

Minutes of the Puncknowle & Swyre Annual Parish Assembly held In the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th April 2009, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mr A Edwards (Chairman) together with 17 local electors

IN ATTENDANCE: C Buckland (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Brown & M Buckland & K Martin.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 29th April 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Mr Edwards gave a brief overview of the Parish Council in the past year. "The Council had been sad to lose Councillor Carol Taylor through business pressures but had welcomed John Dilley in her place. The year had been an active one with a number of planning applications, planning irregularities and enforcement orders referred for consultation and advice by West Dorset District Council. The Parish Council had also facilitated a meeting between a number of local residents and the Rt. Hon Oliver Letwin MP – who had presented him with a petition about the planning approval given for reconstruction of a beach chalet. Apart from its statutory responsibilities, the Parish Council aimed to provide forum where local residents can make representations about the provision and quality of any public services which affect them – with a view to taking up matters of concern on their behalf to West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council, or any other authorities providing public services. The Council had ensured that the interests of village residents were represented in the Bridport Local Area Partnership (of Parish Councils and other bodies) and in the Dorset County Association of Parish and Town Councils. Forceful representations had been made to the DCC Highways Authority about improving road safety on the B3157 Coast Road, about road resurfacing, speed limit consistency, road markings and cats-eyes restoration, and the Rural Roads Protocol for the County. Representations were made as they arose to the Maintenance Team of DCC about flooding and potholes on our rural village roads. A public meeting had been held to consider a review of the 2003 Parish Plan (available for viewing on Dorset Community Action's website) – it having been agreed there to conduct a review and that Debbie Legge would act as co-ordinator. The Council had participated in the Committee leading the Digital TV Switchover for West Dorset on 6th May & 20th May 2009".

4. TALK ON TRANSITION TOWNS

Dave Rickards had been unable to attend this meeting but had given his notes to Councillor Edwards who gave a short presentation on Transition Towns. Mr Richard Peto, a local householder who had an association with the Transition Towns initiative through his own home redevelopment, took questions and provided further explanation. Dave Rickards would be asked to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss this issue further.

5. PRESENTATION AND REVIEWS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

a) Allotments

Ms Debbie Legge advised that there had been a slow start to the season at the Allotments. The committee would meet in the next few weeks for the inspection of the plots. Sally & Jonathon Jevons had taken over Ruth Brierley's plot when she left the village and there were 2 people on the waiting list. Derek Heaver had planted some wild flowers in The Orchard.

b) The History Society

Debbie Legge reported that the next computer History session would be on the 4th Saturday in May (23rd). The "Living Memories Project" was progressing with the collecting of materials and verbal memories. There would be a coffee morning with a clothes swap and a Cheese & Wine evening in the Village Hall – tickets were available from the Crown.

c) Bride Valley Fledglings

Mrs Carol Bennett kindly gave an update on the Bride Valley Fledglings Playgroup; she had retired as Play Leader but still helps as a volunteer in the growing area. Fiona Evans had taken over as new Play Leader. The 21st birthday celebrations last June and the Xmas Market had both been a success. Since moving to Thorners School the transition from Playgroup to school has been much easier for the children and now half the children have a hot lunch at the school. Nestling session (for the younger children) is held on Thursdays.

d) The Book Club

Mrs Carol Bennett also spoke about the newly formed Book Club/Reading Group which had met 3 times. The 15 members had chosen the books for the next year which were then obtained through the local library.

e) Crown Puncknowle Fundraisers

Mr Ross Wallace spoke about the Crown Puncknowle Fundraisers which had raised over £50,000 for local groups since 1996. Garden fundraising events with stalls would be held at the Crown Inn this year on 24th May, 28th June & 16th August.

f) Footpaths

Robin Pither gave the Footpath report and advised that there had been 2 ½ working parties at Knackers Hole. Some footpaths remained muddy at present. The WDDC footpaths department had undergone changes of personnel & and nothing was happening.

g) Puncknowle & Swyre Homewatch

No report but Rob Reeks was the new Homewatch Coordinator at Puncknowle with Janet Jackson covering West Bexington and Paul Pritchard continuing at Swyre.

h) Villages Web Site

Councillor Tony Edwards reported that the community website needed updating more regularly than he had the time to do and that skilled active members were needed to reduce the dependency on one person. He would be launching a new advertisement soon to encourage people to assist and was looking in particular for a new Chairman to carry things forward for the future.

i) The Playing Field

Liz Slater advised: - The new tarmac pathway round the Playing Field had been completed and was proving extremely popular with local youngsters. The games area had been levelled and turfed but would remain fenced off for a few weeks to allow the turf to settle. She and the Committee were now looking to find funding for a multi purpose play unit to replace the present wooden play house. Regrettably the dry stone wall had not yet been rebuilt. The situation had been a difficult one but the committee had not lost sight of it and the wall would hopefully be replaced this year either by voluntary work or commercially. The next Playing Field Committee meeting would be on Friday 1st May at 7,30pm. Councillor Edwards thanked her for the work on the Playing Field and also thanked Councillor Sandy Marshall for filling in the forms for Grant applications.

j) The Luncheon Club

Mr Sid Marshall spoke about the Luncheon Club which had been set up under the auspices of POPPS and had been running on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for the last year. Councillor Edwards thanked Ken & Val Martin, Madeline Marshall, Sue & Mike Brown for all the hard work and time involved in running this lunch for over 35 residents (up to a maximum of 40 people), who each pay £4 per head – which does cover the costs.

k) The Village Hall

Mr Sid Marshall also reported on the improvements completed - the toilets, the new kitchen and the lowering of the ceiling in the main hall. Estimates had been received for the redecoration. A new floor would be needed in the kitchen & the kitchen ceiling would be lowered to conserve the heat. Looking to the future- more members were needed to serve on the Committee from October. The Broadband connection had been installed and was available every Wednesday afternoon 3pm to 6pm – this needs more use. There are also “Hi -Tec/Lo - Tec” computer orientated coffee mornings on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10am. The “100 Club” needed more members with only 40 at present – only £18 per year with prizes drawn each month at the Luncheon Club.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO LOCAL ELECTORS

- a) Anna Lovell advised that the Beach Clean at West Bexington had 35 people despite the inclement weather & 32 sacks of rubbish had been collected. There had been less debris than usual from the sea.
- b) Anna Lovell also advised that BT & POPPS were setting up “Dorset Living Memories”. This is located in Dorchester and includes recording memories and putting photos onto digital recording media so that local memories would not be lost.
- c) The Digital TV Changeover dates were 6th May & 20th May 2009, there will be meetings at Chancery House, Bridport for anyone wanting further advice on this.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....
(Chairman)

Dated:.....