



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 15 MAY 2017**

### **DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman BGPC), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman BGPC) Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs, Mrs. Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. There were thirty-four people in attendance.

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#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Rowland Hibbard, Chairman of Broadwindsor Group Parish Council welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Councillor Hibbard thanked Drimpton Village Hall for hosting the event and Mrs. Rosemary Shepherd for providing refreshments. Councillor Hibbard outlined the agenda for the evening. Councillor Hedditch declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.

#### **2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Smith and Mouldsdale, Mr. John Hansford and Mrs. Angela Frampton.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

A copy of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2016 was confirmed as a true record, by a majority show of hands and duly signed by Councillor Hibbard.

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor Hibbard, Chairman of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Council presented the Annual Report. Councillor Hibbard reported that it had been a very busy and productive year for the Parish and for the many Committees and Councillors in the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Council had received various planning applications and different ideas had been discussed and help to applicants had been provided. Councillor Hibbard reported that the Council had continued its support of the very valuable Village Halls which provide venues for a varying number of activities from whist drives, short mat bowls, dances, bingo, wedding receptions, christening celebrations and also funeral wakes.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council actively supports the youth of the area and has in the recent past supported the improvement of recreation facilities in Drimpton, Comrades Hall and he reported that the Council is in the process of bringing to fruition the proposed MUGA and it is hoped that this will be installed on land by the School.

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Parish Council has also provided support to a committee which is putting together a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was good to see that the Craft Centre which has recently been sold is to continue as a Craft Centre with more units being occupied and outlets for local artists and crafters, this of course provides valuable employment in the Parish.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Council has also supported the formation of a Community Land Trust to investigate the possibility of providing affordable housing for the Parish. This would allow young people the opportunity to stay in the local area, to live and to support their young families. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the majority of the community live in houses that were not here a hundred years ago and stated that it was important to continue to provide housing by allowing expansion in the Parish.

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Parish Council is also supporting the formation of an emergency plan in case of the event of a serious accident or emergency so that all the local resources can be co-ordinated to give best service to the community.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the community is fortunate to have an extremely well-respected school in the Parish and paid thanks to all who work with the school to maintain its excellent standards. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Community Shop continues to thrive and receive the support of residents and the invaluable help from the volunteers who man the counter so cheerfully.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the many cuts to local authority finances do not help to maintain all the services that the Parish would like to have or to maintain the highways to a standard which we should expect. Councillor Hibbard stated that the time scale of carrying out such required repairs on our roads and drains etc is sometimes laughable but not in a good way and stated that some of the minor repairs which need attention could in the future be able to be attended to by contractors employed by the Parish Council.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Cricket Club has continued to go from strength to strength with more work going on in the Pavilion, which now has running water and electricity. Councillor Hibbard stated that this is another valuable community asset and reported that cricket lessons are being offered to pupils from the School. Councillor Hibbard congratulated all those involved with the Cricket Club.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the twice weekly Post Office was another asset, not only for postal services but for providing coffee and a natter! Councillor Hibbard stated that it is very well supported and thanked the volunteers who keep it running.

Councillor Hibbard stated that as his report and those that will follow highlight, the Grouped Parish is one of the most active and thriving communities in West Dorset, a community to be proud of.

To conclude Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to all the Councillors, longstanding and new and the hardworking District and Country Councillors. Councillor Hibbard also paid thanks to the Clerk, for her hard work and dedication.

## **5. DORSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

No report was presented.

## **6. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor Jacqui Sewell presented this report and stated that she has now been a District Councillor for ten years, during which she had seen many changes, with the last year being the most challenging in endeavouring to finance services that the community needs with an ever-shrinking budget in addition to day to day responsibilities. Councillor Sewell reported that she serves on two Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny of which she is Vice Chairman and the Licensing Committee, as well as representing West Dorset District Council (WDDC) at the Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership (BAVLAP). Councillor Sewell reported that West Dorset still has one of the lowest council tax rates in the country, with a modest 1.9% rise from last year and stated that only 8% of this is retained by the District Council, part of which is used to assist community facilities by contributing towards business rates. Councillor Sewell stated that parking charges have remained frozen again and that WDDC is positively tackling the continual financial squeeze by careful budgeting. Councillor Sewell stated that WDDC still continues to provide all essential services as well as still supporting local museums and tourist information services.

