

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting Parish held in the Village Hall, Crossways, on Thursday the 28th April 2011 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman Crossways Parish Meeting), 1 member of the public. Cllr Thomas and Cllr Connor (Residents Crossways)

Also present: Cllr Bearman and Cllr Foster and District Councillor Teresa Seall

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH MEETING (22rd April 2010)

Copies of the minutes were made available. The minutes were signed by Cllr Brewer.

2. ANY MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

3. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Since the last parish meeting a lot has happened in the village and I would wish to start my report by commending and thanking all those who have helped in any way particularly on the Parish Council. The Council now has nine Councillors with two vacant seats. As this is an election year a new Council will take office in May when a further two seats will fall vacant as Cllr Arnold and Cllr Rowley are not seeking re-election. During the year we have recorded the resignation of Valerie Bache.

I am grateful to my joint Vice-Chairmen and thanks to Cllr. Terrie Connor for deputising at meetings for me and to Cllr Elaine Stenning for overseeing the finance brief of the Council. This latter task has become more of a balancing act as we enter the new era of cuts and rising costs. The job was not helped with the DCC change of arrangements concerning the cutting of the grass around the village. This meant we had to revisit our precept proposals and regrettably increase the charge to council tax payers as a result. Our governing document known as 'Standing Orders' has been revised and adopted in line with the models prepared nationally which reflect the many changes in legislation which have occurred since the Council was formed just over 25 years ago. The day to day management of the Council's sports and leisure facilities has been delegated to a sub-committee of this Council. Under the chairmanship of Cllr. Dave Harris this has certainly made a difference and the committee is to be commended on their work in dealing with the drainage of the football field, the existing facilities and exciting plans for the future development of a trim trail.

The year has been the usual mix of great 'highs' and 'lows'. We recorded with great sadness the passing of Cllr. Joyce Rhodes, my predecessor as Chairman and our resident 'Library Champion' We had the construction, completion and opening of the skatebowl and MUGA and the Council has decided to name the bowl in Joyce's memory. It was a great honour and privilege to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset to Crossways to perform the official opening.

We have also recorded, with sadness the passing of former District and Parish Councillor Jim Shuttleworth.

The Council has received presentations on the installation of new street lighting in a long term plan and we have raised concerns on the work and the results.

Some topics recur with boring regularity and the topic of dog fouling must come near the top of the list. Coupled with anti social behaviour and thoughtless neighbourliness these are the things which really do detract from the pleasure of living in such a beautiful part of the world. We still have a lot of work to do in harmonising some elements of the village so that from the youngest to oldest

members of our society everyone can live together peacefully and amicably. This area has probably commanded more of my time and effort during the last year. I am grateful to those who have tried to assist including our Community Support Officer Vickie Hedges.

Various planning matters have been brought before us for comment with one of the more interesting being the solar farm proposals. We have also received regular updates from developers looking to further house building in this area. We have been briefed by the planning department at West Dorset and I have raised the need to ascertain the public mood towards more development and associated infrastructure.

As the Council year ended we learned that our Community Development Worker Kris Hallett was taking early retirement from DCA to focus on a project in France. I would wish to publicly record this council's thanks to Kris and the staff at DCA for their help and support with the MUGA/Skatebowl project and for the Young People's Forum. I am sure we all wish her a long and happy and well deserved retirement.

As we look to the next term the Library and its future is perhaps our greatest concern and we are grateful for the work Liz Callister has undertaken together with Cllr Rowley in wading through the proposals, counter-proposals, facts, near facts, figures and so on which have been going to and fro over the last few months. The Council is to hold a public meeting on Monday 23rd May and I would commend this to you and hope many will turn out to make your feelings known.

May I also commend the role of the Parish website and to thank the webmaster who maintains this highly useful and well used facility. All our minutes and agendas are there, the parish magazine is accessed many times and organisations can use it to give details about their work.

All of this work and much more has been overseen and guided by our clerk and Proper Officer Stella Wilson and on behalf of Crossways Parish Council may I take this opportunity of thanking her for her due diligence, help and assistance.

I continue to try and give of my best – as a Chairman I make every effort to ensure that all opinions are heard and noted. As a Council we know that we cannot please every single resident but we do listen and try, wherever possible, to act on suggestions. In some cases the things raised are outside our jurisdiction but we try and make our opinions heard in the ears that matter.

I commend my report to this gathering and thank you for your attendance and for listening.

4. **NOTICES OF MOTION** To consider any Motions of which due notice has been given (in writing) at least three days before this meeting.

There were no Notices of Motion received.

5. **QUESTIONS** To deal with questions (which should have been submitted in writing at least 48 hours before this meeting).

There were no questions received.

6. **ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** None requested

Signed Chairman Crossways Parish Council

Date