

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2009

APOLOGIES M Ellis, J Demirtges, J Hewison, R Hewison, P Webber, R Webber.

MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Sully gave a brief report thanking Carol, all the councillors and the clerk for all their hard work during the last year. Also thanks to Mrs Lawrence and Mr Leaker.

Various projects have now been completed including repairs to the Bridge at Sea Lane. Topple Testing in the top cemetery will be done this year. Mr Sully also gave a special vote of thanks to Philip Webber and family, especially his father Cyril for all the hard work he has undertaken and still does for a number of organisations in the village.

HALL TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Fay said the Memorial Hall had net assets of £3,000 for the last financial year.

DOLL MUSEUM REPORT

Mr Melbourne said Christine Dore is still much missed as Curator of the Museum. The stewards met during the winter to discuss the way forward. All felt the Museum should be kept open for 3 days a week on a rota system. Thanks to Chris Oliver for sharing the opening and closing. Income from sales and donations since last year was down, as were visitor figures. Mr Melbourne said he had found it a difficult job dealing with publicity, donations and general information as well as arranging a rota which shows how much work Mrs Dore undertook.

TITHE BARN REPORT

Mr Lamacraft said this had been a year of consolidation with bookings exceeding expectations. This had incurred a lot of maintenance. Outside work involved major repairs to perimeter walls and paving in front of the main entrance doors. Interior work included painting and installing a second dishwasher in the kitchen together with a hot water boiler. Committee are awaiting an estimate to install proper stair access to the boiler room and are hoping to invest in a proper sound system. Take Art events were well supported and they hope to secure the Zimbabwean Choir in November.

Income to date from October is £17,283. Expenditure was £7,700 with general running costs just under £7,000. A reserve of £10,000 has been created for future repairs. Mr Lamacraft said the Hall is run by a supportive management committee and bookings ably handled by Christine Oliver.

FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

This was sent in by Mr Steve Sanford. Last season was a successful year for the club. They reached 5th place in the Taunton Sunday Football League, Division 4. Fundraising was difficult because of the weather but they managed to raise £500. Carhampton Rovers played at Dunster this season which helped finances and the PC helped with maintenance costs.

PACKHORSE PLAYING FIELD REPORT

This was submitted by Mr Hewison and read by Mr Fay. The past year has been dominated by safety issues which resulted in the removal of several trees (two of which were replaced), repairs carried out to the Quadri-der and Baby Swing and a Cricket Warning sign hung on the main gate during matches. These necessary activities reduced funds despite fund raising and a grant from the PC. Thanks to all the committee for their help particularly in helping to win the Somerset Playing Field of the Year Award. Future projects include a colourful Mosaic involving the school children and installing the Whale Rocker which we won.

DUNSTER MARSH JUNIOR PLAYING FIELD REPORT

This was sent in by Mrs Ruth Webber. It had been a busy year fundraising which has helped maintain equipment and purchase a grass strimmer and picnic table. They were turned down for a grant by the Foundation of Sports & Arts for a ball court so are hoping instead for a Lottery grant to buy smaller pieces of equipment. They are a small committee but work very hard at keeping the Field a safe and attractive place for children to play.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE REPORT

This was sent in by Mr Philip Webber. Last year was a very trying one for the committee. DEFRA made it too difficult to continue with the Bonfire & Firework Display in the castle grounds. It was therefore decided to move to the Showground but this meant the event had to be completely reorganised and despite all the hard work they made a loss. Thanks to all who did their best to keep the event going but it was later decided, with regret, not to hold a display in 2009. It was decided at the AGM the committee would not continue unless new members were found. The May Fete was a great success with good weather. Thanks to everyone who supported them over the year.

An extra report was sent in by Mrs Janet Mott who said although it had been a difficult year the Society were definitely not disbanding. It had been agreed to take a year out and hopefully recruit new blood. The recent village Fete had raised approx £1,400 which was a very good result. The Festival committee would be back!

NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

This was given by Mr Wake and delivered as a Question & Answer session with members of the public. Mr Wake acknowledged concerns about the proposed catering facility for Dunster Castle. If successful the Tearooms could be operational by 2011. A consultation period will take place before plans are submitted. Questions on the subject were mostly answered by Mr Andrews, NT Regional Official. In conclusion Mr Sully said the NT need to work with the village and keep residents and traders updated on the project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mrs Nicholson raised the point that a cash point machine was needed in the village. There is also a need for a Mini Roundabout at the end of Marsh Lane.
2. Mr Brunt said there had been a lot of criminal damage in the village and Police needed to up the priority.
3. Mr Lamacraft said as the Festival Committee were not running a Fete next year the Tithe Barn have booked a Band and hope other organisations will be involved.
4. Mr Toogood said the ENP Visitor Centre would not now be moving to Wheddon Cross in 2012. Various organisations in the village have an opportunity to take it over.

Meeting closed 9.0pm