

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2018 at 7.00pm in Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

Councillors present, Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling (Vice Chair), Maeve Vickery, Edward White

Also present, Lorna Thorne Parish Clerk, Borough Councillor Gwil Wren and 2 members of the public.

18/1. Apologies from Cllrs Charles Cox, Don Hobson, County Councillor Mike Rigby and PCSO Louise Fyne

18/2. The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

18/3. The Chairman gave his report.

Lydeard St Lawrence And Tolland Parish Council Chairman's Report 2017-18

This year has again been a largely successful year for the Council, with most of our objectives being achieved. The snow and rain caused some problems, but nothing more notable than some isolated flooding of some of our lanes. We even survived an earthquake!

Planning

As usual there have been numerous planning applications, mostly of a routine nature. The only slightly controversial ones concerned a couple of residential developments at the Dean's Cross Farm site, but on the commercial side the new owner Mr Peck has managed to attract a variety of small businesses to the site, all of which seem to be thriving, and the upgrading of the buildings is ongoing.

Highways

A mixed bag to report here. The annual verge trimming was carried out in a very slapdash manner, with damage to the banks of the lanes and clumsy work on the actual grass cutting; a complaint was sent to the county Council. More recently, a Councillor made a complaint regarding careless work on a drain near Dene Barn. On the positive side a very good job was made of the culvert at the Tolland end of East Town Lane.

There are outstanding problems with Binford's Lane (flooding) Quickbeam Lane (collapsed fencing) and Nethercott Lane (subsidence and general deterioration). These have all been reported, though not yet resolved.

Infrastructure

The redundant telephone kiosk in Tolland has been completely refurbished and turned into a notice board and book exchange, thanks mainly to Cllr Mary Harding. The phone box in Lydeard St Lawrence still remains in place, although the Council have asked for it to be removed.

Collar signs for the finger posts at Thornbush Cross, Tolland Elm and Dean's Cross have been ordered but only the one for Dean's Cross has so far been supplied and fitted.

Community Benefit Fund

A grant was made to the School to help their project to obtain some new interactive whiteboards. This triggered further funding, and the full total has now been raised.

Broadband

Tolland and the other outlying settlements still do not benefit from superfast broadband. Various options have been looked at and one (Whitespace) is being actively researched, but for the time being we remain in the unconnected 5%.

Defibrillators

Cllr Vickery instigated a project to look at the feasibility of getting defibrillators for Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland, and the Council has looked into this in some detail; this is being discussed, and a decision made, this evening.

Financial

The Council continues to maintain a balanced budget, and the Precept will stay the same this year. I believe this remains good value for money for parishioners, with funds still being ring-fenced for footpath repairs, clock maintenance and play equipment upkeep, while the Community Benefit Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy continue to provide a valuable reservoir of funds.

My thanks once again go to all my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support, and to our Parish Clerk Lorna Thorne. My particular thanks are due to Tony Weir for his work for the Council; Tony has, unfortunately, decided to resign his seat and I wish him all the best for the future.

Jonathan Marshall, Chairman

Reports were then received from

LSL Women's Institute

Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall Committee

Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School PTFA

Lydeard St Lawrence Church and Church development project

Tolland Church

These reports were received by the meeting.

18/4 Village Defibrillators in Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland

The Parish Council invited the Community in Tolland and Lydeard St Lawrence to discuss the feasibility of buying a Defibrillator for each of the two villages. The Parish Council have looked into the idea in some depth, but in order for Defibrillators to be beneficial – if we did decide to go ahead - then support from the whole community would be required, with volunteers to have training on the use of the defibrillator and CPR techniques, and to help maintain them.

18/5. Any Other Business

Nigel Peck reported the progress on the Planning and Building works at Dene's Cross Farm. He was hopeful the works will begin on the cold store in July. He currently has 6 tenants in the business units with 1 spare.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.