

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF
SYDENHAM DAMEREL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH ON 29TH JUNE 2016

Present: Tracy Windemer, Barry Isaacs, Stephen Reddicliffe, Jane Franklin, Claire Britten, Denise Head, Matt Barrow

Apologies: James Pattison, Cllr. Bob Baldwin.

Minutes: The minutes of 2015 were read and signed.

Vice Chairman's Address: Barry Isaacs introduced himself as Vice Chairman and welcomed all to the meeting. He began his address with information that the parish council had dealt with six planning applications during the year. He said there are continuing moves to limit new developments to existing settlements with new developments having to demonstrate "sustainability" – meaning they are close to services for example schools, shops, bus routes, footpaths, cycleways etc.

He then explained the Transparency Code which requires the parish council to have a Web site and to publish documents, meetings, agendas and minutes. Funding was successfully applied to allow the parish council to meet its obligations under the data transparency code. The Web site is up and running (www.sydenham-damerel.org.uk) and the council is working to publish policies and procedures. He urged everyone to take a look and perhaps even contribute to it.

On to our roads, following an exceptionally wet spell, there were sections of some deterioration, for example a particularly dangerous pothole at Lane End has been repaired twice and shows signs of re-opening. Elsewhere we have had some surface dressing and repairs. The council continues to monitor the situation. Footpaths are also checked for obstruction and repair. One recently reported was the

footpath from Townlake to Horsebridge where the gates were in a poor state.

A.O.B: Members of the public were then invited to discuss any other business. Firstly it was brought to the parish council's attention that the bench at Sydenham Cross was showing signs of deterioration. Secondly, it was reported that the hedge surrounding the directional road sign at Derriton needed to be cut back. Finally, there was a popular suggestion that the hamlet of Townlake should have its own sign.

The Vice Chairman went on to speak about his personal frustration of poor broadband standards in the parish, before introducing Matt Barrow of "Connecting Devon & Somerset" who gave some enlightenment of the future plans for improving technology, hence broadband speeds which should become available in Sydenham Damerel in the not too distant future.