

UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2013

In attendance: Cllr's Bugler, Bailey, Cameron, Rabbitts, Richards, Rowe, Warburton, Gray and Gillingham, The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) and Cllr's Knox, Robinson and Sewell and four members of the public.

The Chairman was on holiday and had sent his apologies. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Bugler

The minutes of the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting were adopted by the meeting.

The chairman had forwarded an address in which he informed the meeting that the council hoped to soon be awarded Quality Status. He praised the clerk for the hard work he had put into getting the council ready for this award. The parish lengthsman scheme was proving to be very successful, although it would seem that the County Council were possibly going to stop or reduce funding. He thanked the clerk and councillors for their assistance and support during the year.

The police report for the year stated that there had been 4 burglaries, 19 thefts, 5 road incident, 1 arson, 9 criminal and 9 thefts from vehicles. The police commissioner was holding a meeting in Lyme Regis on the 31st May.

Marshwood: The main objective in Marshwood is the affordable housing project. This involved the setting up of a land trust, which had proved to be more difficult than had originally been thought. There had been some damage to the road near to Lambert's Castle.

Bettiscombe: Improvements have been made to the Village Hall. All agreed that the hall was looking good. There are a number of bad road surface problems in the parish.

Pilsdon: The road had been resurfaced but there was a need for the lengthsman to undertake some work in the parish.

Stoke Abbott: The lengthsman had made a big difference in the village by keeping the gullies and drains clear. This had resulted in far less problems than in the past.

County Council

Cllr Turner was well aware of the problems with the road surfaces but explained that there had been a reduction in budgets for road works which was causing major problems. Cllr Knox spoke about the continuing problems being caused by the closure of Beaminster tunnel. The council was pushing to ensure that broadband would be available for rural Dorset.

The new Local plan would make it easier for redundant farm buildings to be used where new builds would normally not be permitted. The Olympics in Weymouth had been a great success, but had used a great deal of resources. The partnership between WDDC and Weymouth Borough Council would produce substantial savings, including using one Chief Executive. The council office move was on time, and actually under budget. Stratton House had been sold. The council tax had once again been frozen. There will be a new swimming pool in Dorchester. The meeting in Blackdown regarding the Affordable housing had resulted in all but one person voting in favour of the scheme.

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting