

WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
held at 7.30pm on 2 May 2012
in the VILLAGE HALL, WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH

PRESENT Mr Paul Ritchie(Chair)
Mrs Christine Flemming (Vice-Chair)
Mr Richard Fry
Ms Caroline Ward
Mrs Aideene Turley
Mrs Emma Parker

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs P. Parker (Clerk), Jane Somper (District Councillor),
and 8 members of the general public.

46/12. Apologies for absence- Mr Chichester

**47/12. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 18 May 2011(Previously
circulated)**

PR proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record This was seconded by
CF and they were duly signed.

48/12. Matters Arising-None

49/12. Chairman's Report - See paper copy in Minutes file

50/12.Financial Report- See Addenda AGM 2012 (Below)

51/12. District and County Councillors' Reports

Hilary Cox's County Councillor's Report- See Addenda AGM 2012 (Below)

Jane Somper's District Councillor's Report – See paper copy in Minutes file

52/12. Reports from Village organisations.

Jim Luke gave a report from the Village Hall committee- See paper copy in Minutes
file

53/12. Election of Chairman

CW proposed that PR be elected as Chairman. This was seconded by CF and all were in favour. PR was pleased to accept the position.

54/12. Election of Vice-Chairman

CW proposed that CF be elected Vice-Chair. This was seconded by AT and all were in favour. CF was pleased to accept the position.

55/12. Appointment of Officers and Representatives.

The following were agreed:

Transport/Highways– EP

Village Hall- PR

DT11- CF

Playground- RF

Tree Officer- CW

Footpaths – CW/CF

DAPTC – AT

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 7.46pm

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ADDENDA

County Councillor Hilary Cox's Report

With the personal difficulties I have experienced over the last year now behind me, it is time to reflect on what has been achieved and to contemplate the future.

The Olympics coming to Weymouth has helped bring in Government funding for the Relief Road and other improvements in the town. Portland's Osprey Quay has been transformed since the Royal Navy left. Durlston Castle in Swanage has been completely refurbished as an introduction to the Jurassic Coast with an exhibition centre and a superb restaurant for visitors, a fitting 10 year anniversary celebration in recognition of the World Heritage Site managed for and by residents of Dorset. Our services for children have been rated as excellent by Ofsted, adult social care continues to improve and performs well and there has been a dramatic reduction in road casualties on our roads. The Dorset Waste Partnership was launched last April and has already proved that we can save by joining up collection and disposal. Within the next two years a new and better collection service will be rolled out across

the whole county. We have joined with Bournemouth and Poole to form a whole Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership which aims to improve our economic health.

The dreaded Council Tax bill has now arrived along with the useful booklet which sets out some financial information. Dorset relies on residents providing £204m of our total revenue spend of £274m which is an unusually high ratio. Many less favoured areas have closer to 50:50. However we have historically managed our finances very carefully. We have found £28m savings for the next year and frozen Council Tax, however over the next three years we will need to find a further £30m savings which will mean some very radical new ways of providing all our services.

As communities we will have to help ourselves more, not relying on the State to act for us all of the time. There is a Canadian joke which sums this up, when a visitor complained that **somebody ought to do something about a problem**....a local replied '**round here somebody is us**'. We will be looking for communities or other organisations to work with us to provide some of the services we can no longer fully fund. We are already working with seven communities to help run their own libraries, and I suspect many other similar services will soon need more volunteers to help keep them going. As an authority we aim to provide the best we can within the budget available, that budget just gets smaller, so we need to be move innovative.

My portfolio has several very vulnerable services within it; Libraries, Archives, Arts, Museums, Sport, which already have small budgets but provide much loved services. Other statutory services in the portfolio include Community Safety, Trading Standards and Registration which have also had to find savings.

As Eric Pickles has stolen and bowdlerised my JFDI motto we are being actively encouraged to just do it. I am confident that we will adapt to the times we live in and that DCC will do its part to reduce the amount spent by local government whilst providing the best services possible.

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Financial Statement

RECEIPTS

Receipts are very high for the year 2011-12 at £2,370, due to the one-off grant from NDDC of £2,275 for maintenance of Fields Close

A grit bin has been provided near the bridge to Fosters Meadows, partly by the PC (£128) and partly through sponsorship of £55 from DC Holdings.

The PC returned £60 to the Village Hall committee as Mr Adams kindly repaired the bench near the kitchen showroom at no charge.

EXPENDITURE

On the other hand, payments for 2011-12 appear small compared with the previous year, owing to the fact that thankfully we had no expense at the Playpark. We even

had our annual inspection paid for by HideAways the play equipment manufacturer, as a good will gesture after they made error in the installation of the new equipment. The biggest factors in Administration costs were, as ever, subscription to the County PC association (£203), insurance (£624) and the external audit fee (£135) Donations were made last year totalling £660, with £60 to the Youth Club, £50 to NeighbourCar, £500 to St Mary's PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard and £50 to Citizens' Advice
We start the year with £5,548.