

Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 15 May 2019
Shroton Village Hall on at 7:00 pm

**The Annual parish Meeting is a meeting of the Parish electorate.
It is not a Parish Council Meeting.
The Parish Council Chairman calls and chairs this meeting.
There is no prescribed format for this meeting and
its recommendations are not binding on the Parish Council.**

1. **Present:** Parish Councillors Mrs J Hewitt (Chair), Mr K Morris (Vice Chair), Mrs D Mower, Mr H Gibson Fleming and Mr J Milmer.
6 residents and 'Chester' of the Parish attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on **16 May 2018** having been circulated and made available for the Parish (noticeboard and Parish website) prior to the meeting. The minutes, as a true record of the meeting and were signed and dated by the Chairman.

2. **Apologies** - No apologies taken.

3. The purpose of the Chairman's Summary is to review the Parish Council Business, that has taken place over the previous 12 months and to highlight the major issues your Parish Council has addressed and will continue to do so in the future. Each year an Annual Parish Meeting is held at which residents can air issues and ask the Parish Council to investigate certain matters, which may be of concern and require the council's support. Although the event is NOT a formal Parish Council meeting it is facilitated by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. The Parish Meeting is governed by specific legislation under Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The meeting is an opportunity to discuss 'parish affairs' it is not an opportunity for electors to make complaints about the Parish Council.

Separate minutes must be kept which are then approved at the next Parish Meeting, which is sometimes a whole year on. As the event is only held once a year the DRAFT Minutes of the most recent meeting will be placed here pending their formal agreement at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman's Summary May 2019 – May 2020

The Parish Council continues to maintain the Glebe for the Parish and local community. The Glebe green is a unique, well maintained green area for the residents and visitors to the village to enjoy. The Parish Council actively encourages and supports community activities taking place on the Glebe, and takes particular care to advise organisers of their responsibilities for its use and enjoyment by residents and visitors alike. The Glebe, it's trees, furniture and play area facilities are insured and regularly maintained under the stewardship of the Parish Council. The council is currently organising a recommended 5-yearly inspection of all the Glebe trees by a qualified and experienced tree surgeon to complete any remedial or maintenance work deemed necessary.

The Parish Council supported several hugely successful village initiatives to commemorate the Armistice of World War 1. A decorative memorial bench was purchased (through community donations) for location on the Glebe. This bench will be maintained, insured and is registered on the council's property and asset record. A commemorative English Oak sapling, grown in Dorset, was planted on Marysfield by kind permission of the Ranston Estate. The village community organised an exhibition of World War 1 memorabilia from local residents and devised a hugely popular evening of World War 1 reminiscences through songs, the spoken word and pictures of the Great War.

The children's play area remains a valuable asset to the community. It is inspected annually together with a rolling self-help maintenance schedule for visual inspections and basic maintenance i.e. cutting the play area grass, weeding and replacing play bark. The council encourages the community to inform the council of any problems or issues they may observe concerning obvious signs affecting the safety of the play equipment within the area of play. A scramble net was replaced in September 2019. The ongoing costs of insurance, equipment replacement and maintenance for pieces of existing play equipment is a matter of continued concern for the council, and will require, a collective effort to fundraise for this valuable community asset.

The area of the Glebe dedicated to a wildflower and fruit tree garden is an ongoing project in its sixth year. I am delighted to report an abundance of yellow rattle (depleting the thick grass) and a growing variety of wild flowers. The North Dorset Ranger Team (Dorset Council) kindly cut this area in August with equipment that shakes seedlings back into the soil.

The Parish Council owns property which includes, 5 village benches, the stone Millennium Cross, the stone War Memorial, 4 grit bins, the Jubilee Bridge (Glebe), the brick bus shelter and a recycled red telephone box. The recycled telephone kiosk is now the home of the village book recycling scheme and the council wishes to thank Mrs Jane Morris for organising and maintaining this facility. The council also owns various pieces of furniture on the Glebe as well as 6 traffic calming gates situated at the entrances/exits to the village. The dog waste bins installed in Bessells Lane and Frog Lane are appropriately used and much appreciated by dog walkers. There is, however, the continued problem of irresponsible dog-owners not cleaning up after their pets on walking paths within and around the village.

Road safety in the Parish is of paramount importance to the Parish Council. The recent installation of the village gateways have been installed to encourage road users to decrease their speed through the village. Gateways for the hamlet of Farrington are due to be purchased in the next financial year. The Parish Council remains involved with the lobbying and activities of the A350 & C13 Community Group concerning the road safety issues on these main arterial roads to and from the coast. Mr Barry Mower is thanked for his dedication and effort in replacing and installing the Parish unique finger marker posts.

The Parish Council sets the Parish Precept which is part of the Council Tax Bill. The council continues to operate on a very tight budget and set the Precept at £8,746 for 2019 -2020. Parish Councils can raise revenue to help meet their spending requirements by issuing a 'Precept'. This is the total amount to be raised through the Council Tax from all the dwellings within the Parish area. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill. The precept pays for the administration of the parish council including the Clerk's salary, insurance cover, hire costs, audit expenses, inspection costs, maintenance of the play area, maintenance of the Glebe and its trees plus subscription fees to the county association for local councils.

Planning applications received and commented by the parish council totalled five:

- Hambledon Hill Farm, Colburn, Main Street, 3 Marysfield, Littleport, Main Street and 5 Marysfield

Parish councillors take it in turn to review the proposed planning application by conducting their own observations and obtaining comments from neighbours or the community (if appropriate). These applications were mainly to falling into improving existing properties by forming single storey extensions, rear extensions, installing roof lights, erecting detached garages or garden stores.

The Chairman acknowledged and thanked all the people in the Parish who contribute voluntarily in carrying out the many tasks that need doing in the Parish. The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors, Kevin Morris, Dorothy Mower, James Milmer and Hector Gibson Fleming for giving up their time and energies by becoming involved in the work of the Parish Council and supporting this community. Dorothy Mower will resign from the Parish Council in the near future and the Chairman took this opportunity to acknowledge her hard work and support.

Open Forum

Mrs Gill Sutcliffe asked what the Parish Council is doing about the proposed introduction of a speed limit or traffic calming measures in the village. The Chairman advised Mrs Sutcliffe that the council were in negotiations with Dorset Council concerning the purchase and installation of the road traffic gateways. The Chairman advised the meeting that this matter could be revisited by the returning council if support from the Parish deemed it appropriate and whether residents of the Parish would be willing to become part of the effort to achieve future traffic calming measures.

Mr Denis Carpenter asked the Parish Council what is being done to maintain rural roads throughout North Dorset and when will the Parish see resurfacing work to its roads. The clerk advised the meeting that the proposed Dorset Council (Highways) resurfacing treatment and engineering work schedule for the Parish had been cancelled due to the perceived demand for this work and the regrettable lack of funding to complete this much needed work. The clerk further advised the meeting that there may be a potential underspend of the A350 Corridor Fund where funding might be made available to begin this work. The clerk advised the meeting that a further request would be made (to address the dilapidated and poorly maintained roads of the Parish) for any revised Dorset Council Highways maintenance or works schedule.

Draft - Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Miss Ursula Goodall wished to thank the Parish Council for the provision of the 2 dog waste bins situated in Bessells Lane and Frog Lane.

There were no other matters for discussion.

The Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and participation.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:40 pm

Signed

Date

Presiding Chairman
Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council

Parish Clerk 16 May 2019

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