

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.30pm at South Perrott 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 Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, Dominic de la Poer (footpaths officer), clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1103. **APOLOGIES** were received from PCSO Alex Bishop, Donald Hargreaves and Peter Larkman.

1104. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were approved, subject to one amendment, and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray)

#### 1105. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that DCC had been successful in its bid to Broadband Delivery UK for superfast broadband in Dorset. A total of £40 million funding had been secured. DCC is to freeze Council Tax for another year. DCC has achieved £28 million in savings but still has to find a further £15 million. It is looking at restructuring day care services, and under the new scheme people not eligible for services paid for by the County will be able to access these services. DCC is looking at improvements to the Mobile Library Service to better meet the needs of rural communities.

District Cllr Caroline Payne clarified that there will be no additional gypsy sites in West Dorset. She was still waiting for information regarding the possibility of a mobile phone mast to improve the signal in the two villages. Cllr Payne advised that there was a Government initiative to bring empty properties back into use, and asked people to let her know of any properties that, for instance, had not been lived in for six months. The consultation on WDDC's draft local plan had ended and the plan will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The draft document will be circulated to parish councils in the summer and submitted to Government in Sept/Oct, for adoption in July 2013. WDDC's Standards Committee is due to be abolished and a new Code of Conduct to be put in place by 1<sup>st</sup> July. It has been proposed that all District Councils will agree a standard code, which will also apply to parish councils.

District Cllr Janet Page advised that the Broadband project team will be holding information events and visiting town and parish councils. In response to a question, Cllr Page advised that the cost of the "final mile" connection was not likely to be charged to the property owner. She reported that Wintergreen Barn, one of the two gypsy sites earmarked in Beaminster, had been removed from the list of sites because it did not have planning permission but, following an appeal, it is likely to go back on the list. Cllr Page attended the Localism Act seminar the previous week and found it to be very informative.

There were no further reports.

#### 1106. **MATTERS ARISING**

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

- Cllr Johnson advised that Donald Hargreaves of Sarum, South Perrott, had put forward a proposal that traffic entering the village from the Dorchester direction should be given priority in the narrow section of the road by Swing Gate Cottage, to prevent vehicles needing to reverse back into Picket Lane. Andrew Bradley of DCC Highways had responded that the Road Safety Audit had highlighted the need for "road narrows" signs, which have been

erected, but he felt that "one-way give way" signs could raise traffic speed in the direction of free passage and cause further conflict.

- Andrew Bradley had also advised that, following the Safety Audit recommendations, Highways was intending to remove the kerbstones associated with the footway around Hill Farm, at the other end of the village, and replace with buff surfacing, plus a "strip" 1 metre wide from the verge as a footway/safety margin. They will also be reinstating the two "SLOW" signs on the entrance into the village.
- Cllr Legg reported a request that an overgrown bush outside Bakers Arms is cut back.  
Cllr Organ to speak to the property owners. *Action: Cllr Organ*

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

Members considered a report on the refurbishment of The Pound, which had been prepared following a site meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February. A suggestion had been received from Jill Turner that new planters could be constructed using local stone, and possibly incorporating a wooden seat. Cllr Johnson had produced a sketch based on this idea. There was general agreement from all the attendees in favour of the refurbishment and the proposal for stone planters. There was some discussion on setting a budget for the work and seeking possible funding, but further work needed to be done to cost the project.

IT WAS AGREED that a special meeting should be arranged in order to progress this project.

*Action: Mrs Gillingham / ALL*

c) **Proliferation of Animal Excreta in South Perrott**

Cllr Coutanche reported an increase in dog excrement in South Perrott and it was agreed that an item should be put in the "Pump & Pound" reminding dog owners to clear up after their pets.

*Action: Cllr Coutanche*

d) **Village Clean**

Cllr Coutanche reported an increase in litter in South Perrott and suggested organising a clean-up as part of the West Dorset Spring Clean 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April. The date of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April was agreed, and will be advertised in the "Pump & Pound".

*Action: Cllr Coutanche*

e) **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

The Clerk advised that an organisation called "Trees for Dorset" was offering to ten Dorset parishes a free tree to be planted for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She had succeeded in obtaining a tree for our group parish and this will be delivered in November. It was agreed that this should be planted on the Millennium Green and the Clerk will liaise with the organisation and with Bob Buckland to select the most suitable type of tree and planting location.

