

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 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. County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Caroline Payne, Andrew Bradley (DCC Highways), clerk Angela Gillingham and 5 residents.

1093. **APOLOGIES** were received from District Cllr Janet Page, PCSO Alex Bishop, Dominic de la Poer and Peter Larkman.

1094. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved, subject to one amendment, and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

### 1095. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that primary school buses in Dorset will all be fitted with seat belts by the end of the month. Works are due to begin on resurfacing the A3066, north of Mosterton, in June and any new signage at the Lecher Lane junction would be put in then. Prior to the full resurfacing, the road will be patched where necessary. In general discussion, a request was made to realign Misterton crossroads to prevent accidents caused by vehicles driving straight across. Cllr Knox to raise this with Somerset CC. Cllr Knox highlighted the ongoing consultation on Gypsy and Traveller sites.

District Cllr Caroline Payne distributed leaflets about Beaminster School sports facilities. She reported that WDDC had already achieved £1m in savings through its merger with Weymouth & Portland DC, and this was likely to rise to £2m by April. Cllr Payne advised that WDDC has put in a bid for Government funding for faster broadband in rural areas, and has allocated £1.3m in match funding. The lack of a mobile phone signal in the two villages was raised and Cllr Payne offered to investigate the possibility of a booster mast.

In a written report, District Cllr Janet Page advised that District Councillors had recently been deciding the priority spending areas over the next four years. Priority areas included affordable housing, support for young people, broadband and support for businesses, coastal and environmental protection.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop advised that two cars had been damaged in School Hill, South Perrott, on New Year's Eve, and made a plea for information. Speed checks are on-going in South Perrott. Just before Christmas there were several thefts and attempted thefts of power tools from outbuildings in the Halstock area, and PCSO Bishop encouraged anyone wanting crime protection advice to contact him at Beaminster on 01308 862222.

### 1096. **MATTERS ARISING**

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

Andrew Bradley, Management Engineer, DCC Highways, attended the meeting to discuss the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit which had been carried out along the whole route of the A356. The audit has highlighted the following points -

- Inconsistency in signage along the route, cats eyes missing and signs covered by vegetation. County Highways to review the signage and cats eyes and ensure maintenance of the vegetation.

- Bend at Hill Farm, South Perrott – the footway and bend give poor visibility and speeding traffic from Crewkerne could increase the number and severity of collisions and increase the danger to pedestrians. The audit recommended speed reduction measures to encourage drivers to slow down or, alternatively, the footway should be removed. It was also reported that rainwater flows across the road at this point.  
After discussion, IT WAS AGREED to request DCC Highways to remove the footway, either by taking up the kerb stones, or by tarmac across the road, whichever is the most cost-effective, and to request speed reduction signage. *Action: Andrew Bradley*
- Narrow section at Swing Gate Cottage - poor visibility and speeding through this section cause increased risk of collisions and danger to pedestrians. The audit recommended signage to slow down drivers and make them more aware of approaching traffic using the middle of the road, and "road narrows" signs have already been erected to warn drivers. DCC Highways consider that the benefits of the footway to pedestrians outweigh the dangers and would wish to monitor the situation for 12 months. Andrew Bradley explained that it would be difficult to site 'priority' signs at this point and said 20mph signs were unenforceable.

In discussion, it was reported that the footpath through most of the village was an improvement for pedestrians, but drivers were not generally aware that it was shared space. Andrew Bradley offered to arrange for a speed monitor to be set up. It was reported that the surface along some stretches of the A356 was in very poor condition, and Andrew Bradley offered to investigate when resurfacing was scheduled to take place. He reminded members that all the suggestions for improvements were subject to resources and funding being available.

HGV Statistics – the Clerk reported that statistics taken from the Department for Transport website showed that the number of HGVs travelling along the A356 had decreased from a daily average of 150 in 2000, to 78 in 2010. However, of these HGVs there was an increase in the number of 6-axle vehicles. The overall number of vehicles on the road had remained fairly constant at approximately 2200 per day.

b) **Wooden Bench in The Pound, South Perrott**

This item was deferred and will be considered at a special meeting to be set up to discuss improvements to The Pound. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

c) **Gypsy and Traveller Site Consultation**

Cllr Anita Legg referred to the Dorset-wide Gypsy and Traveller Site consultation which was running until 10<sup>th</sup> February, and suggested that it would be useful for the consultation dates to be on the parish website and in "The Pump & Pound". Four sites had been identified in West Dorset, the nearest being at Shady Side, Axnoller Lane, Beaminster, which has been previously used as a gypsy site. Cllr Legg advised that one possible site in Chedington Lane, which had been considered and rejected, might be reconsidered if there is a shortage of other suitable sites. District Cllr Caroline Payne to let us know if she hears anything.

