

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 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. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, clerk Angela Gillingham and 3 residents.

1200. **APOLOGIES** were received from PCSO Alex Bishop.

1201. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

### 1202. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that it was intended Beaminster Tunnel would soon be open to single lane traffic, controlled by traffic lights, but that workmen will continue working on the slopes of the Tunnel until September or October. The section of the A356 past the former golf course is scheduled to be closed in October for resurfacing and replacement of the cats eyes. The section of the A356 from South Perrott to the county border has not yet been scheduled for resurfacing but is currently in reasonable condition. The planned resurfacing of the A3066 to Mosterton has been postponed until next year. Cllr Knox advised that she was now a member of the DCC Cabinet with a portfolio for Safeguarding Children & Families. She was still chairman of the Fire Authority. She advised that the Food Bank at Beaminster now included the provision of fresh food. The results of the bus consultation were due out soon and the Wednesday bus to Dorchester may be at risk through under-use. Cllr Knox was thanked for her part in arranging to get the grass cut at the far end of Lecher Lane.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported that WDDC was starting a review of the planning process and will be drawing up new policies and procedures. Stratton House had finally been sold for £1.52m. The District Council had retained Shire Hall and are intending to develop the historical building as a tourist attraction. Cllr Payne advised that since April 2013 Council Tax on long-term empty properties is £150%. These are properties which have been empty for two years or more. Five properties in the district have been brought back into use and there are currently 25 properties still empty. Those brought back into use qualify for a grant from the Government. Beaminster School is holding a "Be Fit" fun factory during the school holidays and Magna Housing are proposing to pay for Magna children to attend.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that WDDC was downsizing and will be losing one Director and five managers. She asked parish councillors to notify her if this resulted in any delays experienced, particularly in the planning department. Cllr Page reported that the Broadband contract had been signed and that 97% of the county should receive improved broadband coverage by 2016.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop reported that crime had again been very low in the area but there had been a rise in other areas of thefts from sheds/garages/outbuildings, for items such as power tools. These are crimes that can be prevented with the right security. Another crime, more common at this time of year, is thefts from unattended motor vehicles and personal items such as wallets, phones or SATNAVs are the usual targets. PCSO Bishop asked councillors to remind everyone who parks in isolated areas never to leave belongings in their vehicle, even if hidden away.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

## 1203. **MATTERS ARISING**

### a) **A356 Road Scheme**

#### *Speed Checks*

The Chairman reported that a number of speed checks had been carried out in the past few months, monitoring traffic coming down the hill into South Perrott from the Dorchester direction. These had shown that very few vehicles are travelling above the speed limit. With budgets very tight, the Highways Department will not spend money on traffic calming measures unless there has been a history of serious collisions.

### b) **Refurbishment of The Pound, South Perrott**

The Vice-Chairman reported that she was waiting for another quote for laying the paving slabs. She was hoping that a farmer might be able to provide a trailer to remove any excess soil, rather than hiring a skip. It was suggested that the community should be encouraged to get involved in order to keep costs down.

County Cllr Knox suggested that it might be worth speaking to Andrew Bradley in Highways, because the men who will be laying the new kerbstones might be willing to lay the paving at the same time.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Organ for organising the work so far, and for her contribution in providing most of the plants for the planter.

#### *Geological Inspection*

The Vice-Chairman advised that, following a suggestion made at the last meeting, the Chairman of DIGS (Dorset Important Geological Sites) had inspected the rockface in The Pound. He identified the rock as Inferior Oolite, which is a thick limestone of the Middle Jurassic period, but it is not of any great significance to geologists.

### c) **Village and Parish Plans**

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting it had been agreed that a Working Group would be set up consisting of councillors and parishioners, but to date she had not received any volunteers from parishioners. The Chairman suggested that the South Perrott councillors form a working party to make a start on drafting the plans.

## 1204. **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Correspondence In**

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's circulars 4/13 & 5/13, and Extraordinary circular June 2013.
2. DAPTC Newsletter, Spring 2013.
3. DCC re. Country Car update.
4. Emails from DCC Highways re. A356 speed checks.
5. Email from Natural England re. Axe Invasives Project.
6. Local Government Boundary Commission re. electoral review of West Dorset.
7. DCC re. Disclosure and Barring Service, changes to CRB application forms.
8. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, July 2013.

### **Correspondence Out**

None.

**1205. PLANNING**

- a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:
  - 1/D/13/000149 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – proposed building extension for feed yard and a separate forage storage building. Approval of Planning Permission.
  - 1/D/13/000151 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – to form field access gateway from unclassified road. Approval of Planning Permission.
  - 1/D/13/000366 Holts Farm, South Perrott – Livestock and agricultural storage building. Approval of Planning Permission.
  - 1/D/13/000549 Greystones, Chedington – make internal and external alterations. Approval of Listed Building Consent.
- c) New applications to be considered: None.
- d) Tree Applications:
  - CA/13/00108 Hill Farm, South Perrott – remedial work on 4 Ash trees. Approved.

**1206. FINANCE**

- a) Income received: None
- b) Payments made since the last meeting: None
- c) Payments to be made:

Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
DAPTC Annual Subscription	£109.40
John Harris (contribution towards building of planter)	£300.00
Clerk's salary for June & July 2013	£279.90
Clerk's expenses	£19.99

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

Bank account as at 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2013:	£4,224.62
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,471.79

**1207. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman – referred to the difficulties experienced in Chedington in finding sufficient volunteers to serve on the Village Hall Committee or help with the organisation of the Street Fair. He put forward the suggestion that a letter could be sent to the large number of second home owners in Chedington encouraging them to take an active part in the life of the village, especially now that a lot of event organisation can be done remotely by email. He suggested that the Parish Council could act as an umbrella organisation on behalf of the various committees in the two villages, to help safeguard the future of the village amenities. Following discussion, it was agreed that if a letter was sent, it would be preferable for it to be sent to all residents, rather than singling out the second home owners.
- b) Clerk – none.

c) Members –

- Cllr Simmons advised that he had not managed to recover his stolen piece of machinery, and had been advised by the Police that unless the thief was caught in the act, it was very difficult to trace the theft.
- Cllr Simmons reported that the road from Prettybox to Crook Hill (shortcut past Keepers Piece) was getting very rough. Two trees at the bottom of the lane belonging to Wykes Farm are leaning, possibly due to erosion under the road.
- Cllr Organ referred to the parish council website which is in need of updating. She had spoken to Karen Caile who hosts the website and is willing to update it at no extra cost. Dave McSkelly advised that he is now working on this with Karen.
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for The Pump & Pound by 21 July.
- Cllr Coutanche advised that Richard Coutanche was willing to cut back the vegetation along the permissive path off Baileys Lane.

d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

**1208. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

It was reported that badgers were digging alongside the road, midway along Chedington Lane. Clerk to report to Mosterton PC.

Martyn Gillingham reminded everyone of the Annual Village Picnic on Saturday 20 July at 4.00pm.

**1209. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013, at 7.30pm in South Perrott Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed .....

Date .....