

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2019 at 7.00pm in Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

Councillors present, Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Don Hobson, Andrew Venner, Maeve Vickery, Tony Weir.

Also present, Lorna Thorne Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

19/1. Apologies None received

19/2. The minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

19/3. The Chairman gave his report.

Once again, the Parish Council has had a satisfactory year, with few problems but one or two disappointments. This was the final year of the current Council's term of office.

Planning

A fairly steady flow of planning applications were considered by the Planning Committee, most being reasonably straightforward. The Council raised some planning enforcement concerns with the (then) Taunton Deane Borough Council.

Highways

The annual verge trimming was an improvement on the previous year's effort, though still not very good. Some patching of the roads has taken place in various locations but overall there have been few problems.

Infrastructure

The redundant telephone kiosk in Lydeard St Lawrence was finally removed after the Council reminded BT about their agreement to take it away.

The collar signs for the finger posts at Thornbush Cross, Tolland Elm and Dean's Cross were supplied and fitted. Restoration of the fingerposts is proceeding slowly; two more people have signed up for the training course, so I hope this will help speed up this project.

The Council provided a grant to the Church towards the resurfacing of the footpath, and purchased some football equipment for use on the playing field.

We will also be buying some new village name signs for Tolland; the application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response.

Broadband

Unfortunately, there has been no further progress with supplying faster broadband to the outlying settlements. Gigaclear promised much early in the year, but apparently ran into difficulties and nothing further has been heard from them, and the White Space option proved to be unviable. The Council will look further into this in the coming year.

Defibrillators

It was decided not to purchase a defibrillator as there were doubts about how accessible a unit would be to most people in the parishes, and a lack of practical support from parishioners. As an alternative it was suggested that First Aid training could be a way of helping people to be able to react effectively to medical emergencies, and we have been in touch with a local company, based in Ford, who are able to provide such training. However, there has so far been insufficient interest shown to make this cost-effective.

Financial

The Council continues to maintain a balanced budget, and we have once again managed to keep the Precept at the same level. We have a healthy bank balance, and a valuable reservoir of funds in the Community Benefit Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy. Funds are ring-fenced for footpath repairs, clock maintenance and play equipment upkeep.

I would like to say thank you to all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support, and to our Parish Clerk Lorna Thorne who has been a great help throughout the year.

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
- Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club Chairman's report
- Lydeard Lifts

These reports were received by the meeting.

19/4 Somerset Fingerpost Restoration Project

Could you lend a hand to help restore Somerset's iconic fingerposts? Somerset County Council are providing training to help in restoration of the fingerposts. Three volunteers are booked onto the course this week with a further volunteer on the waiting list.

19/5. Any Other Business

The Parish Council are proposing to provide a First Aid Course for residents within the village and surrounding area. If anyone is interested then please contact the Chairman.

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