

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parrett and Axe Parish Council held on Thursday 14th May 2015 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer, Liz Fray and Kate Organ, Also in attendance: District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, County Cllr Rebecca Knox, clerk Angela Gillingham and 11 residents.

1317. ELECTION 2015

Cllr Mike Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that an error in the administration of the parish council elections the previous week was being investigated by the District Council. It was not known whether this would affect the membership of the parish council but the meeting would proceed with the currently elected members.

1318. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mike Johnson invited nominations for Chairman. Cllr Kate Organ was nominated. There were no further nominations and Cllr Organ was elected as Chairman (proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr de la Poer). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

1319. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kate Organ took the chair and invited nominations for Vice-Chairman. Cllr Liz Fray was nominated. There were no further nominations and Cllr Fray was elected as Vice-Chairman (proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr de la Poer). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

1320. VACANCIES ON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman invited nominations for Co-opted Members to fill the Chedington vacancies on the parish council. Miss Jane Cooper and Mr Chris Birtwhistle were nominated. There were no further nominations and Miss Cooper and Mr Birtwhistle were elected. (Proposed by Cllr Fray, seconded by Cllrs Coutanche and de la Poer.) Declarations of Acceptance of Office were duly signed.

1321. APOLOGIES

None.

1322. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. They were proposed by Cllr Coutanche and seconded by Cllr Organ.

1323. MATTERS ARISING

Chairman's Report

Mr Mike Johnson reported that the year had yet again been mostly dominated by the A356. The resurfacing work had been a great improvement. Mr Johnson thanked his fellow councillors, the clerk, those who had contributed to the "Pump & Pound" 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 2015.

Total receipts for the past financial year amounted to £3,878.24

Total payments for the past financial year amounted to £2,704.72

We came in more than £855 under budget for the year 2014-2015, because money allocated for various contingency costs was not called upon. We started the new financial year with £4,218.48 in the Parish Council account.

The Accounts, Annual Governance Statement, Register of Assets and Internal Audit were adopted by the Council. Proposed by Cllr Organ and seconded by Cllr Coutanche. 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. Along Langmoor Lane the sandbag revetting has now been replaced and the bank stabilised. There is still a badly eroded section of bank near the start of the bridleway, which is on the schedule of works for the Rights of Way maintenance team.

To help maintain footpaths and bridleways, the County Council has introduced a Service Level Agreement (SLA), which is a contract between the council and parishes whereby each parish can identify those rights of way most in need of maintenance. There would be a cost to the parish council of 20p per metre and the parish council has decided not to enter into a formal SLA at the present time. There are only three rights of way in South Perrott which become particularly overgrown (Langmoor Lane, Baileys Lane and the footpath alongside the Old School House in Pipplepen Lane) and it is hoped that a group of volunteers can become involved in clearing these, as and when required. Ben Hanley, the Countryside Ranger for West Dorset, can arrange training if such a group is formed.

The other development in the last year is that Roger Legg from Picket Farm is in discussions with DCC Rights of Way about creating a new hard-surfaced bridleway between Picket Lane and Langmoor Lane. This will provide a welcome addition to the network of rights of way in and around the village.

Mrs de la Poer was thanked for her report.

It was noted that Shiona Meikle had agreed to be the new footpaths officer for Chedington.

River Warden's Report

Martyn Gillingham reported that it had been a quiet year compared to the previous year when we had all the gale damage. The only outstanding issue is the sand bags still outside a property in Picket Lane which needs to be resolved before next winter. He also reported that individuals are able to report blocked gullies on the Dorset4You website. He had reported a blocked gully in Picket Lane which Highways had cleared, together with the adjacent ditch. It was agreed that thanks should be sent to Highways for their prompt action.

Mr Gillingham was thanked for his report

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED

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