

Minutes 2024

SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 22nd May 2024

MINUTES

Present: Chair David Smith

Councillors: John Ellis, Iain McNeil & Sandy Millard

Clerk: Sam Smith

Dorset Councillor: Jane Somper (absent)

Members of the public: Gill Samways, Jane McNeil, Dick Hood, Sandra Jelbart, Martin Jelbart, Ian Pinder, Christl Pearson, Walter Steward, Roger Snowdon, Claire Snowdon.

AGM

22/05/01 Election of Chairman: All Councillors agreed with the proposal to re-elect Cllr David Smith as SWPC Chairman for another year.

22/05/02 Apologies for absence: Jane Somper, Manya Steward, David Milanes, Barbara Asher.

22/05/03 Co-option of a Parish Councillor: All Councillors agreed with the proposal to co-opt Mike Asher on to the Parish Council. Mike joined the other Cllrs at the front table.

22/05/04 Declaration of Office & Register of Interests: All Cllrs signed their 'Acceptance of Office' forms. The Clerk will send the link for the ROI form to Mike Asher via email. This form needs to be completed by the 31st May 2024.

22/05/05 General Power of Competence: It was confirmed that due to the Clerk obtaining her CiLCA qualification and a 1/3 of the PC Cllrs having been elected that the PC meets the eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 s8.

END

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

22/05/01 Annual reports from various groups within the community:

WI report: by Sandra Jelbart. SWIM WI welcomed some new members in the year including ladies from Marnhull and Charlton giving us a membership of 43. We've had a wide range of speakers and activities at our monthly meetings. A highlight in May was when a very full Sutton Waldron Village Hall welcomed a local celebrity chef regaling us with stories of her career, followed by a cookery demonstration.

Other highlights included another illustrated talk by field guide Willy Perez, this time on South American hummingbirds and Linda Lamon on the development of Mays Wood in Bere Regis. Outings have included an afternoon meeting at Springhead and a visit to the Big Yellow Bus Project in Shillingstone which we are supporting. Last year we planted there a rowan tree and some perennials. We ended 2023 with a Christmas lunch cooked by the committee in Fontmell Magna hall and entertainment by Yiannis a Greek dancer.

Finally, a quick word about Sutton Waldron Village Hall. This time last year I reported that SWIM had applied to the Land Registry to register the freehold of the hall. We were warned that there would be a long delay! Finally, after a 19 month wait, we received confirmation in January this year that the freehold was registered.

Hopefully this protects the asset for future generations, and nobody will need to worry about this again until the end of this century!

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The Friends of St Bartholomew's Society: by Martin Jelbart. The Friends of St Bartholomew's Society is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission which is now in its 24th year. It fulfils a vital financial role in supporting the preservation and repair of the fabric of Sutton Waldron church and its churchyard. The Society is supporting the PCC's twin initiatives of the restoration and maintenance of the Owen Jones Wall Paintings and the re-rendering of the external south and west walls of the tower. These are substantial projects which will require grant funding alongside the Society's contribution. So far, the Society has funded most of architect's fees incurred to date applying for the approvals required before grants can be applied for or work can start.

The existence of the Society and its ability to fund a proportion of major works has in the past enabled the PCC to leverage up on the Society's contribution when applying for external grants and it is hoped it will be the case again. This is all only possible due to the continued financial support from members of the Society and in 2023 annual membership donations increased to £1,950. As a registered charity, Gift Aid was claimed worth a further £474. The Society was also honoured to receive the funeral donations for Bill Maddocks, a founding trustee and first treasurer of the Society. Membership continues to decline slightly but the committee is keen to reverse this trend and increase its membership. It will also help demonstrate to grant funders the community's interest in preserving the fabric of the church.

We ask everybody who is not already a member of the Society to consider becoming a member. Membership is open to anyone for a minimum annual subscription of £1. There is no other commitment and just by being a member may be of immediate benefit by helping the grant applications for the planned major works.

Village Hall report: Jane McNeil gave the following report. In 2023/24 the Village Hall obtained a new roof, it was thought at first that old roof had a leak, but after further investigation it was found to have come the end of its life and a replacement was recommended. Fund raising took place with £600 being raised at a 'Call my Bluff' evening. £10,000 was obtained from an 'Awards for All' grant & £2,000 was raised by local residents. This along with some village hall saving funds and the target of a whole new roof was reached. The roof should now be good for the next 30 years.

PCC report: by Cllr Sandy Millard. At the APCM in April the current members were re-elected, with Roger Snowdon being welcomed on to the Council. The faculty to start work on the paintings was granted in March 2023, the PCC appointed Cliveden Conservation to undertake the work on the Tower, Revised quotes are being obtained from Opus Conservation for work on the paintings. The grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for money to pay for both has been prepared by Rod Swift. It is hoped to hold an event in the near future to highlight the Church history and the renovations required. The Electoral Roll remains at 39. The Church boiler is still going, although a suitable alternative heating system is still being looked into.