Councillor Sewell reported that the Tri-Partnership was working well and that they were still awaiting the decision on the bid for becoming a Unitary Council. Councillor Sewell stated that she is still supporting local projects, one of which is the newly formed Community Land Trust and is still available to people within the District Council in need of help with issues and problems, such as housing tenancy, planning, council tax benefits, healthcare, school admissions, transport and fly tipping.

Councillor Sewell reported that the Post Office outreach service in Broadwindsor is well established, offering a full service and continues to thrive. Councillor Sewell stated that the Post Office Users Group had recently provided bookshelves where people can help themselves to books and that monies collected were donated to Comrades Hall to support maintenance costs. Councillor Sewell reported that there are currently only two First Responders and that numbers need to increase and invited anyone with an interest to get in touch.

## **7. WEST DORSET DOG WARDEN SERVICE**

Councillor Hibbard welcomed and introduced Mr. Stuart Hendry, Dog Warden for West Dorset. Mr. Hendry stated that he had been sent a list of questions from the Clerk and would address each one. Mr. Hendry stated that the Dog Warden does not have any powers of arrest. Mr. Hendry stated that if a member of the public witnesses a dog fouling and its owner does not remove the mess that they should if possible, challenge the person but if they do not feel comfortable to do this, then to try and gain information that would identify the person and contact the Dog Warden, a fixed penalty fine may be issued and a statement would need to be taken from the witness. Mr. Hendry stated that ideally, dog waste should be bagged and taken home and disposed of in your own bin. Mr. Hendry stated that dogs are allowed on public land unless an order has been designated to a particular area and stated that Dog Control Orders were in the process of being updated for West Dorset. When asked about dogs on leads on public footpaths, Mr. Hendry stated that unless there is an order applied, then dogs do not need to be on a lead but should be under control.

In terms of stray dogs, Mr. Hendry advised that if possible, the dog should be controlled and taken to a safe place and stated that the Dog Warden would attend. In the case of a barking dog which becomes a nuisance, Mr. Hendry stated that there is a process to follow and that the Dog Warden should be contacted in the first instance. Mr. Hendry stated that dogs fouling on land occupied by livestock can cause serious problems including animal death and stated that if a dog is running off the lead, then it is a farmer's right to protect his animals and shoot the dog. Mr. Hendry stated that dogs must wear a collar and tag. Mr. Hendry stated that if a member of the public sees a dog left in a car on a warm day without the window being open, then they should contact the Police or the RSPCA. Mr. Hendry stated that a Parish Council cannot have its own dog control orders and stated that such orders were being replaced with Public Space Protection Orders. In reply to a question from a member of the public, Mr. Hendry stated that if the land is privately owned, then the owner can apply their own restrictions. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Hendry for the very useful information and for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **8. COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT**

No report was presented.

## **9. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Rowland Hibbard, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group presented this report. Councillor Hibbard stated that volunteers from within the Parish had been making steady progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, and that a significant milestone was gathering community views through the questionnaire. Councillor Hibbard informed that the results were available for all to see on the Broadwindsor Group Parish Council website. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone who took the time and effort to complete the questionnaire, reporting that there was a 60% response rate which was very good in comparison to other places.

Councillor Hibbard stated that responses helped to develop the vision which is now driving the Plan:

*“Our vision is that during the next twenty years residents will have enough suitable and environmentally friendly homes, which fit into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which they value so highly; and that there will be good schools, safe roadways and support for local employment and local services which ensure that all ages, in every part of our parish, are able to enjoy life to the full.”*

Councillor Hibbard summarised the findings as follows:

### **What People Value**

Facilities for leisure and recreation, good social life and community spirit and neighbourliness, local services and shops, the distinctive character of villages and buildings, landscape and scenery, plus being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### **Concerns**

There is dissatisfaction both with parking and safety for cyclists and walkers, and by far the greatest number of written suggestions were about speed and the size of vehicles. There was clear support for increasing the number of passing places but no desire for increased street lighting.

