

## Draft Minutes of Lympsham Annual Parish Meeting, 15 May 2017

**Councillors Present:** Mr. J. Hinton (Chairman), Mrs. A. Bennett, Mr. B. Gooding, Mr. R. Jones, Mrs. J. Rosser & Mr. G. Tuttiett.  
Also in attendance: County Councillor R. Filmer & Mr. D. Harvey (Presentation) plus eight residents.

**Minutes** were taken by the Clerk.

**AO1/17 Apologies:** Mr. R. Hoare & Dist. Councillor A. Gilling

**AO2/17 Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016:** were confirmed and signed.  
[Proposed: B. Gooding, seconded: G. Tuttiett – all agreed.]

**AO3/17 Financial Report:** The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and circulated copies of the balance sheet; he made comparisons with the previous year's, explaining a few positive differences e.g. improvement in Lympsham News revenue since editor has made it an all-colour production & improvement of invoicing plus more grants received for Play Area & Lympsham News. Although the carry forward is in excess of previous year's, this is due to funds banked for the Play Area improvements that have just happened or are due soon.

Mrs. J. Rosser proposed the acceptance of the accounts, seconded: G. Tuttiett – carried.

**AO4/17 Chairman's Report & Annual Review:** The responsibilities of this Parish Council have been increased with various commitments like emptying dog-bins, grounds maintenance and improving equipment along with safety and security of the Play Area. Along with likely Government restrictions and the danger of future shortfalls, we have had to raise the Parish precept slightly to accommodate these increases: this actually puts an extra 39 pence a month on a Band D household.

As mentioned, the Play Area now has some new equipment: thanks to Cllr. Julia Rosser's commitment and tenacity and to Cllrs. Brian Gooding and Robin Hoare for their practical skills in removing the old apparatus.

Elsewhere in the village LEBE's Community Café is going from strength to strength with its continued success providing a weekly base for conversation and great refreshments. Still masterminded by Lynne Booth and her team, this project's profits provide support for a variety of village causes, charities and, of course, the village fingerpost sign that was refurbished by an anonymous group.

The monthly surgeries held at the Pavilion are still popular, with a PCSO in attendance at all of this year's meetings so far: along with the Parish Clerk, they are available for residents' consultation.

Malcolm Bennett is now producing the Lympsham News in full colour and, with interesting content, is encouraging more advertising which is helping to cover the cost of printing and distribution to all households.

The Sports Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> May which was very successful. The Sports Committee, under the Chairmanship of James Counsell Q.C., ably assisted by the Steward, Kasia, have revitalised the Pavilion and its facilities this year and our thanks go to them.

The Grounds Maintenance contract was renewed this year with Phil Collings continuing to look after our surroundings. There is also a team of 'guerrilla' gardeners and litter pickers who quietly keep our village 'up together': our thanks to them too.

There are still serious concerns about speeding along the main road and through the village, and the increase of heavy lorries. This situation continues to be monitored by our volunteer Speed Watch Team led by Marcus Hatton.

Notable thanks this year must also go to: Fiona Robertson, Head Teacher of Lympsham C.E. V.C. Academy & Pre-School; Gwen and Ron Hatton, Caretakers of the Manor Hall; Mikhael Comerford and all the volunteers at the Village Shop and Post Office; David Edworthy for auditing our accounts and Dave Prowton and his family for the charity Christmas lights.

Affordable Housing is still high on our agenda after all these years; now we have another possible site in mind which still has to go through a feasibility study and then to public consultation, before going forward.

We have a new County Councillor: Bob Filmer; he has served us well as a District Councillor (along with Andrew Gilling) – congratulations and thanks for all your support.

My personal thanks must go to my fellow Councillors whose unstinting work behind the scenes this year has been commendable.

Finally, huge thanks to Robin Leveridge, our Parish Clerk, who continues to be an enormous asset to this Council and to me personally.

On a different note, I would like to pay tribute to Captain Dick Evans L.V.O. Royal Navy who passed away this year: he was my predecessor as Chairman of Lympsham Parish Council and a well respected gentleman in our community; our thoughts go out to Deirdre and family.

It just remains for me to say that Lympsham Village is still a wonderful place in which to live and socialise and, on behalf of the Parish Council, our thanks go to everyone in the community that supports us and makes it work.

**AO5/17 County Council Report:** County Councillor R. Filmer mentioned that there were quite a few 'new' Somerset Councillors following the very recent election looking forward to serving their divisions.

**AO6/17 'Affordable Housing – helping local people find a suitable home, at a price they can afford':** Presentation by Duncan Harvey, Affordable Housing Policy and Development Manager, SDC; following this, Mr. Harvey answered various queries.

N.B. Copies of the presentation & further information can be found by following the links on the website:

[www.lympshamvillage.co.uk/](http://www.lympshamvillage.co.uk/)

**AO7/17 Open Forum:** No other matters were forthcoming.

**The meeting ended at 8.38 p.m.**