

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2011 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, PCSO Paul Miners, clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1072. **APOLOGIES** were received from Dominie de la Poer and Paula Hutchings (footpaths officers) and Mr and Mrs Thackwell.

1073. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1074. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that new contracts had been awarded for school and public bus services and this had resulted in some of the services not keeping to time or to the correct route. She encouraged attendees to tell her of all instances of delayed services which she would report to the bus companies. IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council would also write to the bus companies.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

Cllr Knox reported that the pot holes in the roads in Chedington were scheduled to be repaired in October 2011.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that WDDC is running a series of consultation events on local planning issues and future growth. It was noted that Cllrs Johnson and Organ were booked to attend on 3rd October. Additionally, a seminar on Introduction to Community Planning will be held on 3rd November and it was agreed the Cllr Organ would attend this with Caroline Payne.

District Cllr Caroline Payne provided a supply of Beaminster Area Local Business Directories for distribution. Cllr Payne reported that the Weymouth & Portland and West Dorset District Council merger was moving ahead, and hoped that the change would be seamless for residents. With regard to the Olympics, the road was finished ahead of schedule. The organisers were looking for volunteers to act as marshalls and greeters, and anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to apply. Cllr Coutanche offered to advertise this opportunity in the next parish newsletter.

Action: Cllr Coutanche

PCSO Paul Miners reported that he was not aware of any issues in the area but advised that with the onset of the darker days there was a need for residents to be vigilant to prevent oil tank thefts. It was reported that there had not been a repeat this year of the public order problems in Chedington during the Cider Festival.

1075. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Street Lighting in Dorset** – Cllr Organ reported that she and Cllr Legg had attended the street lighting consultation in Mosterton on 15th August. At the meeting residents from Broadwindsor had voiced their concerns about their new street lighting which was very white and bright. Cllr Organ had subsequently spoken to residents in Manor Close, South Perrott, where the street lamps are due to be replaced. Most of the residents wanted lighting in their road but were concerned about the brightness of the new lights. IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council would agree to the street lights in Manor Close being replaced but to request that deflecting shields are attached to the lamps when they are installed.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

b) **A356 Road Scheme** – Members considered the following issues:-

- Site Meeting - Cllr Johnson reported on a site meeting he had attended with County Cllr Knox, Cllr Organ and Andrew Bradley from DCC Highways on 17th August. They had walked through South Perrott watching the speed of the traffic and noting the various hazards. Cllr Johnson reported on

two emails which the Parish Council had received from Donald Hargreaves, owner of Sarum, describing traffic incidents which had happened outside his property. It was suggested that road signs indicating priority for drivers might help traffic flow through this narrow section of road.

- Safety Audit - Cllr Organ reported that Andrew Bradley has since confirmed that the safety audit is due to take place at the end of September, and he was reminded that we are still waiting for "road narrows" signage and each end of the village. It was reported that Andrew Bradley is to request a full Police speed check of traffic travelling through the village and IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council would also write to Dorset Road Safe to request the speed check. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
Cllr Knox advised that Dorset Police is now piloting a Speedwatch scheme and that Beaminster Police are very keen to promote this.
 - Size and Weight of HGVs – Cllr Organ reported that she had met with Donald Hargreaves and Peter Larkman regarding a request to the Freight Transport Association (FTA) to obtain a voluntary agreement to limit the size and weight of HGVs travelling through the village. Mr Larkman advised that this was a separate issue to the road scheme. As agreed at the previous meeting, a letter had been sent to the FTA and they had responded that the Parish Council should obtain support for the request from DCC Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
Peter Hinton advised that 10 years ago the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) had been very helpful in identifying which HGVs were travelling through the village and why. IT WAS AGREED that a request should be made to CPRE for up-to-date information. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
Cllr Knox offered to provide a copy of a traffic count conducted before the road scheme had begun.
- c) **Parish Council Newsletter** – Cllr Coutanche reported that the new Parish Council newsletter, "The Pump & Pound" had been published and copies distributed to all households in South Perrott and Chedington. Thanks were recorded to David McSkelly for his assistance. The next edition of the newsletter is due out on 1st October, and Cllr Coutanche requested items for it.
- d) **Chedington Notice Board** – the Clerk reported that an approach to the cabinet maker in Halstock had been unsuccessful but that Michael Charles in Chedington, who had made the original notice board, would be willing to make a new board for a cost of approximately £100 to cover materials only, in exchange for the Parish Council providing Chedington with a hand gritting machine for distributing grit in icy weather. IT WAS AGREED that Mr Charles would be asked to make the new notice board for Chedington and also be asked to repair the wooden bench in The Pound in South Perrott. The clerk to look into the cost of hand gritters for both villages. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1076. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Circulars nos. 10/11 and 11/11, Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular (Aug 2011) and Newsletter Summer 2011/12
2. DCC re. Consultation on the Revised Draft Minerals Core Strategy.
3. DCC Update July 2011 – Improvements to routine maintenance service.
4. WDDC checking that their records of names of parish councillors are up to date.
5. Dorset Police re. Enquiry Office review of services.
6. Bridport Local Area Skills Training (BLAST) re. 'Skills for Self Reliance' Project.
7. Copy letter from Mr A G Read to Highways re. damage to car in South Perrott.
8. Email from Donald Hargreaves, Sarum, South Perrott, re. traffic incident outside his property.
9. DCC Highways response re. Street Lighting in South Perrott.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to DCC Highways re. road noise outside Bakers Arms, South Perrott.
2. Letter to DCC Highways re. Street Lighting in Dorset.
3. Letter to Michael Stevenette re. replacement kitchen units for village hall, South Perrott.
4. Parish Maintenance Unit – Works Request Form.

