

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Liz Fray (Vice-Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, PCSO Alex Bishop, Jez Morris (Magna Housing), clerk Angela Gillingham and 13 residents.

1375. PUBLIC SESSION

No items raised.

1376. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, Dominic de la Poer and Dave McSkelly.

1377. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer , seconded by Cllr Birtwhistle)

1378. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues –

Rural Bus Review – following a very useful meeting in Mosterton of interested parties, Cllr Knox reported that villages were putting forward their own ideas for alternative rural transport and asked the parish council to put forward solutions that would suit Chedington and South Perrott residents.

Local Government in Dorset – Cllr Knox reported that DCC were looking at the future shape of local government. Whether it should become a Shire (unitary) with more power devolved to towns and parishes. At present there is too much bureaucracy and there is a need to save money. At the top level, Central Government could devolve power down, e.g. the operation of concessionary bus fares. There will be local meetings organised to give residents a say in the future shape of Dorset.

PCSO Alex Bishop reported that over the last two months there had been one suspicious incident when a report was received of four males looking into a holiday cottage. They moved away when challenged. The Police investigated and found that there was no criminal intent. No other incidents reported. PCSO Bishop advised that his team was still stationed in the Police Station at Beaminster but at some point would be moving to accommodation in the Fire Station.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1379. MAGNA HOUSING

The Chairman introduced Jez Morris, Head of Housing Services, Magna Housing Association. Mr Morris explained that he was visiting local councils in order to raise awareness of the Magna Housing Association. There are 16 Magna properties in South Perrott. Mr Morris is the manager of a team of 35 staff who collect rents totalling £35 million a year across West Dorset. Magna charge 40% less than market rents. Last year they were required by Government to reduce the rents by 1% which will mean a loss of £5 million over the next five years. The new Right To Buy scheme has been extended to housing association tenants, and if residents exercise their right to buy, Magna will buy new properties, with the help of Government funding, to replace those bought. Mr Morris said that Magna is willing to put money into community schemes if their

residents will benefit from it – e.g. benches, bus shelters - with a ceiling of £1,000 for any individual project.

The Chairman advised that she had met Jill Brighthouse, Magna Housing Officer, to discuss issues with the Magna housing in School Hill. Residents have complained that there is no street lighting and their front doors are very dark at night. Jill Brighthouse is arranging for bulkhead lighting for them.

1380. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Matters arising from minutes**

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the following matters –

Highways issues –

Potholes – DCC has issued its provisional Capital Programme Schedule for 2016/17. Lecher Lane and School Hill in South Perrott, and Chedington Village Road are all scheduled for “surface dressing”. Highways have been asked to spot-patch the worst potholes in the interim.

Drainage – Highways cleared the gullies in the dip in the A356 west of South Perrott, but the road flooded again in the last heavy rainfall.

Superfast Broadband – Martyn Gillingham reported that fibre broadband should be available any day in Chedington, and by the end of this month in South Perrott. He suggested that residents wait and see if broadband speeds up sufficiently for their use before paying the £49 activation fee and upgrading to fibre broadband. The Chairman thanked Mr Gillingham for his hard work on this matter.

A concern was raised that the fibre cable is strung along the telegraph poles from Winyards Gap down into South Perrott and could be damaged in high winds. There is apparently an underground duct in the road put in by Mercury Communications some time ago. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to DCC asking why the cable had not been threaded through the duct.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

Mobile Phone coverage – David Lines reported on the meeting attended by Oliver Letwin MP on 30 January. Mr Letwin had explained that the emergency services are in the process of changing their out-of-date Airwave network. EE have won the contract to provide the new Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP). A second survey was conducted in South Perrott which ascertained that only a very weak signal was available outside. Mr Letwin has subsequently reported that as part of the upgrade required for a 4G service and for the ESMCP, there will be an upgrade of service coverage in places such as South Perrott and mobile coverage in the village will be independently tested and verified once the 4G and ESMCP systems are in place. There should be a properly working EE 4G signal in South Perrott by the end of 2017. The Chairman thanked Dr Lines for his hard work on this matter.

b) **Picket Lane Railings**

The Chairman advised that Blair Turner, of Highways, had categorically stated that Highways was not responsible for the railings in Picket Lane and would not be repairing them. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should continue to pursue Highways, at a higher level, and in addition, quotes should be obtained to ascertain the cost of the repairs.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

c) **20mph Speed Limit**

Members considered some detailed information provided by County Cllr Rebecca Knox about the 20mph speed limit which has been installed in Broadwindsor. It was noted that a similar scheme in South Perrott could cost the Parish Council in the region of £6,500, which members considered to be prohibitive, and there was doubt as to whether it would achieve the desired reduction in speed. As a result it was agreed not to pursue this project.

d) **Rural Bus Services Review**

Cllr Liz Fray reported on a meeting which she and Kate Organ had attended on 19th February, arranged by County Cllr Knox, to discuss the withdrawal of many of the rural bus services. It had been a positive meeting, despite the feeling that the decision to withdraw the services had already taken place. Users were encouraged to arrange their own transport schemes, but as there are very few users in South Perrott and Chedington, we would need to link up with another scheme. Various suggestions had been made at the meeting, such as: buses taking children to school and the elderly to day care centres were idle in the middle of each day and could be utilised to transport people from rural villages. Also a "hub and spoke" system whereby buses pick up from villages and feed into the main bus runs, or a circular bus route running from Misterton Cross. It was agreed that Cllrs Kate Organ and Liz Fray would meet with bus users to discuss options.

