

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2011 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Kate Organ (Vice Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Liz Fray, Anita Legg and Peter Simmons. PCSO Alex Bishop, clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1082. **APOLOGIES** were received from County Cllr Rebecca Knox, Dominie de la Poer (footpaths officer) and Peter Larkman.

1083. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Fray, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1084. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Anita Legg declared a Prejudicial Interest in Planning Application No. 1/D/11/001640 (agenda item 6c).

1085. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

Police Report – PCSO Alex Bishop reported on a series of sheep thefts which had taken place in the area over a number of years and asked members and residents to be alert to anything suspicious that they see, such as unknown vans parked by field gates. He reminded attendees that we are now in the time of year when most oil thefts take place, but the “Stop That Oil” scheme appeared to be working, with a reduction in the number of reported thefts. In response to a question, he confirmed that a Speed Check had taken place recently in South Perrott. PCSO Bishop was thanked for his report.

There were no further reports.

1086. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Scheme** – members considered the following issues:-

- Cllr Kate Organ reported that she had spoken to Andrew Bradley, DCC Highways, who apologised that although the Safety Audit in South Perrott had been conducted, the report had not yet been signed off or published. Andrew Bradley offered to meet representatives from the Parish Council informally to discuss the report when it is available and to attend the next PC meeting in January to answer any questions. Cllr Organ reported that “road narrows” signs had now been erected in the village.
- The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Organ had met informally with Andrew Bradley and discussed the possibility of a priority system for traffic at the corner of Swing Gate Cottage.
- The clerk reported that Maiden Newton Parish Council was experiencing similar difficulties with HGV traffic and would be supportive of any action we took to try to reduce the volume. IT WAS AGREED that a similar approach should also be made to Misterton Parish Council.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

- Cllr Organ reported that the school bus was causing traffic congestion at its pick-up/drop-off point on the main road at the end of Picket Lane and suggested that the stopping point could be moved further into Picket Lane. IT WAS AGREED that a letter would be sent to the bus company.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

b) **A3066** – the clerk reported that she had received a response from DCC Highways to the request for additional road markings on the stretch of road between Mosterton and Misterton to deter overtaking at the junction with Lecher Lane. DCC Highways advised that a solid white line would not be an appropriate road marking but they would consider erecting a road sign indicating the approaching right turn and/or a SLOW marking. IT WAS AGREED that a request would be made for the suggested signage to be implemented. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

c) **Introduction to Community Planning** - Cllr Liz Fray reported on a seminar she had attended, run by WDDC. Parish Councils were advised to draw up a Community Plan to avoid the risk of having a plan imposed on them. However, a representative from Cerne Valley Parish Council, which was piloting the plan, warned that it was an arduous task. The legislation was changing and not likely to be in place before June 2012. The plan is not compulsory and as it was not yet known what value there would be in producing a plan. IT WAS AGREED to defer further consideration of this until mid-2012.

Cllr Liz Fray offered to attend the AGM of Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership (BAVLAP) on 21st November.

d) **School and Public Bus Services** – the clerk reported that she had received a response from DCC regarding the disrupted bus services. DCC advised that they were having regular meetings with the contractor and that services should settle down. Cllr Peter Simmons reported an incident at the beginning of the school term when a driver did not wait for a group of children walking towards the bus stop at the telephone exchange at Corscombe. IT WAS AGREED that this incident should be reported to DCC. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

e) **Street Lighting in South Perrott** – the clerk reported that she had received a response from DCC Highways regarding the installation of shields on the proposed new lights in Manor Close. DCC advised that shields will not be installed during installation of the lights because it was considered that in most instances these are unnecessary, but if any resident subsequently experiences light intrusion into a bedroom window the shields will be considered. Members noted the response.

f) **Hand Gritting Machines** – the clerk reported that, as requested at the previous meeting, she had looked into the cost of Hand Gritting Machines for distributing grit in icy weather. There were a number of models on the market, and IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Simmons would assist the clerk in selecting an appropriate model and two machines would be purchased at a cost of approximately £100 each. *Action: Cllr Simmons and Mrs Gillingham*

g) **Wooden Bench in The Pound, South Perrott** – to consider its replacement. IT WAS AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting. It was also agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the refurbishment of The Pound. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1087. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Circulars nos. 13/11 and Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular re. AGM.
2. DCC re. Superfast Broadband in Dorset – funding allocations.
3. Mrs S Reeves, South Perrott, re. Freedom of Information request.
4. DCC response re. Street Lighting in South Perrott.
5. DCC re. Day Care Services and Vocational Services.
6. Boundary Commission for England re. 2013 review of Parliamentary constituencies.
7. West Dorset Partnership re. invite to seminar "A Guide to Localism".
8. Dorset Police re. Police Enquiry Office Review.
9. DCC response re. A3066 road between Mosterton and Misterton.
10. DCC response re. Public and School Bus services.

11. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – a guide to taking part.
12. WDDC re. seminar on "Introduction to Community Planning".
13. WDDC email re. Neighbourhood Planning Update.
14. Magna Housing Association re. launch of MagnaBus.
15. WDDC re. Christmas Refuse and Recycling collection arrangements.
16. DCC re. new Traffic Engineering Team.
17. Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership (BAVLAP) re. invite to AGM.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to Dorset Engineering Consultancy re. Street Lighting in South Perrott.
2. Letter to Mr M Charles, Chedington, re. Parish Notice Board.
3. Letter to DCC Highways Dept. Re A3066 road between Mosterton and Misterton.
4. Letter to the Environment Agency re. trees overhanging River Parrett in South Perrott.
5. Letter to Mrs Reeves, South Perrott, re. Freedom of Information request.
6. Letter to DCC Director for Environment, re. Public and School Bus services.
7. Letter to CPRE re. HGVs travelling on A356.

1088. PLANNING

a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/11/000907 Old St James, Chedington – new fence inside existing hedge. Replace existing gates and fencing, repair and rebuild stone wall. Approval of planning permission.

1/D/11/001131 Old St James, Chedington – repair and rebuild stone wall. Approval of listed building consent.

1/D/11/001042 Hill Cottage, South Perrott – fencing. Refusal of planning permission.

1/D/11/001355 Land adjacent Lecher Bridge, Lecher Lane, South Perrott – general purpose agricultural building. Approval of planning permission.

1/D/11/001240 Winyards Gap Inn, Chedington – extension and alterations to outbuilding to create additional bed & breakfast accommodation. Improvements to terrace/seating area to include wheelchair access. Install photovoltaic panel array. Approval of planning permission.

1/D/11/000775-6 Dairy House & Mill House, Buckham Mills Farm, Chedington – carry out repairs and alterations. Approval of planning permission.

c) New Applications:

1/D/11/001640 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – construct above ground concrete panel animal slurry compound. Members considered this application and listened to representations from Roger Legg, the applicant, and Alan Haggerty, his near neighbour. Members decided not to object to the application but to note the concerns raised.

NB: Cllr Anita Legg, having declared an interest in this application, retired from the room during the discussion and decision-making.

d) Tree Applications:

Applications handled since last meeting:

CA/11/00343 Rehoboth, Pipplepen Lane, South Perrott – to fell a Holly tree. PC response – no concerns.

CA/11/00373 The Coach House, Lecher Lane, South Perrott – to fell an Alder tree and reduce height of two Beech trees. PC response – no concerns.

Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

CA/11/00294 Threshers Barn, Hill Farm, South Perrott – reduce height of a Silver Birch Tree. WDDC approval given.

New Applications:

CA/11/00384 Swing Gate Cottage, South Perrott – reduce canopy of a Maple tree. Members considered this application, which had been submitted by the owner of the adjacent property, and listened to representations from Alan Thurlow of Swing Gate Cottage. Members decided not to object to the application but to request that Mr Thurlow or his representative be present when the work is carried out.

CA/11/00391 Stoneleigh, 6 Manor Close, South Perrott – reduce or fell 6 trees. Members raised no objections to this application.

CA/11/00400 Land NW of Badger Cottage, South Perrott – reduce one Ash tree. Members raised no objections to this application.

1089. FINANCE

a) Income received:	
Precept (2 nd half)	£1800.00
VAT refund	£45.80
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Talk Talk (Nildram email account)	£39.75
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Sunnyside Web Design (annual maintenance charge)	£150.00
DAPTC (Chairman and Clerk training courses)	£55.00
Clerk's salary for Oct & Nov 2011	£267.00
Clerk's expenses	£135.89

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Coutanche.

- d) South Perrott Village Hall – Members considered a request from South Perrott Village Hall for a contribution towards the cost of new Kitchen – 5% of total cost, amounting to £286.46. IT WAS AGREED to pay this sum.
(Proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Legg)

Bank account as at 31 st October 2011:	£4,179.89
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,195.79

- e) Budget and Precept for 2012-2013 – Members discussed the proposed budget for 2012-2013 and agreed not to seek to increase the Precept, which would remain at £3,600. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray)

1090. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – reported that the silt under the Parrett Mead bridge is due to be cleared next week.
- c) Members –
- Cllr Simmons reported that a dumpy bag of grit had been delivered.
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that the deadline for items for the December issue of 'The Pump & Pound' would be 18th November. She also referred to legal requirement regarding pest control.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.

1091. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- Chedington properties - It was reported that one quarter of the properties in Chedington were second homes and it was suggested that the Council Tax on second homes should be raised to 100%.
- "Your Dorset" magazine - It was suggested that DCC could make savings by not publishing this magazine.
- New buildings - It was reported that some timber framed buildings had been erected in the field beyond the entrance to Hill Farm, South Perrott. It was agreed that the Planning Department should be contacted to ensure permission, if required, had been granted.
Action: Mrs Gillingham
- The Council was thanked for the work it was doing to improve the traffic congestion in South Perrott.

1092. DATES OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS

Members agreed the following dates for next year:

- Thurs 12th January 2012 – Chedington
- Thurs 8th March 2012 – South Perrott
- Thurs 10th May 2012 (incl AGM) – Chedington
- Thurs 12th July 2012 – South Perrott
- Thurs 13th September 2012 – Chedington
- Thurs 8th November 2012 – South Perrott

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed

Date