1077. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled 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. PC response - no concerns. Approved.

1/D/11/001131 Old St James, Chedington – repair and rebuild stone wall. PC response – no concerns. Approved.

1/D/11/001082 Pipplepen Cottage, South Perrott – single storey extension. PC response – no concerns. Approved.

1/D/11/001042 Hill Cottage, South Perrott – fencing. PC response – some concerns re. design, height and colour of fence. Application refused on the grounds that its height, design and colour is not considered to preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The clerk reported that she had received a Freedom of Information request from Mrs Reeves of Hill Cottage, regarding the Parish Council's comments on the application.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/11/000958 Keepers Piece, Chedington – erection of car port and change of use of associated land to extend residential garden. Approved.

c) New applications:

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. Members discussed this application and raised safety concerns in respect of the proposed decking which would become slippery when wet, and the glass panelling which they felt was out of keeping with the rest of the building. No issues were raised regarding the proposed B&B accommodation.

1/D/11/001355 Land adjacent Lecher Bridge, Lecher Lane, South Perrott – general purpose agricultural building. Members discussed this application. Cllr Organ reported that she had consulted the Drainage Engineer who had advised that the proposed building was not large enough to exacerbate the occasional flooding at Lecher Bridge. A concern was raised over the proposed grey colour of the roof of the building but Ben Lancaster, the applicant who was present at the meeting, advised that WDDC has recommended this colour to blend in with the surroundings.

d) Tree Applications:

CA/11/00198 Winton Cottage, South Perrott – approved (with conditions).

1078. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	None
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
BDO (external audit fee)	£60.00
DAPTC (new councillors' training)	£40.00
Clerk's salary for Aug & Sept 2011	£267.00
Clerk's expenses	£19.99
Bank account as at 11 th August 2011:	£2,771.08
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£2,384.89

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

d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2011 – the clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by BDO, the external auditors, and no issues had arisen requiring any action. Members approved and accepted the Annual Return. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1079. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –

- Cllr Organ referred to the dangerous stretch of road on the A3066 at the junction with Lecher Lane, where drivers coming from Mosterton speed up and overtake, endangering cars turning right into Lecher Lane. This had been flagged up with Mosterton Parish Council but it was agreed that a letter should be sent to DCC Highways requesting a solid white line to be painted on the road from Chapel Court Farm to past the Lecher Lane turning to prohibit overtaking on the downhill stretch.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

- Cllr Coutanche reported that she had received a letter from WDDC regarding the Mobile Skate Park which she had hired in past years for the South Perrott Open Day. With a cut-back in funding, WDDC were keen to train up volunteers to supervise the activity. It was agreed that a notice should appear in the next newsletter.

Action: Cllr Coutanche

- Cllr Coutanche reported that DAPTC would be interested in publicising the success and the money raised at the Chedington Street Fair and South Perrott Open Day in their newsletter.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

- d) Footpaths Officers – none.

- e) Bob Buckland, Tree Warden – reported that an ash tree in the churchyard had been felled. It was not known whether an application had been submitted for this work and Mr Buckland would speak to Ron Martin at WDDC to clarify the position. The horse chestnut trees in the village were in danger of dying out due to canker and leaf miner diseases.

In Picket Lane there are two trees overhanging the river - an ash tree opposite Manor Close and an alder on the junction with A356. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Environment Agency asking them to inspect the trees.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

There is also a stand of trees overhanging the highway at the entrance to Hill Farm which may require attention.

1080. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

1081. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th November in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

Date