

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parrett and Axe Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

#### PRESENT

Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, clerk Angela Gillingham and 10 residents.

#### 1453. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kate Organ opened the meeting and was nominated to continue as Chairman. There were no further nominations and Cllr Organ was duly elected as Chairman to serve for a further year (proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr de la Poer). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

#### 1454. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Cllr Liz Fray, the current Vice-Chairman, it was agreed to defer the election of a Vice-Chairman until the next meeting.

#### 1455. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Fray (due to continuing ill health), Cllr Jane Cooper, Dave McSkelly and Bob Buckland.

#### 1456. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016, which had previously been approved, were circulated for information.

#### 1457. MATTERS ARISING Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

Planning – the Parish Council's duty is to seriously review all applications, bearing in mind that we live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that both our villages are Conservation Areas. Our aim is that all new building and alterations should enhance the built environment and not be detrimental to the natural environment. There have been numerous planning applications in the past year in South Perrott and only two in Chedington. All have been carefully considered and neighbours notified. The Planning Department and Committee have then made their decisions. Suffice to say that all the retrospective plans have been passed and this includes the listed properties.

Highways have repaired pot holes and emptied blocked gullies when reported. Surface dressing has been done in Chedington along the main road in the village and in South Perrott, Picket Lane and Lecher Lane. All that is outstanding now is surface dressing of Pipplepen Lane and the white line down the sides of the A356 coming into South Perrott from the 30mph speed limit from Dorchester direction. Our request for an improved junction at Lecher Lane and the Mosterton road has been turned down yet again due to financial constraints as nobody has been seriously injured or killed. Perhaps we should try for double white lines again to stop vehicles overtaking down the slope.

It is good to see the Coach & Horses is open again.

Mike Charles in Chedington is kindly repairing the broken fingerposts in Chedington and South Perrott.

The first section of the post and rail fencing in Picket Lane in South Perrott was renewed as a result of the Parish Council purchasing four new posts and local residents nearby donating money to purchase the remaining five posts. Highways kindly supplied the labour. The next section needs to have a section of bank repaired and new posts to replace those which are broken. This will be expensive and falls to us, the Parish Council, to fund. We are going to apply to the Lottery Heritage Fund in the faint hope of getting a grant.

The planter in the Pound is now to be stocked and maintained by the Flower Show Committee and we thank them very much for their kind offer.

Broadband speeds are still slow, particularly for those who haven't changed to superfast and not much better if you have. Mobile reception is still virtually non-existent. We look forward to 2019 when EE takes over all the "not-spots".

To close, I would like to thank Angela Gillingham, our brilliant clerk, who keeps us all informed of any matters which need attention and reminds me in particular of urgent and necessary actions. Thanks to all the Council for all their hard work to fulfil our duties. My best wishes to Liz Fray for a speedy recovery and for all her hard work as Vice Chairman. Thanks to Martyn Gillingham for his huge work as Flood and River Warden and for his co-ordination in getting us the defibrillator and work with Broadband problems. Thanks to Dominie de la Poer who has walked hundreds of miles in 10 years as our Footpaths Officer and who is sadly retiring.

### **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2017.

Total receipts for the past financial year amounted to £3,854.28

Total payments for the past financial year amounted to £3,246.93

We came in £413 under budget for the year 2016-2017, because money allocated for various contingency costs was not called upon. We started the new financial year with £5,782.73 in the Parish Council account.

The Accounts, Annual Governance Statement, Register of Assets and Internal Audit were adopted by the Council (proposed by Cllr de la Poer and seconded by Cllr Coutanche).

The accounts will be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days, commencing on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The clerk expressed thanks to Mr Peter Coles who carried out the internal audit.

### **Footpaths Officer's Report**

Dominie de la Poer, footpaths officer for South Perrott, gave the following report:

There are 10 footpaths and 3 bridleways in and around South Perrott. There is very little to report this year as any small problems, such as overgrown vegetation, fallen branches, very muddy patches, that have arisen along the footpaths and bridleways have been dealt with by landowners and local residents. This helps to reduce the pressure on DCC's resources and we are very grateful to those who have helped.

Following a suggestion from the Parish Council, a simplified map of rights of way in South Perrott and Chedington has been produced. This will assist newcomers and all users of rights of way to be aware of which routes they can take. I would like to thank Desmond Thomas for his time and artistic talent in helping to produce this.

This is my last report as Footpaths Officer as I am standing down after 10 years. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, I am happy to talk to them about it.

Any problems or queries about the rights of way can be reported directly to DCC via the website [dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://dorsetforyou.gov.uk).

### **River Warden's Report**

Martyn Gillingham gave the following report:

The winter of 2016/17 was mild and comparatively dry, and there have been no major issues with flooding in the village. Thankfully, Storm Angus passed us by!

On one occasion in November 2016, the A356 was flooded at New Bridge, between South Perrott and the Misterton crossroads, and became impassable to cars and light vehicles. Once notified of the flooding, I was able to clear the gullies on both sides of the road, which had become blocked with autumn leaves, and the flood water drained away into Lecher Water.

Later that month, I attended the Dorset Flood Warden Seminar at Dorchester, organised by the Wessex Flood Resilience Team at the Environment Agency, which provided useful information on how to deal with flooding issues.

If anyone has any queries on flooding, or wants further information on the river through the village, please let me know.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED

Signed..... Date.....  
Chairman