*Action: Mrs Gillingham*

f) **Superfast Broadband in Dorset**

Members considered a letter from Dorset County Council announcing that, following its allocation of £9.44 million from central Government towards faster broadband in Dorset, DCC and WDDC had agreed jointly to provide match funding of £10 million, and a Local Broadband Plan was submitted to the provider company, Broadband Delivery UK. The Council hoped to be able to procure the service in the second half of this year, with implementation of the infrastructure commencing at the beginning of next year. As a result, the majority of premises should have access to superfast broadband with the "final mile" connection to the property being undertaken

jointly by the internet service provider and the property owner. [See update in County and District Cllrs' reports above.]

**g) Parish Council's Computer**

The Clerk reported problems with the parish council's laptop computer and requested approval to purchase a memory stick (approx £20) in order to transfer all the council data from the laptop to the memory stick for safety. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ).

*Action: Mrs Gillingham*

**1107. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence In**

1. DAPTC Circulars Jan and Feb 2012, and DAPTC Newsletters, Winter 2011/2012 and March 2012.
2. WDDC re. Consultation on draft Corporate Plan 2012-2016.
3. WDDC re. West Dorset Spring Clean, 1-30 April 2012.
4. Dorset AONB re. Traffic in Villages Toolkit.
5. DCC re. Mobile Library Schedules
6. Community Connections re. invite to a Magna Housing event on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

**Correspondence Out**

1. Letter to WDDC re Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

**1108. PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/11/002116 Hill Cottage, South Perrott – fencing. PC response - no objections to the revised application.

11/04506/CPO Pipplepen Farm, South Perrott – infill of a 0.65 hectare area with soils and hardcore and restoration to agricultural pasture. The clerk advised that, as requested at the previous meeting, she had contacted Somerset CC to ascertain the likely outcome of this application. Somerset CC is likely to recommend a five year temporary permission for the movement of lorries. As the material will be coming to the site from a variety of sources, it will not be possible to have a traffic management plan and all the traffic will need to approach the site from South Perrott as the road to the north is unsuitable for access. There are likely to be periods of activity as material becomes available, interspersed by lulls.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/11/001843 Rose Cottage, South Perrott – works to existing retaining wall and new garden wall. Approval of Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.

c) New applications considered: none

d) Tree Applications:

TP/12/00059 Bridge Farmhouse, South Perrott – works to a number of trees on boundary. PC response – no objections. Approved.

TP/12/00060 Hilbrook House, South Perrott – 3 silver birch, reduce by 30%. PC response – no objections. Approved.

**1109. FINANCE**

a) Income received: None

b) Payments made since the last meeting: None

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|---|---------|
| c) Payments to be made:                 |         |
| Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter) | £50.00  |
| Clerk's salary for Dec 2011 & Jan 2012  | £267.00 |
| Clerk's expenses                        | £15.00  |

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

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|---|-----------|
| Bank account as at 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2012: | £2,609.95 |
| Balance after above cheques agreed:               | £2,277.95 |

**1110. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
  - Cllr Fray advised that she had contacted the DCC rep for the Partnership for Older People Programme. She will obtain leaflets for the noticeboards and will liaise with Joyce Osborne.
  - Cllr Legg reported a request from a resident to have more pictures and less text in the "Pump & Pound". However, it was agreed that the publication was essentially a newsletter, not a magazine.
  - Cllr Coutanche requested articles for the "Pump & Pound" by deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- d) Footpaths Officers – Dominie de la Poer advised that the footpath signs on Langmoor Lane, South Perrott, had been changed and were now correctly positioned to direct walkers through the first gate into the field. The previous signs had been incorrect.

**1111. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Chedington – it was reported that the road surface was still awaiting repair, and trees along the roadway were growing into the telephone cable. Cllr Fray was progressing these matters.

A356 flooding – it was reported that the road floods outside Sarum and collects outside a number of other properties in South Perrott. Clerk to notify DCC Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Village Sign – it was reported that the South Perrott village sign near the old Golf Course had been demolished. Clerk to notify DCC Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

**1112. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Chedington Village Hall – to include AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed .....

Date .....