### **Employment and Buildings**

Protection of existing employment sites, allowing conversion of redundant buildings to employment use and encouraging more people to work from home were popular.

### **Development**

There was little support for open market and private rental housing. However, there was support for adaptable and shared ownership and housing association homes, especially for younger local people. A Community Land Trust type scheme was supported. One or two-bedroom homes for first time buyers was the most strongly supported option, there was clear opposition to having larger development sites and the preferred option was to have more sites with fewer houses. Most disagreed that there should be less growth than had happened previously, the strongest support was to continue the average rate of development (about five a year).

### **Protecting Areas You Value**

All the green spaces in the Parish that the community would like to see protected from any development are being listed so that these are written into the Plan, for example the allotments, Hursey Common, all the recreational areas, sports fields and the cricket ground.

### **Call for Sites**

Councillor Hibbard reported that a “call for sites” had been announced to collate any areas that people might like to develop: part of a large garden, a redundant building, or land not being used for any other purpose. There is no guarantee that any of the sites put forward will

get planning permission. Having this information is important for the Plan, because it is going to be our way forward with regard to planning and development for about the next twenty years.

Councillor Hibbard thanked all the members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee for their continued support and hard work in getting the Plan to where it is now and stated that he looked forward to finishing this task as soon as possible. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Brian Hesketh for his considerable efforts.

#### **10. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

Councillor Leader presented the report for the Broadwindsor Community Land Trust (CLT). Councillor Leader stated that the Parish Plan published in 2012 identified the need for affordable housing for local people. Councillor Leader reported that a group of people came together and a number of well-attended public meetings were held resulting in the majority of people stating that it would be a good community asset. Councillor Leader stated that the CLT was formed and has a membership of seventy. Councillor Leader reported that work to identify a suitable site within the Grouped Parish area had taken place and that a piece of land in Drimpton had been put forward. Councillor Leader stated that a number of experts had been engaged to consider the landscape and biodiversity and that an architect had been engaged to produce preliminary plans of what could be achieved. Councillor Leader stated that a meeting with WDDC Planning Department was imminent and that it was an exciting project, one that could potentially provide secure homes for many families who desperately need it. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader and the CLT Committee for their hard work.

#### **11. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN**

Councillor Lesley Tibballs presented this report. Councillor Tibballs stated that villages and hamlets can be remote or far from emergency services should an extreme emergency occur and stated that by extreme emergency, this could mean something that could cause danger to life immediately or if it should persist such as flooding, being cut off by snow, electricity or water failures or serious accident involving aircraft or motor vehicles. In these cases, often access may be cut off and new routes may need to be found. Councillor Tibballs stated that vulnerable people such as the sick, elderly, young families or those with disabilities will need extra support at this time.

Councillor Tibballs stated that for these reasons rapid and appropriate action needs to be taken prior to the arrival of the emergency services. This is one aim of the emergency plan. The other aim is to build what is termed, 'Community Resilience'. In other words a level of preparedness and self-reliance are integrated into the community whereby preliminary safety measures can confidently be taken.

Councillor Tibballs stated that community resilience is part of what we all do as rural communities on an ad hoc basis such as helping a neighbour, farmers removing fallen trees, flood wardens managing potential flood situations but the emergency plan pulls together all the helpers and records them all in one place and has an action plan for emergencies which may involve all or some of these people.

Councillor Tibballs reported that risk assessments for the area have been performed, possible responses considered and members of the community who are willing to offer skills, machinery, four by four vehicles, chain saws and support the vulnerable have been identified. Councillor Tibballs also reported that the names of key holders for the village halls and Broadwindsor School have been collated in case they are needed as places of refuge in an emergency. The White Lion Public House has also offered its services as a place of refuge.

Councillor Tibballs stated that a telephone tree on which people take responsibility for contacting a small group of people who in turn contact others so that all who need to be informed are contacted quickly and efficiently in an emergency is being drawn together.

