

**ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly**  
**1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 7.00pm**  
**Held in the Village Hall**

Present: Chair of the meeting Cllr JB Parker

Cllr B Goringe, Cllr M Goringe, Cllr M Dyer, Cllr JW Parker, Cllr A Davies,  
Cllrs S Marshall

In attendance: Clerk Mr Jonathan Ross.

**1. The Chair** welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly of St Leonards and St Ives. The agenda, minutes of the previous meeting and accounts summary for the year had been circulated to those present.

**2. The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021** were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe and seconded by Cllr S Marshall.

**3. Matters arising** - none

**4. Chair's Report:**

The Chair thanked Cllr Alan Davies for his chairing over the past 2 years. Steering the Parish Council through what was a very difficult period for everyone.

We are getting back to normality after Covid and face to face meetings are once again taking place.

In 2021 the playpark was completely refurbished. It was designed and project managed in house by a working party consisting of the clerk and councillors, at a cost of £120k. This was paid for by savings made by the parish council over the years and from CIL payments received from the Victory Oak development. More work is to be carried out in June to remove the gravel under the zip wire and install rubber surfacing.

The playpark refurbishment has been well received by residents and receives positive comments

Two new streetlights with energy efficient LED lighting have been installed in the playpark. These will provide added security for users of the recreation ground and playpark in times of darkness.

Ten new larger wheelie bins have been installed throughout the parish – replacing many smaller dog waste bins. This is a project in which the Parish Council worked closely with the Dorset Waste Partnership to achieve. This will hopefully reduce the occurrence of bins getting full and overflowing and it will assist the refuse collectors in emptying the bins. This is because several of the new bins have been relocated nearer to roadways, which reduces the distance operatives must walk to collect the bin.

Additional works to improve the fire security of the building took place. Monitors and sounders have been installed in all storage areas.

Youth Club. Unfortunately, numbers of young people attending the youth club dropped to such a low level that it was decided to close the youth club. This was a difficult decision made by councillors.

### Future Projects

Refurbishment of the function room kitchen. The current kitchen is showing signs of its age and looks very tired and needs replacing. A design will be produced in house and tenders sought later in the year. Works are planned to take place later this year or early next year.

Storage in the parish offices is at a premium. It is therefore planned to enlarge the small storage cupboard in the function room. All tables, chairs and cleaning equipment can then be stored there. This will free up other areas and allow the whole of the function room to be utilised by the nursery and the PC for meetings/functions.

Quotes are being sought to replace the lighting in the main corridor with energy efficient LED lighting that is movement controlled. This will provide an improved lighting and reduce energy costs.

The whole of the function room will then be decorated. It is planned to install some form of vinyl sheeting 1m high around the walls. This will be washable. It will prevent marks, scuffs to paintwork and allow the nursery to have a surface to stick pictures, notices etc. It will also add some colour and interest to the room.

### Business

The Clerk continues to write to residents advising them of hedge cutting to prevent pavements becoming narrow and impassable. This has worked well over the pandemic especially when social distancing was important.

The PC manages about 18 litter picker volunteers who collect litter from around the parish. During the pandemic the volunteers all operated individually. It is hoped that now the pandemic restrictions have been lifted these volunteers can be managed in a more coordinated and effective manner.

New Councillor – Catriona Johnson has started. We now have a full complement of 13 councillors. 3 of which are Dorset Councillors.

Planning applications have proved difficult, and several applications have been successful despite PC objections. Three applications of concern are still to be determined –

- Surf Park
- 184 Ringwood Road proposed 15 flats to replace a house,
- Proposed convenience store on Horton Road by Emerald Close

Similar concerns have been expressed about Planning by the majority of other Parish Councils in Dorset. Recently a meeting was held in Dorchester between representatives of councils and Dorset Council. At this meeting a commitment was made by Dorset Council to engage with councils more regularly and meaningfully.

The Village Hall is open and nearly back to full operation. It is used extensively by many varied groups. It has attracted some new groups but has sadly lost some.

The bowls club suffered like all groups during the pandemic. They are still operational and very well run. They are trying to recruit new members and increase their income.

The tennis club is very well run, and the courts are extensively used by all age groups. Their showers, toilets and main function room were completely refurbished last year and improvements were made to the court surfacing and fencing.

The scouts and guides continue to operate from the scout hut.

The PC continues to work closely with all our site users. Supporting and helping them where possible to improve their facilities and encourage new users.

The Parish Council realises that climate change is extremely important and will be looking at producing some action plans to address our carbon footprint in the following year. This will involve capturing data and identifying aims and objectives that we can achieve.

The Parish Council currently uses its website and Facebook as a means of communicating with residents. It is aware that it can improve its use of social media to communicate more effectively and possibly reach a wider audience. The PC will look at what other methods can be used and how.

**5. Annual Summary of the Accounts** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Copies had been circulated with the agenda. There were no matters raised.

The Chair reported:

The Councils accounts show a healthy balance which should stand us in good stead to meet the challenges of the future.

The Council continues to support groups by way of annual grants this year these were to:

- Village Hall
- CAB
- Greyfriars Minibus
- Age Concern
- Youth Club

No questions were raised on the annual summary.

## **6. General Forum –**

Cllr B Goringe questioned whether the asset register figures were an accurate reflection of the actual costs it would take to rebuild the parish owned buildings should they be lost in a fire or similar event. The Clerk explained that the asset register figures were the historical costs at time of build and are not increased by inflation and therefore always stay the same. The council insurers have the asset register and they insure the buildings for the full rebuild cost, which is assessed and uplifted by them as necessary.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

**Chair**