Action: Cllr Organ/Cllr Fray

e) **Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday**

Members considered a letter from the Lord Lieutenant for Dorset encouraging communities to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday by holding a celebratory event on 12th June 2016. It was suggested that a tea party could be held in South Perrott, and that a Tower Mint commemorative medal could be given to each child in both villages. The commemorative medals are priced at £1.99 each, and it was agreed to purchase a sufficient quantity, at a cost not exceeding £100. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Fray).

The Village Hall Committee would be approached about organising a possible tea party, and Peter Hinton offered the use of his field.

1381. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email correspondence re. removal of crossing outside Bakers Arms.
2. Notes of meeting with Oliver Letwin MP re. Mobile Phone Signal.
3. Ofcom response re. Mobile Phone Signal.
4. Letter from Chairman, National Association of Local Councils.
5. Our response to Government consultation for South Western Rail Franchise.
6. South Somerset DC – consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy.
7. DCC re. Transparency Code for Smaller Councils.
8. DCC re. Highways Top 12 Performance.
9. DAPTC re. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.
10. DCC re. Referendum on Change of Governance System at WDDC.
11. DCC re. Law Commission Interim Report on Electoral Law.
12. Letter from Angus Campbell, Lord Lieutenant, re. Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday.
13. DCC re. Mobile Library Service Review.
14. DCC re. update on Broadband.
15. Bob Driscoll – report on meeting re. Rural Bus Review.
16. Letter from Gil Streets re. Beaminster Youth Clubs.
17. DAPTC Magazine, Winter 2015/16.
18. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, March 2016.

1382. **PLANNING**

a) **Applications handled since last meeting:**

WD/D/15/002365 Bellamy Farm, South Perrott – Demolish coach house and erect building for use as ancillary residential accommodation (amended description). PC comments – concerns over the size of the new building which is considered to be disproportionate to the plot size.

WD/D/16/000100 (Listed Building Consent), Bridge Farmhouse, South Perrott – rebuild garden wall and steps, replacing paving in courtyard and constructing timber pergola on brick piers. PC comments – no concerns.

b) **Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:**

WD/D/15/001751 Broadleaze Farm, Chedington – erect bird hide and store (retrospective). PC comments – no concerns. Approval of Planning Permission.

WD/D/15/002767 Riverside, South Perrott – insertion of roof light on rear roof slope. PC comments – no objection in principle but would want wooden construction and single pane of glass to match conservatory. Approval of Listed Building Consent.

c) **New applications to be considered:**

WD/D/16/000294 Buckham Mill Farm, Mosterton (adjoining parish) – Conversion of disused farm building into four holiday units and installation of four conservation roof lights. Members raised no concerns about this application.

WD/D/15/002692 Coach and Horses Inn, South Perrott – Single and two-storey extensions to existing Inn, to include formation of: a garage, cold store and cellar, and balcony with access staircases. Members and residents expressed their wish to see the pub continue to trade in the village but raised a number of concerns about this application, particularly with regard to the balconies and access stairs of the extensions which overlooked the homes and gardens of near neighbours. There was concern that the building work was at an advanced stage despite the lack of proper planning permission.

The applicant, Mr Harris, asserted that he had planning approval for everything except the fire escape, and that was required by fire regulations.

d) **Tree Applications:**

WD/CA/15/00411, 7 Parrett Mead, South Perrott – reduce Silver Birch by one-third. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

WD/CA/15/00412, 3 Parrett Mead, South Perrott – fell 1 Hawthorn and 1 Gleditsia. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

WD/CA/16/00035, Otter Cottage, South Perrott – fell 1 Conifer. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

e) **Other planning issues:**

No reports.

1383. **FINANCE**

- | | |
|---|--------|
| a) Income received | None |
| b) Payments made since the last meeting: | None |
| c) Payments to be made:
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter) | £50.00 |

Hire of Chedington Village Hall (July 2015 – Jan 2016)	£50.00
Hire of South Perrott Village Hall (May 2015 – March 2016)	48.00
Clerk's salary for December 2015 & January 2016	£288.93
Clerk's expenses	£44.99

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Organ and seconded by Cllr Coutanche.

Bank account as at 22 nd January 2016:	£5,657.30
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£5,175.38

d) Risk Assessment

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment was reviewed. It was approved and duly signed. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Organ)

e) Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

The Clerk explained that the Audit Commission had been disbanded and replaced with the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA). Under the regulations, the SAAA is required to make audit arrangements for all smaller authorities, other than those which have formally opted-out and chosen to make their own arrangements. The DAPTC and NALC strongly advise smaller authorities to remain opted-in. Members formally approved a decision to remain opted-in. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Cooper)

1384. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – advised that the annual village meetings would be held on 27th April for Chedington, and 3rd May for South Perrott.
- c) Members – Cllr de la Poer advised that the owners of Bathsheba Cottage in South Perrott had felled a Monkey Puzzle tree without authority. Clerk to report to Ron Martin at WDDC. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr de la Poer advised that there was a lot of straw and slurry on the footway from Picket Lane to Pipplepen Lane. Chairman to speak to Roger Legg. *Action: Cllr Organ*
 - Cllr Coutanche reported potholes in Picket Lane. Clerk to report. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by 19th March.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.
- e) River Warden – none.

1385. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th May 2016 (incl AGM), in Chedington Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date