

Minutes of Lympsham Annual Parish Meeting, 19 May 2014

Councillors Present: Mr. J. Hinton (Chairman), Mr. R. Hoare, Mr. R. Jones, Mrs. E. Male, Mrs. J. Rosser & Mr. G. Tuttiett.
Also in attendance: County Councillor J. Denbee & District Councillor R. Filmer

Minutes were taken by the Clerk.

AO1/14 Apologies: Cllr. B. Gooding, District Councillor A. Gilling [Accepted]

AO2/14 Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held on 20th May 2013: were confirmed and signed.
[Proposed: G. Tuttiett, seconded: Mrs. E. Male.]

AO3/14 Financial Report: The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and circulated copies of the balance sheet; he made comparisons with the previous year's, explaining where there were significant differences.
G. Tuttiett proposed the acceptance of the accounts, seconded: Mrs. E. Male – carried.

AO4/14 Chairman's Report & Annual Review:

My grateful thanks to Robin Leveridge for preparing the annual budget for the Parish Council and, of course, for the continued support of David Edworthy in his job as auditor prior to our submission to the Audit Commission.

We are still managing with our income from the Precept and occasional grants, but owing to increased demands from the District Council, it is certainly becoming more of a challenge each year.

We continue to help fund the dog and litterbin collections, the Christmas Lights Appeal and the maintenance of St. Christopher's churchyard. Maintaining the grounds around the village and providing a safe play area for the children are still priorities of this Council.

The Parish Council relies on a number of people within the community for their expertise and support through the year and therefore my thanks must go to Fiona Robertson (Head Teacher of Lympsham First School), Paul Kelson (for editing & distributing the Lympsham News), Gwen and Ron Hatton (for looking after the Manor Hall and the School premises) and to Heather, Sandra and Jim for their work in the Post Office and Shop.

The Sports Pavilion still continues to be a hub of activity within the village for all sorts of functions. This year we hope to see improvements to the facilities and buildings and, under the stewardship of Dave and Liz, its continued success will be maintained.

Neighbourhood Watch still continues to receive support from PCSO Pauline Dixon and her colleagues at Burnham Police Station; the monthly surgeries held in the Sports Pavilion each month with the Parish Clerk are still a great success.

We may also see Pauline and fellow Police officers assisting the Speedwatch Team in the village, so my thanks to Marcus Hatton and his group of volunteers for giving up their time for this vital service.

We are very fortunate to have several clubs and groups within Lympsham that play a very important part in our community. Unfortunately this year saw the demise of the Men's Branch of the Royal British Legion which was also responsible for organising the Annual Flower Show at the Manor Hall. The Flower Show, however, continues to run under the banner of the School Fete.

Flooding on the Somerset Levels was a major issue this year, taking key personnel away from their normal duties at Somerset County Council and Sedgemoor District Council and disrupting other services in the district. As a Parish Council we assisted where we could and there were various fund raising events in the village.

We had our own contingency plan in place for sandbags thanks to Councillors George Tuttiett and Brian Gooding. The Parish Council are currently in discussion with the Drainage Board regarding some issues in the village and we are thankful for their support. Residents need to be more aware of the importance of the rhyme system around our village, in order to prevent serious problems in the future.

Not many planning applications came before the Parish Council this year, possibly due to the economic climate. We are still pursuing the aspect of Affordable Housing for the village, but it is a slow process.

The Manor Hall Management Committee is still operating under the auspices of the Parish Council, and my personal thanks must go to all the Committee Members who contribute to this vital organisation within the village.

Last, but not least, my thanks to Robin Leveridge, as Clerk to the Parish Council and Secretary to the Manor Hall Management Committee; all my fellow Parish Councillors; our District Councillors and the residents of Lympsham and Eastertown for all their help and support during the past year.

AO5/14 County Council Report: County Councillor J. Denbee referred to his role as Deputy Chair of Somerset County Council where he experienced people proud of being U.K. citizens. He mentioned the flooding problems and solutions alongside funding implications; he emphasised the importance of rhynes that have a significant purpose. He mentioned good reports re schooling in Somerset and positive comments re new facilities at Musgrove Hospital. He reminded the meeting that Council Tax was similar to previous years', but that Highways presented issues that required persistence and patience, referring to the junction at Brean Road / Rectory Way and pothole repairs.

AO6/14 Open Forum: No matters were raised.

The meeting ended at 7.59 p.m.