

## **DYMCHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015, at 7.00pm in the Peter Sloper Room at Dymchurch Village Hall.

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman, Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Vice-Chairman Cllr. Russell Tillson, Cllr. Terry Mullard, Cllr. Ian Meyers.  
Parish Clerk and 8 members of the public.

**Apologies:** None

#### **Approve Minutes of 2014 Annual Parish Meeting.**

Proposed by Terry Preston, seconded by Richard Blackwell, that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 be approved. Unanimous.

#### **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted the parish council's activity over the past year.

#### **Recreation Ground:**

It is proving very difficult to obtain funding for a new pavilion, Government grants are not easily obtained and private funding is difficult to attract. The parish council will consider all possibilities in trying to raise the funds needed for a new pavilion.

#### **Skate Park:**

Agreement has been reached with the Environment Agency and the parish council has been offered a long lease on the land at the top of Martello Tower no.25 car park for a skate park. Three skate park designers have visited the site and met with local youth groups. Designs are being drawn up and costed. A planning application will be submitted this summer and applications for funding will be made.

#### **Resident Car Park Permits:**

Arrangements have been made again this year with the Post Office to sell resident car park permits. The cost of a permit has been increased to £20, and the additional income made will go towards the cost of leasing land from the Environment Agency for a skate park.

#### **The beach area:**

Following many accidents on the revetments the Environment Agency has installed 9 access points for people to use. With the help of local resident Denise Henley, who monitored all the accidents, highlighting where they were taking place, the Environment

Agency was able to highlight the 'hot spots' and put in access steps in the appropriate areas.

There is a continuous problem regarding dog mess on the seawall and the parish council is in contact with SDC for more enforcement officers to work in the area.

Precept:

This year the parish council increased its precept by approximately 50p per household, to keep its budget in line with inflation.

Village Signs:

The parish council has worked with the Marsh Academy to produce a 'you are here' sign in the village and this is displayed on the wall of central toilet block. Two new village signs are to be erected shortly, produced by Sam Briggs, proprietor of the local forge.

Some residents complained about the village Christmas Tree last year and vandalized it. A local volunteer group has offered to take on the role of arranging hanging baskets and Christmas decorations but has yet to attend a meeting to discuss the matter further.

Two new councillors will be joining the parish council for the next term of office, they are Paul Brownscombe and Merlin Redding. The chairman thanked Jackie Tyler, Bruce Campbell and Richard Crispin who resigned from the council during the last year.

Cllr. Tom Gibbs has decided not to stand again this term. The chairman thanked him for his service to the village and also thanked the staff for their help and support.

Chairman informed he will be lighting the beacon on the seawall at 7.30pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, in commemoration of VE Day and invited all to attend.

**District Council Report:**

SDC Cllr. Tillson said he was proud to be a member of the village council and thanked his fellow district councillors Roger Wilkins and Terry Mullard for their support and co-operation. Cllr. Tillson has supported the village and his efforts have seen the commissioning of new bins, new wc on the seawall, extended summer opening hours to central toilet block, renovation of car park, abolition of the charge for coaches in the car park, community pay-back scheme renovating the pavilion, new signage on the beach, sea-wall liaison with the Environment Agency and greater restriction for dog owners on the beaches during summer. He instigated the member grant scheme for local organizations and gave his allocation to Dymchurch History and Heritage Group and Day of Syn activities. He is active in liaising with Stagecoach and remains against a nuclear dump on the Marsh. Cllr. Tillson is SDC's Budget portfolio holder and has reduced council tax this year. Cllr. Tillson is not a candidate for Romney Marsh Ward at the elections, but enjoys working on Dymchurch Parish Council and supporting the best village in Shepway.

SDC Cllr. Terry Mullard informed he has given grants from his Ward Budget to CARM, the Village Hall, Church Hall in Jefferstone Lane and Church Hall Car Park.

SDC Cllr. Roger Wilkins informed he has given grants to the Grasshoppers Youth Football Team, local Church, Twinning Association and Dymchurch History and Heritage Group.

**Chairman invited questions from the public:**

Richard Blackwell commented that this is the second year that the local KCC Councillor had not attended the Annual Parish Meeting and he thought this was very poor, considering there are 4600 residents in the parish and they deserve an update from their local representative.

The chairman advised the KCC Councillor had resigned.

Denise Henley enquired on behalf of local traders if the parish council was going to provide hanging baskets in the High Street. The chairman informed that a local group had offered to carry out this task, but had failed to attend any meeting to discuss the matter further. Also, Denise enquired if the appearance of some shops could be improved to help make the village more attractive. Chairman advised that new Ward Plans are being drawn-up at Shepway District Council and these improvements are to be included in the overall plan for improvements to the parish.

Denise advised that the village clock is out by 20 minutes and the bins on the seawall can't cope with the volume of waste during the height of summer. She also invited a parish council representative to attend Trader meetings and commented that Dave, the street cleaner is excellent. The chairman agreed a member of the parish council will attend Trader meetings and the other matters will be actioned.

Richard Blackwell suggested the parish council set up committees for Economics and Tourism and co-opt members of the public. Also there should be more flower beds in the village and the parish council should demand more of Shepway's income from council tax to improve the village.

Cllr. Terry Preston thanked Cllr. Tillson for initiating the member grant scheme and is pleased that Traders are willing to work with the parish council. Terry raised concern about Dr. Cullen's surgery closing and asked the parish council to send a letter thanking him for his service to the village and ask his intentions of how his patients at Dymchurch will receive continuous service.

Proposal from the floor.

Richard Blackwell proposed that this village meeting supports the efforts of Dymchurch Parish Council and District Councillors in securing the continuation of the surgery at Orgarswick Avenue and replacement for Dr. Cullen on his retirement and if necessary will launch a public petition to secure a continued doctor's practice at the premises.

Seconded by Terry Preston. Voting Unanimous.

Terry Preston informed the meeting that the doctor's surgery was erected by Romney Marsh Rural District Council.

Denise Henley advised she will put VE Day lighting of the beacon on the Dymchurch Facebook.

Terry Preston informed the Dymchurch History and Heritage Group will shortly be finalizing their plans for a trail.

Chairman informed he is pursuing improvements to Eastbridge Road with Kent Highways.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.