Councillor Tibballs reported that a current task is the formulation of a sort of Buddy System whereby volunteers have a list of the vulnerable people near to them for whom they are responsible in terms of keeping them informed, assisting them to places of refuge and generally ensuring that their needs are met. Councillor Tibballs stated that she was looking for volunteers for the Buddy System and asked that if anyone feels that they could take responsibility for some vulnerable people who live nearby, to complete the large piece of yellow paper at the back of the hall and then she will arrange a date to meet to clarify the role. Councillor Tibballs concluded by stating that if people have other ideas that they would like to see in the Emergency Plan, to contact her.

## **12. BROADWINDSOR SCHOOL**

Mrs. Diana Coltart, School Governor presented the report for Broadwindsor School. Mrs. Coltart reported that the year got off to a flying start with ninety-seven pupils attending and plenty of activities and plans for the year ahead. Mrs. Coltart stated that in January, a new badminton club started and sporting activities including cross country and netball matches. Mrs. Coltart stated that 'Dan the Skipping Man' was invited into School for a day to show each class tricks and tips for learning or improving skipping skills and the Life Van visited and talked to children about health issues appropriate to their age. Mrs. Coltart reported that thirty-one pupils and many parents attended the Young Voices choir event in Birmingham at the end of January, joining more than six thousand children from around the country.

Mrs. Coltart stated that Broadwindsor School is part of the West Dorset Collaboration of Schools and that this is working well with teachers meeting to share best practice. Mrs. Coltart reported that the School has a strong tradition of community volunteers working in the School

and that this year has been no exception. There have been volunteers who listen to readers on a weekly basis, there is a weekly chess club and after school church club and Mrs. Coltart stated that Governors are also volunteers who engage and support the School, helping drive up standards. Mrs. Coltart reported that the School is looking for one more Governor to join the Governing Body and asked any person who would like to be involved in School life and have the time to commit to this important role to contact the School office. Mrs. Coltart thanked the Head Teacher of the School, staff and volunteers for their hard work.

### **13. CHARITIES REPORT**

#### **a. The FMR Trust**

The Clerk presented the FMR Trust Report. The FMR Trust was established in 1962 to support charitable activities for the benefit of the local community, specifically it provides grants for active recreational projects. For the period 2016/2017 the Trust has again supported a wide range of projects, awarding six grants totalling £1940.02. These were as follows:

- Two grants for Broadwindsor Sportsfield totalling £213.12 for the hire of a chipper machine and to support the cost of servicing the mower and for petrol.
- Two grants for Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club totalling £326.90 to support the costs of taking 21 children to the wildlife park at Axminster, 20 children to Freshwater Leisure Centre and to host a bug fest evening where reptiles and insects were brought in so that the children could touch them and learn about them.
- £400.00 was awarded to Broadwindsor School to support the costs of an external drama specialist to enrich the childrens' learning experience.
- £1000.00 was awarded to Drimpton Short Mat Bowls Club to support the cost of purchasing new mats and sundry equipment.

The Trust has invested in an Equities Investment Fund and has shares with a current value of £80,344.03. The Trust receives a quarterly dividend which does fluctuate somewhere between £600 - £900. The balance as of 31 March 2017, the year end was £5853.97. The Parish Council is the sole Trustee of the Trust and Trustees convene each quarter to consider applications. The Trust very much encourages the community to put forward their projects.

#### **b. The Blackdown Educational Trust**

The Clerk presented this report on behalf of Mrs. Angela Frampton, Treasurer of the Blackdown Educational Trust who had sent her apologies. The Clerk reported that the Blackdown Educational Trust is a fund accessible to any young person going into further education living in the church parishes of Broadwindsor, Thorncombe and Blackdown. In October 2016 the Blackdown Educational Trust received five requests for financial assistance. The Committee awarded two grants of £150.00 each to two individuals continuing their studies locally and awarded two grants of £200.00 each to students going on to university. Unfortunately, the other request came from a young person living in Drimpton and so was not eligible for any funds. A total of £700.00 was distributed leaving £60.09 in the Treasurers

account. Any monies earned on the capital investment will be added to this total for allocation this year in October 2017.

