “100 Club” had been set up with 34 members at present (half the money going to Hall funds and half to prizes)

8. OPEN DISCUSSION ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO LOCAL ELECTORS

- a) Debbie Legge raised concerns about the farmers spraying their fields and asked if there was any way that local residents could be given advance warning of any spraying so that windows etc could be closed.
- b) Concerns were raised about the state of the road side and verges and the long delay in the implementation of any repairs – residents were advised to phone WDDC “Clarence” direct (Tel: 0800232323).
- c) The Digital TV Changeover would take place in Dorset in May 2009.
- d) Mike Brown was congratulated as Editor of the new/ updated Bride Valley News.

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

Signed:.....
(Chairman)

Dated:.....