

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parrett and Axe Parish Council held on Thursday 8th May 2014 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.

#### PRESENT

Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Kate Organ (Vice-Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Liz Fray and Peter Simmons. Also in attendance: District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, clerk Angela Gillingham and 4 residents.

#### 1251. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mike Johnson opened the meeting and expressed a willingness to continue as Chairman. There were no further nominations and Cllr Johnson was elected as Chairman - proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Simmons. A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

#### 1252. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kate Organ expressed a willingness to continue as Vice-Chairman. There were no further nominations and Cllr Organ was elected as Vice-Chairman - proposed by Cllr Fray, seconded by Cllr Coutanche. A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

#### 1253. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Anita Legg, County Cllr Rebecca Knox, PCSO Alex Bishop and Dominic de la Poer.

#### 1254. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. They were proposed by Cllr Organ and seconded by Cllr Coutanche.

#### 1255. MATTERS ARISING

##### Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the year had yet again been mostly about the A356, but he was hopeful that most of the issues within our parishes would be resolved. He said that the Vice-Chairman, the clerk and he had spent a considerable amount of time working with Highways officers to seek resolutions. Other items during the year had been the refurbishment of the Pound, which is now coming to an end, the Village and Parish Plans, the Bus Service alterations, especially the 204 Thorncombe to Yeovil service which it was considered essential to retain in some form, Mobile Phone Reception which is an ongoing issue and the Dorset Country Cars Scheme which is to become the NeighbourCar Community Transport Scheme. The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors, the clerk and all who had supported him during the past year.

##### Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2014.

Total receipts for the past financial year amounted to £3,859.39

Total payments for the past financial year amounted to £3,666.12

We came in more than £400 under budget for the year 2013-2014, because costs such as the new computer were not as high as expected, and contingency money was not called upon.

We start the new financial year with £3,044.96 in the Parish Council account.

The Accounts, Annual Governance Statement, Register of Assets and Internal Audit were adopted by the Council. Proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Organ.

The accounts will be available for inspection.

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

**Footpaths Officer's Report**

In a written report, Dominie de la Poer, footpaths officer for South Perrott, reported that there are 10 footpaths and 3 bridleways in and around South Perrott. Most of these have been trouble free throughout the year. Langmoor Lane still has work outstanding from last year. The sandbag revetting has been undermined by a land drain and been washed into the stream. This has not impeded the flow of water but sandbags continue to be dislodged. Contractors are due to start work in the next couple of weeks. Jill Exton at DCC explained that the hold-up has been due to difficulty of access as equipment needs to be brought across the fields and they are still too wet. FP5 runs across the field near Manor Farm, towards Chedington. Where it enters the wood and meets FP7 from Chedington the stile has completely collapsed. DCC are aware of this and it is on the schedule of works for the maintenance team. During the very wet and windy winter some trees were brought down across bridleways and footpaths. Thanks must go to the landowners for clearing these Rights of Way so quickly and efficiently.

**River Warden's Report**

Martyn Gillingham reported that in the gale on Christmas Eve a tree had blown down across the river at the ford in Bailey's Lane. The adjoining landowner arranged for its removal. In the same gale, a fence panel from a property in Parrett Mead ended up in the river, and was retrieved and returned to the owner. To avoid potential damage to a property in Picket Lane, sandbags supplied by the Environment Agency were placed in the river alongside the property. Mr Gillingham also emphasised the need to keep culverts and road gullies clear of debris to assist with the run-off of surface water into the river. The Environment Agency is keen to ensure that any incidents at the flood storage area or the river Parrett are reported to them as soon as possible.

Mr Gillingham was thanked for his report

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED

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

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