### **c. The Sick Poor Fund**

The Clerk presented this report on behalf of Mr. John Hansford, who had sent his apologies. The Clerk reported that The Sick Poor Fund was established to offer financial assistance to the residents of Mosterton, Broadwindsor, Drimpton and Stoke Abbott. In the last few years donations have been made to individuals and to charities who have assisted residents with health and medical needs. The Fund is still active and although no personal applications had been received in the past year, the Fund had been able to donate to other organisations that support the sick and those in need in the area.

## **14. VILLAGE HALLS REPORT**

### **a. Blackdown Village Hall**

This report was presented by Councillor Hibbard, Chairman of the Blackdown Village Hall Committee. Councillor Hibbard reported that the Village Hall Committee were delighted to report that the refurbishments to the kitchen and toilets were completed on time for the Flower Show last September and that he would like to give thanks to all the builders and trades who were involved with the project for the high standard of work carried out. Councillor Hibbard reported that bookings remain steady and that the Committee is hopeful that the number of hirings will increase now that the facilities are to a modern standard. Councillor Hibbard reported that the next two projects will be the redecoration of the main hall and the replacement of the very dilapidated storage shed. Councillor Hibbard stated that wifi will be installed shortly as people need to have access to the internet and will be a useful tool for hirers. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Committee was extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their financial contribution, to West Dorset District Council's Leisure Development Fund and Awards for All for their grants. Councillor Hibbard also thanked a former Blackdown resident for their more than generous donation which has made fundraising a much easier task than first thought. Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to all who help to keep this valuable community asset and to friends and family who give freely of their time.

### **b. Comrades Hall**

Mr. Ron Wight, Vice Chair of the Village Hall Committee presented the report for Comrades Hall. Mr. Wright stated that the Hall remains a treasured village asset which was used for charity events, corporate functions and business and family celebrations and stated that the Hall has hosted christenings, weddings, birthdays and wakes. Mr. Wright stated that the Hall provides a clean, functional space and that regular maintenance days and the recent decoration of the ground floor ensure that the Hall is an exceptional arena for any event. Mr. Wright reported that the cinema has benefitted from moving the video equipment to a purpose-built cupboard under the stage. Outside in Bernards' Place, Mr. Wright was pleased to report that the new train was in place and is very well used by younger children. Mr. Wright

paid thanks to the team of people who helped with the construction, especially Mr. Mal Heaven who gave up a considerable amount of time and showed much patience when building it. Mr. Wright reported that financially the Hall is secure and thanked Mr. Brian Stone who ensures that accounts stay buoyant. Mr. Wright reported that there had been a change of Clerk and paid thanks to Mrs. Audrey Woodley for her years of dedicated service and welcomed Mary Taylor as the new Hire Clerk. Mr. Wright stated that in reality the Hall is just a collection of bricks and utilities but stated that Comrades Hall is so much more than just a hall. Mr. Wright stated that the Committee, the people who hire the Hall, the volunteers who maintain it and renew it are the real Comrades and stated that everyone in the Village should be proud of this treasured Village asset.

### **c. Drimpton Village Hall**

Mrs. Rosemary Shepherd, Chair of the Drimpton Village Hall and Recreational Trust presented this report. Mrs. Shepherd stated that the main aim of the Trustees is to ensure that the building remains fit for purpose and a safe venue for its many users and their various needs. Mrs. Shepherd stated that very little of what they strive to achieve would be possible without finance and that they are indebted to the Broadwindsor Group Parish Council for their annual contribution. Regular users of the Hall provide a steady income; the Bowls Club, the thriving Youth Club; the Horticultural Society; Village Lunches are served on the third Wednesday of each month and since December a new group has been added to this list – Taekwondo Classes on Sunday mornings led by Gerry Waugh.

