

## SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Hall on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 at 7 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs. J.R. Turner (Madam Chair), Mr. K.O. Harding, Mr. G.R. Cox, Mrs. H.L. Lazenby, Mr. P.H. Vaughan, Mr. I.P. Eastment and Mr R.G. Sargent, County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillor Mr. N.F. Laphorn

**1. Minutes of last APM** – Previously publicised were signed as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising:**

**Parking at Cross Lane:** It was felt the “No Parking” signs have probably done some good.

**Village Signs:** It was agreed that these should be cleaned regularly and kept tidy.

**Community Spirit:** It was felt that under the leadership of Madam Chair, every effort has been made to increase community spirit.

**3. Madam Chair’s Report**

Madam Chair reported as follows:

“ It was a sad day when the Council saw the departure of one of its longest serving members, Mr. Redvers Burt, who with his wife Monica ventured off into pastures new and for the village to have to say goodbye to his knowledge, wisdom and general caring attitude. The Presentation Evening arranged for Redvers and Monica was well attended especially by representatives from all the other organisations with whom he was involved. A great night was had by all.

The Council were also saddened by the loss of Richard Watts who sadly passed away. Richard was a very knowledgeable man who stood for what he believed in and wasn’t afraid to say what he meant. His contribution will be greatly missed.

It is sad to see fellow Councillors depart, but it is also great to see new ones joining the PC. It is the willingness of Parishioners wishing to be part of the Council, who have a deep sense of caring and commitment, that bring along to meetings their own personal knowledge and opinions, that can only enhance the PC even more. With another vacancy to be filled, we look forward to welcoming a new member to the Council.

### **Planning**

Planning issues are still high on the Council’s list of priorities. Some are straightforward while others need more thought and care. Sometimes we have to battle to try and keep our village looking like a village without it being over developed, but still trying to achieve the fine balance of different types of houses and people wishing to develop their own properties. The completion of our Rural Housing Needs Survey indicated a need for 2 and 3 bedroom homes in the Parish which the Council is looking into. Unfortunately this will not happen over night.

The application by BT to install a phone mast in Shute Lane certainly concerned local residents, with a petition at the shop and letters of complaint. Strong objections were put forward by the PC. The Area North Planning Meeting held at the Village Hall was well attended by Parishioners showing their support and the strength of their objections. There was also support from people who could not make the meeting. Thanks must go to Christine Shire who single handedly alerted the residents to this application, instigated the petition and generally put a lot of time and effort into making sure her voice was heard, especially with the Planners.

Myself, Helen Lazenby and Peter Ellis voiced our objections. Good news for us, as the Area North Committee unanimously supported our views and recommended refusal. We now have to wait and see if BT appeals. If they do, we have another fight on our hands!

I would like to personally thank Helen Lazenby for her expertise and guidance, especially with this application.

### **Appearance of the Village**

The Village Green continues to be well cared for under the expertise of Robin Davies. Money given to the Parish from our County Councillor gave us the opportunity to replace the old bins on the Green with brand new ones with covers and more capacity.

The hedge laying and the removal of undergrowth at the entrance to the village on the A372 has undoubtedly opened up the view as you drive down past the recreation ground and hall. An excellent project well done. Thanks must go to Redvers Burt, Rupert Cox, the Conservation volunteers and fellow Councillors who helped with this.

Our Tree Warden Barbara Gasson is being kept busy keeping an eye on the trees around the village. One of the tasks we are having to look at, on recommendation from SSDC's Arborist is the thinning out of the row of trees at Ilchester Lane before they get too big. This is to enable other trees the chance of growing into big mature trees. Barbara Gasson will mark the trees for felling and hopefully this will be undertaken in autumn 2005.

### **Website**

The website continues to be well used. Thanks must go to the webmaster Mr. Steve Sensier for his continuous updating and extending of the site, adding lots of information from the organisations within the Parish.

### **Highways**

The Council continues to monitor the highways and paths around the Parish, but also welcomes reports from residents with regard to potholes etc. The response time from Highways is very good with regard to repairs of potholes and other issues. We hope this continues.

We have at last a 30 mph limit through the hamlet of Knole and we await (hopefully) a 30 mph limit at Upton. The adding of more signs and yellow lines across the roads around the Parish continues to be questioned and we as a PC are continuing to monitor the situation.

### **Finance:**

The Precept went up again this year to £5,000 to cover ever increasing essential routine expenses. With new projects underway and general maintenance of the upkeep of the village and unfortunately lack of volunteer labour, we are having to look to pay people to do specific jobs. Sometimes we are able to get funding but in the future this will get more difficult.

With the possibility of the PC taking over the management of the Village Hall, it is possible that the Precept may have to rise again next year.

## **Future Events**

With the Parish Festival Weekend, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005, well and truly on its way, it is another opportunity to bring the community together. Hopefully there will be something for everyone and it will raise much needed funds for all the organisations involved.

The introduction of the Friends of Long Sutton Church will also see more community minded fundraising events and we look forward to those.

A special thank you to the Clerk for her guidance, help and support in my first year as Chair, also to my fellow Councillors and to the people of the Parish. Being Chair of the PC hasn't changed my life in the last year it has only enhanced it even more in the people I meet officially and socially. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and I look forward to another year as your Chair, if you'll have me. "

## **4. Maintenance and Improvement Programme for the Parish**

The items put forward in proposed priority were:

1. **Trees on the Green** – Cut out dead wood and general health care. Plant new trees to replace present ones when the time comes. Pollarding (2006?).
2. **PC Notice Board** – This needs new lettering and oiling.
3. **Village Road Signs** – Paint logo white to enhance legibility.
4. **Village Green** – Paint the rails opposite the Post Office, the seat around the tree and the seat just across from the Devonshire Arms. We already have a quotation of £600 approximately for this to be done with Hammerite paint.
5. **Trees in Ilchester Lane** – Thinning out required.
6. **New Tree Planting Programme** – Suggestions?
7. **Improve Hedge between Playing Field and Main Road** – Make it similar to newly laid hedge on opposite side of road.
8. **Dog Fouling Bins** – More bins, for example, in Peace Lane and at the limits of the village on roads and droves where dogs are regularly walked. The suggestion comes with an offer to "sponsor" one bin.

Members of the public were invited to put forward items to be added to this list and Mr. Thickett suggested the sites which are considered to be "grot spots" in the Parish e.g. the old Builders Yard at Littlefield Lane. This has however now changed ownership and the Old Pavilion at the Recreation Field which had also been a matter of concern has now been removed.

It was agreed that the PC would discuss the above matters and the priority which should be given to them at their meeting to follow. There was earlier discussion regarding the painting of the logo on the village road signs when after discussion, it was agreed that for the time

being no action would be taken regarding this but the signs should be kept clean and tidy to enhance legibility.

**5. Any Other Business**

Madam Chair invited County Councillor Mr. Derek Yeomans to speak.

He said that there was nothing new happening to report and that it would be an interesting three months following the election. Anyone taking over was not going to find it an easy task.

Madam Chair thanked him for his attendance at meetings and wished him all the best in the election.

There being no further business, Madam Chair thanked everyone and the meeting was closed at 7.35 p.m.