

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parrett and Axe Parish Council held on Thursday 10th May 2018 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle (Vice Chairman), Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche and Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: District Cllr Tony Alford, clerk Angela Gillingham and 5 residents.

1523. 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 Cooper, seconded by Cllr de la Poer). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

1524. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Chris Birtwhistle was nominated to continue as Vice-Chairman. There were no further nominations and Cllr Birtwhistle was elected as Vice-Chairman to serve for a further year (proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

1525. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Asha Braginton, County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff, Dave McSkelly and Shona Meikle.

1526. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2017, which had previously been approved and signed, were circulated for information.

1527. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

a) Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

Members have a responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of financial management and internal control. At the meeting held on 8th March 2018 members reviewed and approved the Council's financial risk assessment.

Members resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 (proposed by Cllr de la Poer, and seconded by Cllr Organ).

b) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18

Members considered and resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for 2017/18 (proposed by Cllr de la Poer and seconded by Cllr Cooper).

c) Register of Assets

The Council's register of Assets was reviewed and adopted by members (proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr de la Poer).

d) Financial Report

The Clerk gave a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2018.

Total receipts for the past financial year amounted to £4,597.38.

Total payments for the past financial year amounted to £3,089.26.

We came in £909 under budget for the year 2017-2018, mainly because we have budgeted to build a reserve of £1,000 each year for miscellaneous highway works, most of which has not been called upon. We started the new financial year with £7,290.85 in the Parish Council account.

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

The accounts will be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days, commencing on 4th June 2018.

1528. **REPORTS**

a) Chairman’s Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

We have had the usual six meetings in the past year, at which the usual main items appear regularly. I do note that some meetings have been lengthy and I aim to keep a closer eye on the clock next year.

One change of councillors occurred in September after Liz Fray had to resign due to ill health. Mrs Asha Braginton was co-opted onto the Council to represent Chedington. I would like to thank again Liz for all her hard work as a Chedington councillor and also for her support as Vice-Chairman. My thanks also go to Chris Birtwhistle, who was voted in as Vice-Chairman, for his work.

Highway issues - We were pleased to have Mike Westwood, Highways Manager, at our last meeting, following a walkabout in South Perrott to review the road scheme and current speeding issues. He also met Col. Hargreaves to discuss the flooding outside Sarum. Potholes have been an ongoing problem in both villages. Angela notifies County Highways immediately any problems are reported. The potholes are usually repaired fairly quickly. However, Pipplepen Lane in South Perrott is still in a dreadful state and awaiting repairs and hopefully re-surfacing. Flooding in the dip in the road on the A356 on the approach from the west still occurs after very heavy rain but is much better than it was before the latest Highways intervention.

Speeding through both villages is still a problem. Chedington now has slow signs and South Perrott awaits speed checks at both ends of the village.

Planning - We have had fewer planning applications in the past year. Chedington had three and South Perrott six (three of which were for garages with rooms above).

Mobile Phone Reception - has improved for EE users but there is no change for others.

Broadband signals - have improved close to the routers but are not so good in old properties with thick walls.

To finish, I would first like to thank Angela Gillingham for all her hard work as our Clerk. She works tirelessly to keep all complaints and issues dealt with immediately. She keeps us all informed of everything which arises between meetings and my job would be impossible without all of her tireless work, as the paperwork involved with all the Council work has increased enormously, not to mention the accounts!

My thanks go to (1) Martyn Gillingham, our river/flood warden, for keeping rivers flowing and roads flood-free and for his Broadband reports; (2) Peter Edwards, our footpaths officer, who regularly walks the footpaths and bridleways and reports any problems; (3) Bob Buckland, our tree warden, who deals with all arboreal matters; (4) Jill Turner for her surveys on mobile phone reception, and (5) Dave McSkelly, co-editor of the Pump & Pound. Last but far from least, I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their hard work in our villages and for their help and support for me in the past year.

Footpaths Officer’s Report

Peter Edwards, Footpaths Officer for South Perrott, reported that there were no significant issues over the year, but when he sees a problem he reports it straightaway to Rights of Way.

River Warden’s Report

Martyn Gillingham reported that despite last winter being long and very wet, there had been no flooding in the village, apart from the usual problems with the dip in the road out of the village towards Crewkerne. No further training had been organised by the Environment Agency, but they now issue a Flood Warden newsletter during the year, and are available to give advice when required.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED

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