Mrs. Shepherd stated that she would like to make special mention of the Football Club. After an amazingly successful season in 2015/16 in which they won Cups and were running two teams, this year has been a disappointing one and at the present time there is no Football Team. Mrs. Shepherd reported that they hope to begin again next season in a lower league and progress from there. Through all the troubles Mr. Tony Francis has continued to maintain and improve the recreation area with commitment and dedication and although he has not been in the best of health in the past year he has worked tirelessly to keep the pitch and grounds in excellent order.

Mrs. Shepherd reported that casual bookings continue to do well and that the Hall and Play Areas are a popular venue for many different types of gatherings – children and adult parties; funeral wakes, a charity dance and the Hall was a feeding station for the Ax Pediton Charity Bike Ride.

Mrs. Shepherd stated that the Hall Committee has had a particularly successful year with its own fundraising events. Community Coffee Mornings continue to be well attended and provide an opportunity to catch up with the news of the Village. At the end of April there was a Quiz and Supper; in July the Annual Summer Dance was held; and most recently a Barn Dance, a very popular evening for all and especially for families. Mrs. Shepherd reported that Artsreach events are proving to be very enjoyable and well supported and that the Hall has hosted Eye Catcher; a dance interpretation of Paradise Lost and Chris Fogg's very topical epic

“Tree House”. Artsreach also presented a highly acclaimed Magic Show for children and adults. Mrs. Shepherd stated that since the beginning of last year the Hall Committee has taken over the running of the monthly Film Club and that attendances at all of the functions have been good.

Mrs. Shepherd stated that fundraising events have included a Race Night and a Murder Mystery and a Summer Dinner Dance will be held on 15 July. Mrs. Shepherd stated that the Committee is relatively small with a huge responsibility for the upkeep of these premises and organising these type of events needs inspiration and thanked the Committee Members and “Friends” for their contributions. Mrs. Shepherd stated that all of these events need publicity and that they were fortunate to have a monthly Village Newsletter compiled and distributed by Mr. Andrew Pastor; Norman keeps the Drimpton website updated and the very latest initiative, the Drimpton Facebook page which functions under the guidance of Mr. Brian Hesketh and Mr. Steve Chubb.

Mrs. Shepherd reported that at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting she spoke of the Solar Panels and the new door at the end of the corridor and stated that much of what has occurred this year in terms of repairs and maintenance is less easily visible but yet, just as important. Such maintenance has included repairing leaks and making improvements to the functioning of toilet facilities, ceiling panels have been replaced, fanlight window panels on the south side of the building have been replaced and one window on the north side. Mrs. Shepherd reported that the Committee now employs a window cleaner who also keeps the gutters clear. Mrs. Shepherd also reported that the electrical wiring and fire extinguishers have had a regulatory inspection and that the Hall has been repainted. Mrs. Shepherd stated that one other great improvement has been to move the screen and mount the projector and stated that new speakers had also been purchased.

Mrs. Shepherd reported that with regard to improvements to the car parking area, it had been impossible to find a source of grant for this type of project but that the Committee will continue to get advice and seek ways to achieve what is a necessary and urgent task. Mrs. Shepherd reported that a Fundraising Sub Committee has been set up and local people have taken up the challenge with £2253 already being raised. The Youth Club donated the proceeds from the Artsreach Magic Show and all profits from the Murder Mystery Evening will go directly to the Car Park Fund.

Mrs. Shepherd offered her sincerest gratitude to members of the Village for their support and enthusiasm and to all the Committee Members for the great deal of time and effort they have put in. Mrs. Shepherd stated that she could not finish her report without mentioning Mr. Mike Saunders who stepped down as Chairman two years ago and is leaving the Village at the end of this week. Mrs. Shepherd stated that the improvements which happened under his guidance and with all his practical skills were immense and that the Committee shall endeavour to build upon his legacy.

### **15. BROADWINDSOR ALLOTMENT GROUP**

Ms. Sheila Hawkins presented the report for the Broadwindsor Allotment Group (BAG). Ms. Hawkins stated that at this current time there were nineteen allotments with seventeen paid plot holders and that all plot holders pay an annual fee of £5.00 to BAG to cover general site maintenance, water harvester and plot holders receive membership of the Groves Nurseries Discount Scheme. Ms. Hawkins reported that the allotments also have a small orchard with pear, apple and plum trees and a developing wildflower meadow, which is a long-term project. Ms. Hawkins stated that having an allotment can be hard work but is very rewarding and that there were currently a number of plots available.

