

The Parish of Dilton Marsh

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllr Irving (Chair), Cllr Jones, Cllr Leigh, Cllr Williams, Cllr Howells, Cllr Ness.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk), Cllr Morland, Wiltshire Councillor Suzanne Wickham, PCSO Alice Moore and 6 members of the public.

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alison Irving, welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2023 were approved for accuracy and duly signed (proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Irving).
3. The Chairman of the Parish Council provided the following report:

Cllr Irving reported on the two large and contentious planning applications received during the year, one of which had been refused and one of which had been withdrawn by the applicant. She highlighted the work done on the pollinator project, thanking Cllrs Wickham and Jones for their hard work in bringing the project to fruition. The Community Speed Watch team were thanked for their success and the need for more volunteers was highlighted. It was reported that the PC had recently purchased a second SID for further deployment in the parish. Cllr Irving went on to report on the traffic issues which the PC had considered during the year, reporting on the work which had been undertaken to try to deal with speeding and parking issues. The recent installation of yellow lines in the parish was noted. It was also reported that the PC were working on the development of the playing field, with projects underway to improve drainage and provide equipment for older children. Cllr Gibbs was thanked for her work in arranging the village litter picks, which were now being combined with 'Meet your Councillor' events and refreshments. A bulb planting scheme was being planned for the autumn.

4. Statement on the Annual Accounts of the Parish Council for FY 2023-2024 – the Parish Clerk reported the following, also providing a breakdown of the Council reserves and balances:

Balances 1 st April 2023	£81,346
Precept	£31,259
Other income	£11,365

Staffing costs	£12,951
Other payments	£26,919
Balances 31 st March 2024	£84,100
Earmarked Funds	£75,115
General Reserve	£8,985

5. Wiltshire Council Councillor Suzanne Wickham provided report, a copy of which is available on request.

6. Reports from local organisations:

PSCO Alice Moore – reported that there had been a slight decrease in crime during the previous year, with 58 crimes being reported against 63. There had been 2 burglaries and 3 thefts. There had been an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour, but this was felt to be an increase in reporting taking place, rather than an increase in the number of incidents. Residents were encouraged to dial 999 to report an incident ongoing. PSCO Moore informed residents about the new mobile police station which was visiting parishes and a location was being identified for this in Dilton Marsh. Wiltshire Police was reported to be trying to increase the visibility of its force in rural areas.

Revd. Caroline Husband – thanked the Parish Council for its recent grant to Holy Trinity Church in support of the repairs to the pathways.

7. Other matters raised by those present:

A resident spoke to the PC regarding the parking along the High Street from the Memorial Hall up to Fairfield College, referencing the difficulties this presented for residents entering and exiting their properties and the significant tail backs of traffic generated by the parked vehicles. The PC confirmed it was aware of this issue and had raised a Highways Improvement Form with Wiltshire Council for a solution to be identified. The resident further reported on worsening flooding issues in the area. The PC confirmed that it was also aware of this issue and was liaising with Wiltshire Council to develop a Flood Plan for the parish and provide support for residents. This work was ongoing.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05 pm.