There will be a new Curate starting in July, David Stirling, there will be a Benefice Service held on the 14th July for everyone to meet him. The Bungalow next to the Church is being sold by the Diocese to the Retirement Clergy Trust, it will be used to house retired clergy. The Vicar will be taking a three month sabbatical in 2025. The After School Club/Boat Club is now taking place on Thursday evenings, which is proving more popular than Sundays. The Ministry of Cake continues under Phyll Bennett, please contact her if you know any needy recipients.

Community Speed Watch: by Gill Samways. Good news SpeedWatch is working! In February 28 people were recorded as speeding, in March 8 people and even less in April. The number of cars passing and their speed is going down. No cars travelling over 45 mph have been recorded this year.

END

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

22/05/01 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

22/05/02 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th March 2024 were unanimously approved.

22/05/03 Matters Arising from the previous meeting:

a. Telephone box – Cllr McNeil has built some new shelves in the red phone box for the books. The old books have gone to the charity shop. The box is now looking much tidier.

b. Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Smith attended an open session on the 16th of March 2024 in the Fontmell village hall, this was a chance to look at the proposed changes for the FM plan. Cllr Smith reported back that the changes were minor and would not affect Sutton Waldron. There is still no decision from DC planning on the proposed development for more house on the edge of the Spring Meadows development.

c. Footpath by church – this matter is now resolved. The horses will now be fed away from the path. Jane McNeil has reported a broken stile to the DC Countryside Ranger, this may be a landowner issue, but DC will confirm. A footpath bridge has been replaced by DC recently, all agreed that they had done a good job.

22/05/04 Correspondence/Other Parish Matters:

a. Report from Dorset Councillor: Cllr Jane Somper did not send a report. Councillors congratulated Jane on her re-election as the Beacon Ward Councillor.

b. Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter & Telephone Box: in accordance with the Risk Management Policy the Chair confirmed The Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box had been inspected. The Spinney has bloomed recently but is now a bit overgrown. The telephone box could do with a re paint, and it is starting to lean slightly.

c. Register of the Spinney land: Martin Jelbart had highlighted, as part of our annual audit, that the PC does not hold a copy of the title deeds for the Spinney. Martin applied to the land registry and the documents showed that the PC holds a possessory title for the land (due to no previous owner being located) The set amount of time has now passed so the PC can now register as the outright owners. We also need to also change the contact address. Roger Snowdon is managing this on behalf of the PC.

d. PC insurance renewal 2024/25: It was agreed to renew the annual PC insurance at a cost of **£189.48** per annum. It was agreed to raise the rebuild cost of the bus shelter rebuild from £6,000 to £10,000. The Clerk will inform the insurance company.

e. Community speed watch: report in APM minutes

22/05/05 Planning Applications: no new applications received.

22/05/06 Finance:

a. Bank & Cash Balance: The reconciled bank and cash balance as of 22nd May 2024 was **£5,085.95**.

b. Payments to be authorised: It was agreed that the following should be paid:

- S Smith **£137.80** (April wages & expenses)
- S Smith **£160.30** (May wages & expenses)
- Village Hall hire **£48.00** (2023)
- Dorset Waste Partnership **£157.56** (annual emptying of the dog waste bin)
- Community 1st Trading **£189.48** (PC annual insurance)
- DAPTC **£96.67** (PC annual membership subscription 2024/25)

50% of the annual precept **£1,500** has been credited into the PC bank account.

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c. Annual Return for year-end March 2024: The end of year accounts have been audited by Martin Jelbart and he has approved them for signing off. PC Cllrs thanked Martin and the Clerk for their timely preparation of the accounts. All Cllrs agreed it to approve the **Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement & the Accounting Statements for 2023/24**. The Chairman signed the documents.

22/05/07 AOB/Open Forum: Wessex Internet have made a request to attend a future PC meeting to present their full fibre expansion plans for the area. The PC has also had a request from a literacy reading charity to do the same. Is this appropriate for a PC meeting? It was agreed that PC meetings have a limited audience and so the requests would be turned down. An email has been received from the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster, who has been campaigning in the House of Lords on improving the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal. Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting a Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. It has its first reading on the 5th June. The PC agreed that this is something that they would support. A road closure to allow the Street (crossroads to Vale Farm) to be top dressed is planned for the 3rd July – 18th July 2024. It was thought that the date might change due to the July election. At the triangle of land, Napier's Way/Church Lane 2 kerb stones have become dislodged, the Clerk will report to Highways. The drains need clearing in village, the Clerk will contact DC Highways to request a visit from the clearing machine. The graffiti on the village sign has now been cleaned off.

22/05/08 Reports:

- a. Footpaths:** nothing further to report.
- b. Church report:** in APM minutes
- c. Village Hall report:** in APM minutes

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 18th September 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed by the ChairmanDate.....