

# CHILD OKEFORD

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009 was held in the Village Hall at 7-30pm.

Twenty parishioners attended including Councillors Holdeman, Addley, Carpenter, Cotton, Duke, Lewis, Riley, Schwier and Yard together with the Clerk. PC Richard Barnes attended for part time. Sylvia Holdeman presided.

1. **Welcome & Apologies.** Sylvia Holdeman thanked those present and explained the format of the evening. No apologies were received.
2. **Talk.** Kate St George gave a highly interesting and informative talk on the life of William Barnes, interspersing the narrative here and there with readings of his poetry. At the conclusion of the talk she was warmly thanked by the Chairman and received an ovation from the gathered assembly.
3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008, having been previously circulated, were signed. There were no matters arising.
4. **Police Report.** PC Richard Barnes explained that Blandford Police Division had set up PACT (Partners and Communities Together) to better serve the area and to more readily address and respond to the concerns of the public. He said that he was a member of the northern area team in which there were twenty one parishes in addition to Child Okeford. Cards are available locally for completion by members of the public to request action on particular items. The next initiative to be prioritised in Child Okeford is speeding motorists.
5. **Chairman's Report.** Cllr. Holdeman gave a resumé of the activities of the Council during the past year, mentioning particularly the additional facilities provided in the Recreation Ground by the Cricket Club and the Youth Club and the completion of the new store; our attempt to purchase a group SID with Sturminster Newton Town Council and other communities in the area; the protection scheme at the War Memorial and the distribution of a new Village Directory.

At the conclusion of her report Cllr Duke warmly thanked her for her commitment to the Council and the village over many years, a fact that was recognised by her personal invitation to attend this year's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

6. **Planning Committee's Report.** Cllr. Schwier, head of the Planning team, reported on the activities of the past year by saying that they had processed 18 applications relating to sites in this parish. Of these 10 had been approved, 3 refused and 3 are still pending. Three sites had featured twice. She then explained at length the intricacies of the planning system.
7. **Parish Plan.** Cllr Duke gave a resumé of the Child Okeford & Parish Plan which was published in May 2004, by saying that in the intervening five years its seven basic recommendations had been implemented as far as it has been possible to do. The two major issues, planning and traffic, are ongoing problems that continually engage the village and Council. He concluded by inviting volunteers to join a committee to review the Plan, stressing that this was a task that should be led by villagers separate from the Council, although the Council will offer its support and help in implementing its recommendations.
8. **SturQuest.** Cllr. Duke reported that over the past year or so the main focus of this Community Partnership was now almost entirely centred on the town, to the detriment of the satellite villages. This was due to a number of circumstances which, to regain its former close association with the villages, need to be radically changed
9. **CPEND (Community Partnership Executive North Dorset).** Cllr Duke explained that this was a group set up to coordinate the Activities of the 4 Community Partnerships by

liaising between then and the NDDC, the DCC, Dorset Community Partnership, Dorset Community Action and the DAPTC. It has only been in existence since the beginning of 2008 but has managed to secure funding of £25,000 for each of 2008 and 2009. Child Okeford has benefitted for two grants from this source. Its major achievement to date has been the award of £2.85M from the EU for rural development.

10. **DT11 Forum Community Partnership.** Cllr. Lewis reported that DT11's focus had shifted this year from planning to delivery, which will be achieved through the Community Strategic Plan. This Community Partnership, in addition to other projects, will support the construction of a new bridge at Stourpaine to link up the Trailway between Blandford and Shillingstone.
11. **Environmental Committee Report.** Cllr. Cotton, its chairman, reported that this is a new committee set up though the Parish Council, but independent of it. Nevertheless, it will work closely with the Council in pursuing its aims. He said that they were in the final stages of collating the information from the recent village-wide survey and he was encouraged by the interest expressed in the environment friendly schemes.
12. **Child Okeford Relief in Need Charity.** John Salwey reported on this charity which essentially administers the allotments and adjacent small field. Founded in 1974 and currently having 5 trustees, including the Rector and Secretary as ex-officio members, its aims has changed over the years in fulfilling its aims from providing individual personal financial support to distributing financial support to village organisation. Its main assets, in addition to a small reserve fund, comprises a small field, which is leased to a farmer on a 5 year term, together with 11 allotments, with possibly others in the pipeline. There is currently a waiting list for allotments.
13. **Rights of Way Report.** In the absence of Alan Blundell, the Parish Rights of Way Officer, the Clerk reported that all the village paths were open although some clearing of the vegetation may shortly be necessary. A new bridge and two new gates have recently been provided on footpath 13.
14. **Open Discussion Period.** The Chairman answered several questions from the floor.

There being no other business the Chairman that all the Councillors for their commitment over the past year, thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9-20pm.

Signed ..... Presiding Chairman

Date .....

**Please note that the foregoing do not become minutes until approved and signed to this effect by the Presiding Chairman.**