

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Sutton Benger Village Hall on Wednesday 13 April 2011

Present: Councillors Derek Liddell (in the Chair), Matt Bragg, Iain Craig, Norman Davis, Philip Greenhill, Hereward Parry-Jones, Helen Stevens, Kay Taylor, and Lance Workman. Richard Martin (Parish Clerk) Councillor Howard Greenman. (Wiltshire Council) Colin Kennerson from Wiltshire Council and PC Heather Barham were also present for part of the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the APM held on 14 April 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Liddell welcomed the large number of parishioners attending the meeting, and gave a resumé of the proposed business. He also introduced the Parish Councillors and described their responsibilities.

### Chairman's Report

Allotments: The long saga over provision of these, which was raised at the 2010 APM, was now nearing its conclusion. A possible site, owned jointly by the Church Piece Charity (CPC) and the Bristol Diocese was no longer an option, due to lack of response from the Diocese and the withdrawal of the offer from the CPC. A more positive development had come from Jephson Housing Association, whose affordable housing scheme in Sutton Lane was now complete and the properties occupied. JHA had offered 0.6 acre for allotments adjacent to this site, which had been accepted, and the completion of the Transfer Agreement to the Parish Council was expected shortly, with a formal opening of the allotments on 1 June. Complaints about damage to verges during the construction had been addressed, the developers having restored some verges and others to be dealt with by WC Highways dept. The request for an extended footpath and street lighting between College Green and the new development had been unsuccessful.

Arms Farm: The Parish Council had been briefed last year and a Public Meeting had been held. It was evident that the plans were not viewed favourably by WC, but the original planning application has now been withdrawn and the site is again up for sale.

Gravel Extraction: The local sites BA13 to BA15 have now been officially withdrawn from consideration.

Other Planning Issues: The application for permanent gypsy sites at Frampton Farm had been submitted, and enforcement proceedings re Springbok were ongoing.

Highways: Many paths/pavements in some areas of the village are in poor condition, and as Wiltshire Council is unable to provide funds, the Parish Council has precepted for improvements. Three sites for attention had been identified, an extension of the footway at the Sutton Lane/High street junction, resurfacing of the slipway between Cowley Way and Queens Close, and the widening of the High Street pavement by Barrett Lane. However, WC has completed the resurfacing of the path between Lake Farm and Draycot Cerne. The installation of village boundary "gates", which have been shown to be a useful traffic calming measure, had been agreed, but the consent of a landowner at the western boundary had not yet been obtained. Speeding through and in the village is still a matter of concern, and a further application for the village to be part of the Community Speedwatch Scheme had been made.

Elections: Following the resignation of Councillor Mike Woodacre, Hereward Parry-Jones was elected unopposed. The vacancy created by the retirement of Councillor Tony Gardener resulted in a contested election, with Helen Stevens being elected by a narrow majority on a 28% turnout. A further election will be held arising from the recent resignation of Councillor Mark Robbins.

Emergency Planning: An exercise was carried in late 2010, which assumed a 1 in 200 year flood. Councillor Parry-Jones has formulated an Emergency Plan to deal with likely emergencies.

Training: The money allocated for training in this year's budget has been used, and courses organised by WALC have been, or will be, attended by the Chairman, Clerk and three new Parish Councillors.

Financial: The Precept for 2010/11 was unchanged at £6750, and the Parish Council continues to provide grants towards recreation ground/churchyard maintenance. Copies of the audited accounts for the financial year 2009/2010 were available for inspection, and it was formally proposed and seconded that they be accepted.

Other Issues:

Faccenda: A display of the proposals for the redevelopment of the former factory site, to provide 63 homes and light industrial units, was available for public inspection prior to the meeting. Concerns were raised about drainage/sewerage capacity, the size of the affordable housing element, potential traffic and safe crossing problems, the ability of the school to absorb larger pupil numbers, public open spaces/leisure amenities and possible site contamination. There was, however, general agreement that the site should be redeveloped. Planning Consultant Philip Brown from Savills was present to answer questions, and feedback questionnaires were also available for residents to complete. The display would be held again on Saturday 16 April for those unable to attend the APM.

Police Liaison: PC Heather Barham reported that although Police budgets were being reduced, this should not have too great an impact on the County. There will be a reorganisation of Neighbourhood Police teams, which will be fewer in number, so as to make better use of police time.

Public Open Space grants: Colin Kennerson from Wiltshire Council explained the process whereby social funds are levied on developers to help fund local infrastructure and other projects. Suggestions from the audience for the use of such funds included extensions to the Village Hall to provide more kitchen area and storage facilities, a dedicated building for pre-School use, new playground equipment and a parish office.

Parish Council-raised matters: The village had entered the CPRE Best Kept Village of the Year competition, and there would be the usual village "spring clean" in mid-April. Residents would also be asked to tidy up the area outside their property.  
The name suggested by the Parish Council for the Sutton Lane affordable housing development (Sharplands) has been adopted.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed..... Date.....