

## **Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017 at 7.00pm in Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

Councillors present, Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling (Vice Chair), Charles Cox, Mary Harding, Don Hobson, Maeve Vickery, Tony Weir, Edward White

Also present, Lorna Thorne Parish Clerk, Gaby Bellamy Village agent and 3 members of the public.

**17/1. Apologies** from Cllrs Matt Hele, County Councillor Mike Rigby, Borough Councillor Gwil Wren and PCSO Louise Fyne

**17/2. The minutes** of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

**17/3. The Chairman** gave his report.

### **Lydeard St Lawrence And Tolland Parish Council Chairman's Report 2016-17**

This year we have, as ever, we had the usual steady flow of planning applications. A couple of them were mildly contentious, but there were no really controversial ones.

Once again, we had very few highways problems this year after another mild winter (and a very dry one this time) meant we had no problems with snow, ice or drainage. Several patching operations took place on roads around the Parishes, some of which necessitated short-term road closures, and BT Openreach carried out roadworks associated with Broadband provision.

The Juwi Community Benefit Fund was received. So far only one complete project has been given help from this fund – the re-fencing of the recreation ground. Another project, for a water supply to the church in Lydeard St Lawrence, has not yet gone ahead. A contribution to Lydeard St Lawrence School's new library was made from the Community Infrastructure Fund.

The question of Superfast Broadband was a constant theme throughout last year. Although Lydeard St Lawrence itself was connected in October 2016 Tolland and the outlying hamlets remain without fast, reliable broadband connections. Various options were looked at but when the Chancellor announced a Government commitment of £1 billion to Phase 2 of their broadband strategy it was decided, on advice from County Councillor Mike Rigby, to await developments rather than pursue a potentially costly scheme which might later prove to be unnecessary.

The telephone kiosks in both villages were declared redundant by BT owing to their lack of use. Both have been disconnected, but the Parish Council adopted the Tolland kiosk. This will be refurbished and used to house a new notice board for the village.

Financially the Council continued to maintain a balanced budget, and in fact the Precept will be slightly lower this year.

My thanks once again go to all my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support, and to our Parish Clerk Lorna Thorne, who has done a first-class job in her first year in post.

Jonathan Marshall  
Chairman

Reports were then received from  
Lydeard Lifts  
LSL Women's Institute  
Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall Committee  
Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School PTFA

These reports were received by the meeting.

**17/4. Gaby Bellamy, Community Council for Somerset Village Agent** then spoke. Gaby introduced herself as the newly appointed Village Agent. She will work in rural communities to help people access services that are there to help. Gaby looks forward to supporting the Village and working with its residents and welcomed any event she could attend to help support residents.

**17/5. Any Other Business** None received

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20pm.