### **16. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY STORES**

Mr. Fraser Hughes presented the report for Broadwindsor Community Stores. Mr. Hughes stated that the shop was now in its fifth year and that turnover had been consistent over this period at just over £250,000 and stated that although this figure was up by 3.3% this year, it was possible that this may be the maximum that a shop of this size could achieve. Mr. Hughes stated that a small profit was made each year, the shop had a solid balance sheet and money in the bank. Mr. Hughes reported that there are currently 227 shareholders and that the shop helped to add property value in the village. Mr. Hughes stated that the shop is run by a Committee which has a wide range of expertise. There is a paid manager and assistant and Mr. Hughes reported that a new manager had taken up post in April and was settling in well. Mr. Hughes stated that an assistant, Jane had been with the shop from the outset and was highly valued and that supporting them were fifty volunteers. Mr. Hughes stated that the shop needed more volunteers at this time. Mr. Hughes stated that after nearly four years of operation, in September the Committee decided to conduct some consumer research. Mr. Hughes reported that there had been a 61% response rate, 91% of people who responded stated that they used the shop, 67% stating once a week or more. On rating out of five overall satisfaction rated 4.6, friendliness rated 4.8, cleanliness rated 4.6 and product and range rated 4.4 and there was little difference between responders from Broadwindsor and Drimpton. Mr. Hughes reported that the Committee received feedback on where improvements could be made and initiatives have been taken. Mr. Hughes stated that the research concluded that people like the shop and urged people to continue to support it. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Hughes for the report and stated that the village was very lucky to have such an invaluable asset which provided much benefit to the community.

### **17. DRIMPTON & NETHERHAY YOUTH CLUB**

Councillor Steve Chubb presented the report for the Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club. Councillor Chubb paid thanks to all the volunteers who help run the Youth Club. Councillor Chubb stated that the Youth Club meets twice a month in Drimpton Village Hall and there are currently around twenty children aged from seven to fifteen. Councillor Chubb paid special thanks Mr. John Locke and family who stepped down as Youth Leader this year after ten years. A new Leader and Treasurer have been elected so the Club can continue. Councillor Chubb reported that in the last year the Youth Club has arranged film nights, a Beetle Drive, a visit

to Wayford Woods, a guided walk of the Drimpton Greenway Walk, a Games Night and a Tae kwon-do demonstration.

Councillor Chubb paid thanks to Councillor Roger Smith and the Village Hall Committee for helping to organise an Artsreach evening with two magicians, this was a great success with over a hundred children and adults enjoying an evening of magic, the money raised was given to the Village Hall for the car park extension. Councillor Chubb stated that unlike a lot of local youth clubs, Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club are entirely self-funded and have held a number of charitable events to help raise funds including a comedy and quiz night and thanked those involved in organising the events. Councillor Chubb reported that the Youth Club applied to the FMR Trust for money to enable the children to visit local attractions, the applications were successful and helped pay for transport and entry. Councillor Chubb stated that all Youth Club helpers are DBS checked and trained first aiders are present at each event.

Councillor Chubb reported that planned events for the remaining year include wall climbing in Yeovil, a visit to Bridport Police Station and a Skittles Night in the pub. To conclude, Councillor Chubb stated that Mosterton Youth Club had recently closed and Beaminster Youth Club has had problems with a loss of funding, so to have a local youth club is no easy thing to have. Councillor Chubb stated that the Youth Club relies on its volunteers to keep it afloat and again paid thanks to all those that give up their valuable time so that local village children can play and have fun together.

