

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parrett and Axe Parish Council held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Liz Fray (Vice-Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, clerk Angela Gillingham and 12 residents.

1386. 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 Fray, seconded by Cllr Coutanche). A declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

1387. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

1388. APOLOGIES

None.

1389. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. They were proposed by Cllr Fray and seconded by Cllr de la Poer.

1390. MATTERS ARISING

Chairman's Report

"It has been quite a busy year from day one, for a variety of reasons.

Election – There was an immediate problem after the election last year. An administrative error occurred when Chedington residents were given voting slips for the South Perrott election. Changes have now been made to the system so that it cannot happen again. We were very grateful for Matt Prosser's attendance at the July meeting to clarify the situation.

Results – In Chedington, Liz Fray was re-elected as a councillor and Chris Birtwhistle and Jane Cooper were elected as co-opted members. In South Perrott, Sue Coutanche and I were re-elected and Anthony de la Poer was elected back onto the Council after four years. It has been a great team to work with.

Roads have been an issue again. Thankfully Chedington's main street and Chedington Lane are due to have new surface dressing next month, after years of torment with potholes. Lecher Lane and Picket Lane in South Perrott will also be surface dressed. Negotiations are ongoing in South Perrott about the repair to the damaged railings in Picket Lane - more about that later. The dangerous junction at Lecher Lane and A3066 is still awaiting new design.

Superfast Broadband has come to both villages this year. Thanks to Martyn Gillingham for speeding it up. There are some teething problems to be resolved.

Mobile phone reception – thanks to David Lines for his very comprehensive survey in South Perrott and Liz Fray in Chedington, and for Oliver Letwin's intervention. Reception will improve next year when EE take over supplying emergency services throughout the whole country, not-spots included.

Planning problems have been an issue in South Perrott with four retrospective applications which are still ongoing. Our concerns are that current legislation does not give Planning Department at WDDC any powers to control or stop the situation.

New Bus Service – an excellent new service on Wednesday to Dorchester and Friday to Yeovil. Thanks to Liz Fray for researching and setting it up with Nordcat.

Before I close my report, I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their hard work on behalf of our two villages, and especially Liz, our Vice-Chairman, for her hard work and support to me. Many thanks go to Angela, our amazing clerk, who copes with the finances and changing rules and regulations and helps me enormously. Thanks to Sue and Dave for editing "The Pump & Pound". Thanks to Martyn, our River and Flood Warden and thanks to Dominie, our Footpaths Officer. Thanks to County Cllr Rebecca Knox, and to District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, and PCSO Alex Bishop for attending our meetings when possible."

Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2016.

Total receipts for the past financial year amounted to £3,878.06

Total payments for the past financial year amounted to £2,921.16

We came in £809 under budget for the year 2015-2016, because money allocated for various contingency costs was not called upon. We started the new financial year with £5,175.38 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 Fray).

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

Dominie de la Poer, footpaths officer for South Perrott, reported that there are 10 footpaths and 3 bridleways in and around South Perrott. There is very little to report this year as any small problems that have arisen along the footpaths and bridleways have been dealt with locally. The Council did a much-needed cut of the vegetation in Langmoor Lane in June last year. The bank along the river in Langmoor Lane is still on the list to be repaired. Fortunately it has not deteriorated over the last twelve months. Any problems or queries about the rights of way can be reported to Dominie or directly to DCC via the website dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway. Mrs de la Poer was thanked for her report.

River Warden's Report

Martyn Gillingham reported that despite the wet winter the flood alleviation measures for South Perrott have again proved successful and there has been no flooding in the village from the River Parrett. However, the potential for surface water floods has given cause for concern, particularly in Picket Lane and Pipplepen Lane, where surface water run-off from adjacent fields and ditches has overloaded the highway drains. He stressed the need to keep roadside gulleys clear and free from debris, to enable excess surface water to drain into the river. On the edge of the village, on the A356 to Crewkerne, where Lecher Water passes under the road, blocked gulleys have caused flooding on the main road. Within the village, the Parish Council has taken over responsibility for erecting "road flooded" signs on the short stretch of the A356 between Sarum and Swing Gate Cottage, where flooding often occurs due to a blocked road culvert. Mr Gillingham was thanked for his report

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED

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