d) **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

The Clerk reported that WDDC were inviting parish councils to apply for a grant towards the cost of any Diamond Jubilee celebrations being arranged in the parish. Applications for a maximum grant of £250 must be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> March. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk should liaise with the organisers in both villages and apply for a £250 grant. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1097. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence In**

1. DAPTC Circulars nos. 14/11 and 15/11 and Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular Dec 2011.

2. WDDC re. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (item on PC agenda)
3. WDDC re. Gypsy and Traveller Site consultation (item on PC agenda)
4. POPP (Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme) re. request to meet PC.
5. Somerset CC re. Waste Core Strategy published for consultation.
6. Somerset CC re. Minerals Options Consultation.
7. Dorset Safeguarding Children Board re. Safeguarding Week.
8. Victim Support re. their services.
9. M Stevenette thanking PC for contribution towards costs of new kitchen in SP village hall.
10. WDDC re. refuse collection arrangements for Christmas and New Year.
11. WDDC re. Register of Electors.
12. DAPTC re. elected representatives of DAPTC Area Committee, and other information.
13. I Wylie, South Perrott, copy letter re. dangerous section of A356.
14. Synergy Housing re. DCA Information request.
15. Dorset Community Action enclosing 2012 Calendar.
16. Came & Company's "Parish Matters" magazine, Autumn 2011.
17. CPRE "Planning Explained" booklet.
18. LCR magazine – and email from DAPTC asking if we want to continue subscription.
19. South Western Ambulance Service "Twentyfour seven" magazine.

### **Correspondence Out**

1. Letter to DCC Highways re. A3066 road between Mosterton and Misterton.
2. Letter to DCC Passenger Transport re. school bus pick up/drop off point at Picket Lane.

### **1098. PLANNING**

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

11/04506/CPO Pipplepen Farm, South Perrott – infill of a 0.65 hectare area with soils and hardcore and restoration to agricultural pasture. PC response – concerns raised that the quantity of soil and hardcore required to fill the site will necessitate the movement of over 1,000 lorry-loads through South Perrott. Cllr Simmons advised that it might be possible for some of the vehicles to approach the farm from the northern direction. The Clerk to contact Somerset CC to elicit the likely outcome of the application. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1/D/11/001877 Buckham Mill Farm, Mosterton (adjoining parish) – Demolish utility roof and dwarf retaining walls. Internal and external alterations. New single storey extension. Install 6 conservation roof lights. PC response - no objections.

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

1/D/11/001640 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – construct above ground concrete panel animal slurry compound. Grant of Planning Permission.

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

1/D/11/001843 Rose Cottage, South Perrott – works to existing retaining wall and new garden wall. Members considered this application and raised concerns regarding the proposed new design of the previously approved parking area at the front of the property and also the proposed rendering of the retaining wall at the rear of the property.

#### d) Tree Applications:

Members noted that approval had been given to all the following applications:-

CA/11/00343 Rehoboth, Pipplepen Lane, South Perrott – to fell a Holly tree.

CA/11/00373 The Coach House, Lecher Lane, South Perrott – to fell an Alder tree and reduce height of a Willow tree.

CA/11/00384 Swing Gate cottage, South Perrott – reduce canopy of a Maple tree.

CA/11/00391 Stoneleigh, 6 Manor Close, South Perrott – reduce or fell 8 trees.  
 CA/11/00400 Land NW of Badger Cottage, South Perrott – reduce one Ash tree.  
 TP/11/00405 Old St James, Chedington – raise crown on 4 Yew trees, remove branch on 1 Hazel tree.

**1099. FINANCE**

- a) Income received: None
- b) Payments made since the last meeting: None
- c) Payments to be made:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)             | £60.00  |
| South Perrott Village Hall (hire of hall 2011-2012) | £36.00  |
| Purchase of two Hand Gritting Machines              | £198.00 |
| Clerk's salary for Dec 2011 & Jan 2012              | £267.00 |
| Clerk's expenses                                    | £24.84  |

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

Bank account as at 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2011:	£3,195.79
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£2,609.95

**1100. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
- Cllr Organ reported that the recent heavy rain had resulted in flooding in the first dip of the road out of South Perrott towards Crewkerne. It was understood to be the responsibility of Highways to keep the drainage channels clear. Cllr Organ reported that the silt under the Parrett Mead bridge had been cleared. The Clerk will send a note of thanks to the Bridge Maintenance Team. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
  - Cllr Coutance advised that the deadline for items for the February issue of "The Pump & Pound" was 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.

**1101. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- County and District Council leaflets – the issue was raised again that these publications are a waste of money.
- A3066 road – concerns were reiterated about the dangerous junction at Lecher Lane.
- Penny's Hill – it was reported that a new gate has been installed. Need to be aware of any development taking place.
- Chedington, towards Winyards Gap – trees overhanging road. Cllr Liz Fray advised that she had already spoken to the landowner and would try to progress this further.

**1102. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in South Perrott Village Hall.

Signed .....

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date .....

