

Minutes

of the Puncknowle & Swyre Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 25th May 2023 at 7p.m at the Village Hall, Puncknowle.

PRESENT: Councillor G Fry (Chairman), Vice Chairman J Marsh and Councillors M Buckland, P Bullen and T Taylor together with 42 local electors.

IN ATTENDANCE: S Bowsher (Parish Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Were accepted from Councillors B Forrester, B Pye and E Sinclair.
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. **A PRESENTATION WAS GIVEN BY LOCAL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER JURASSIC FIBRE.**
Residents were encouraged to register with the company if they have any interest.
4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**
It was noted by the chairman that there had not been any provision to improve the safety of the B3157 Coast Road, exemplified by an unfortunate accident at Burton Bradstock only days before.
5. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**
A flyer was distributed at the meeting by the team of volunteers who are looking into whether residents would like to proceed with this. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend a presentation at the Village Hall which will be made on the afternoon of 13 May. The flyer will be distributed through every letterbox over the coming days.
6. **THERE WAS A SHORT ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PORTESHAM SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG).**
The merger between Portesham Surgery and the Prince of Wales surgery in Dorchester has now taken place. It is hoped that more staff will be recruited and that aim of the service will be to provide the traditional approach where patients can expect continuity through appointments with one of the doctors. The PPG would like to welcome more volunteers to join them in their work to support the surgery.
7. **DORSET COUNCILLOR MARK ROBERTS GAVE A SHORT ADDRESS**
He advised that there would be no cuts to services and that Dorset Council had managed to achieve a balanced budget this year with no deficit.
8. **PRESENTATION AND REVIEWS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**
 - a) **Allotments**
It has been a difficult period for plot holders due to the excessive rain and cold. There are currently 1.5 plots available. The Allotment Holders' Committee has a new Secretary and Treasurer as of September.

- b) The Local Art Group**
This has not resumed in its old format, although members stay in touch occasionally by email, and there have been a couple of workshops in the village hall over the year. It is envisaged that ad hoc workshops will continue.
- c) Book Club**
The club continues to thrive, meeting every first Wednesday of the month usually in the village hall. Twelve books are selected each year to encompass a wide range of authors and can be supplied on loan from the library.
- d) Puncknowle Church**
Puncknowle hosts a Breakfast Club one Sunday a month in the village hall. The Rector will be leaving her post over the summer. There will be a Flower Festival in the Church over the weekend of the coronation of King Charles. Residents can bring flowers to the church from 5 May (either readymade displays or to be donate for display). The church will be open at the weekend for people to view and participate in a flower festival.
- e) Swyre Church**
The Churchyard is now being managed as a Living Churchyard, with advice from Dorset Wildlife Trust. There will be an Auction of Promises at the Puncknowle Fete on 8 July. The King's coronation will be celebrated belatedly on 6 August with cream teas before the Songs of Praise service at 6.30pm.
- f) Footpaths**
Footpaths Officer D Bird gave a summary of the extensive work he undertakes as a volunteer for the community, and he was thanked by the chairman for all that he does.
- g) The Gardening Club**
There was nobody present to report.
- h) Neighbourhood Watch**
Mrs C Marsh spoke about the nature of some of the Neighbourhood Alerts that she circulates through email to the community. The most relevant warnings centre around scams and cyber-crime. Anyone concerned that they have encountered a crime should report straight to the police either by calling 999 as appropriate or using the 101 telephone/email service.
- i) Local WI**
This continues to thrive and has been going for 10 years. They meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall.
- j) Local History Group**
This started up again over the course of the year. Members meet monthly in the Crown Inn. Arrangements are in hand to put some of the archive material on a dedicated page on the Puncknowle.net community web page.
- k) Table Tennis Group**
The Table Tennis Club had its inception 7 years ago, when a grant to the parish council afforded the opportunity to purchase the first table. Since then it has become extremely popular. People of all abilities are welcome to attend.
- l) The Luncheon Club**
This has been going for 16 years and is open to the three villages in the parish plus those from Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy. The lunch is held in the village hall on the third Tuesday of every month except in August, with usually 25-30 diners attending.
- m) The Playing Field**
The Playing Field is maintained by the Parish Council with the help of volunteers. More volunteers would always be extremely welcome. There will be a short (one and a half hour) tidy up session in the playing field this Saturday, 29 April at 10.30am.
- n) The Village Hall**

The Village Hall Committee manage this great asset for our three villages. The committee put a lot of effort into looking after the hall, including a big project regarding the roof at the side of the building this year. The hall is very pleasant for residents to use, however. Lettings have still not recovered to their pre Covid levels, which presents a challenge to the management committee.

o) Puncknowle Swyre and West Bexington Website

No one was available to comment.

p) The Clerk informed everyone of a vacancy on the Parish Council.

q) Resident Stella Oliver advised about events in Puncknowle to celebrate the King's Coronation next weekend:

St Mary's church in Puncknowle will be holding a flower festival over the coronation weekend.

6 May: The Crown Inn will open from 10.30am, and it will be showing TV coverage throughout the day and there will be live music in the evening.

7 May: The Garden at the Crown Inn will be open for people to bring and share plates of food.

8 May: There will be a Treasure Hunt in Puncknowle starting at 10.30am at the pub.

Localised Coronation Mugs are available to order in two designs. These can be viewed at the Crown Inn, and orders can be made there or direct to Stella Oliver.

Stella would like to compile a Village Cookbook to sell at the Puncknowle Fete, and requested contributions of help and recipes towards this.

The proceeds of the sale of mugs and the cookbook will go to St Mary's Church.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO LOCAL ELECTORS

Residents commented on the number of potholes in the roads. The Clerk asked residents to report these to Dorset Council via their website, or if this is not possible, to pass the information on to her. It was noted by one resident that the number of deer on the Coast road has been increasing. It was noted that signage along the coast road has been kept to a minimum by Dorset Council and does not include any warnings to drivers about deer.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

Signed: (Chairman)

Dated.....