#### **18. CLAPTON, WAYFORD & DRIMPTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Mr. Martin Rowan-Robinson presented the report for the Clapton, Wayford & Drimpton Horticultural Society. Mr. Rowan-Robinson reported that the Society currently has sixty-nine members, with eleven new members joining this year. The Society has continued its programme of monthly meetings which have all been well attended. Mr. Rowan-Robinson stated that they had welcomed a variety of speakers including experts from nurseries from across the south west and head gardeners from Knightshayes and from Bishops Palace, Wells. Mr. Rowan-Robinson stated that the Society's Annual General Meeting had been held on 15 February and that Mr. John Wright was elected as Chair for the forthcoming year. Mr. Ian Hallett had stepped down from his position as Chair to take on the role of Show Secretary and the remainder of the Committee was unchanged. Mr. Rowan-Robinson stated that the Society is looking for a new Treasurer as Linda Smith wished to stand down and volunteers to serve on the Committee.

Mr. Rowan-Robinson reported that Potato Day had been held on 4 February with 140 people in attendance and paid thanks to Pennards Nurseries who made the day possible and to Mrs. Rosemary Shepherd for the excellent catering. Mr. Rowan-Robinson reported that the Annual Show was a great success with over 850 entries including more than 150 from children at Broadwindsor School. Mr. Rowan-Robinson reported that this was Mrs. Barbara Wright's final year as Show Secretary and stated that Mrs. Wright had fulfilled the role admirably and thanked her for her ten-year's service to the Society.

### **19. BROADWINDSOR CRICKET CLUB**

Councillor Andrew Frampton presented a report from the Broadwindsor Cricket Club. Councillor Frampton reported that the last twelve months had been just as successful off the pitch as well as on it. Councillor Frampton stated that the Team finished third in the Mid Wessex League despite not losing any games but due to having four games cancelled due to rain, valuable points were lost against lower opposition. Councillor Frampton stated that the Club had entertained three touring sides from around the country and also ran a very successful evening league competition which created good revenue for running expenses and also showcased the grounds to local teams. Councillor Frampton reported that the boundary board offer of £100.00 for five years had proved extremely popular with over twenty-five companies now on board including the latest SpecSavers which could be quite apt!

Councillor Frampton paid thanks to the financial support from the FMR Trust and stated that the Club has made huge strides into near completion of the Pavilion with a diesel generator now being installed and soon to be showers and lights. There is a new pedestrian gate at the top of the ground for villagers to access the grounds to come and watch and shortly there will be new entrance gates at the bottom. Councillor Frampton stated that the Club looked forward to having primary school children using the pitch on some Fridays throughout the summer term and to welcome the Parish Council which will be using the Pavilion for a meeting in July.

Councillor Frampton stated that the Club very much wants the ground to be an asset of the community and a facility for the village to use for anything from parties to weddings to fun days - as long as you stay off the wicket! Councillor Frampton reported that a list of fixtures will be put in the shop as well as on the Parish Council website and the Club warmly welcomes any support throughout the season. The next project will be roadside nets and a score box after the completion of the Pavilion and there will be a grand opening ceremony once all fixtures and fittings are completed. Councillor Frampton concluded by thanking the Parish Council and villagers for their continued support.

### **20. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD**

Councillor David Leader presented the report for the Broadwindsor Community Sportsfield. Councillor Leader stated that Hursey Common was the only level field in Broadwindsor and provides recreational opportunities for playing football and for dog walking. Councillor Leader stated that the maintenance of the Common is carried out by a group of volunteers, who help with jobs such as grass cutting and is supported by the Parish Council. Councillor Leader paid thanks to Charlie Reeder who as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award had taken on the responsibility of grass cutting for the year and had worked extremely hard, showing real community spirit. Councillor Leader stated that a number of working parties also convene during the year to help with maintenance. Councillor Leader stated that grant aid from the FMR Trust has been invaluable and thanked the volunteers, concluding that Hursey Common was an invaluable asset to the community.

## **21. CLOSE**

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Broadwindsor Grouped Parish area was a thriving community with so many wonderful people and assets working so well together. Councillor Hibbard stated that this would not be so without all the amazing volunteers. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk, speakers, exhibitors and members of the public for attending the Meeting. Mr. Brian Hesketh thanked Councillor Hibbard for his work and commitment to the community. The Annual Parish Meeting was formally closed at 9.08 pm.

DRAFT