

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2013 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. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, PCSO Alex Bishop, clerk Angela Gillingham and 5 residents.

1190. **APOLOGIES** were received from Dave McSkelly.

1191. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th March 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1192. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

PCSO Alex Bishop apologised for not attending the previous meeting. He reported that currently crime was very low in the area, but recently there had been one theft of a horse grazing muzzle and one burglary in the barn in Lecher Lane. This was the second break-in to the barn and he was working with the owners on crime prevention. He reiterated that he was happy to help anyone with crime prevention advice, and could be contacted on tel. 101. Cllr Coutanche advised that the barn owners were concerned about the distance that Dorset Police have to travel to South Perrott and asked for better liaison between Police forces. PCSO Bishop responded that if the crime takes place in Dorset, Dorset Police will deal with it, but if a 999 call is received saying that a crime is in progress, then the nearest force will attend. Cllr Simmons reported that a piece of farm equipment bought by his company had subsequently been found to have been stolen and was returned to its rightful owner, but the company remained out of pocket over the purchase. PCSO Bishop to look into the incident.

District Cllr Caroline Payne asked what arrangements the village halls were making for collection of their waste and suggested that the parish council buys a supply of purple bags for joint use. The Planning Committee was looking at the new local plan and community infrastructure levy, which was part of the Localism Act. Under the scheme, people who are developing or extending houses will have to pay a levy of £100 per sq. metre of new-build space. Villages which have a neighbourhood plan will receive 25% of the levy to spend as they wish; villages with no plan will receive 15%. The new levy will be adopted once the local plan has been adopted and could come into force at the end of 2013.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that she had attended the conference Working with Young People which had been very worthwhile. The Chairman of WDDC had presented awards. The Beaminster Youth Club had won an award for working with younger people, and a young man had received an award for being a carer for his mother.

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that work had not eased up, despite the elections. Trading Standards was targeting rogue traders who were selling counterfeit products and preying on the elderly. She offered to send the parish council more information on this. Cllr Knox had attended a Dorset Fire Service Day, aimed at helping vulnerable young people to get work placements. The new councillors were starting their training and Cllr Knox was mentoring some of them. £20m in savings had been found already in next year's budget, but there was still another £20m to find. Half of the budget is spent on adult social care. There are plans to means test people attending day care centres and to make the centres more pro-active. One quarter of the budget is spent on roads and rights of way, and one quarter is spent on schools. Dorset has one of the highest elderly populations in the country. The level of Government funding is dependent on

population density and this needs to be reassessed now that DCC has lost Bournemouth and Poole. DCC is continuing essential restructuring and there will be further changes in the Highways department. Surprisingly, the biggest carbon footprint is from street lighting. Cllr Knox gave an update on Superfast Broadband, saying that all areas should be able to get a minimum of 2mbs by the end of the year. The Tunnel was scheduled to reopen at the end of June and Cllr Knox was calling for the earliest possible opening, if only for one-way traffic. In response to a question regarding spare spaces on school buses, Cllr Knox advised that a scheme to assess the number of spaces had been piloted in Beaminster. 16-18 year olds will be able to take up the spaces but must pay, and may be eligible for concessionary fares.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports and Cllr Knox was thanked particularly for pressing for the Tunnel reopening.

1193. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Variable Message Signs – rescinding a decision**

The Vice-Chairman put forward the motion that the parish council wished to rescind the decision taken at its meeting on 10th January 2013 to accept the proposed installation of variable message signs, due to the overwhelming objections raised by residents at the extraordinary meeting held on 20th February. Members voted in favour. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllrs Coutanche and Legg)

b) **A356 Road Scheme**

- *Crossings and Kerbstones*

The Chairman reported that the parish council had asked DCC Highways to remove the two crossings. Andrew Bradley had responded to say that they were intending to feather the edges of the crossing outside Bakers Arms, to reduce the noise nuisance, but were not intending to remove either of the crossings as this would be too expensive. The road would need to be closed for the work which could not be started until the Tunnel reopens. The Vice-Chairman asked that we request that the crossing at Cornerways Cottage be feathered at the same time.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

The Vice-Chairman reported that Highways are proposing to replace a small section of kerbstones alongside the footway with a new design and she had asked for the first section to be alongside Swing Gate Cottage, because of the current noise nuisance to the owners. Clerk to write to Highways.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

- *Flashing 30mph signs*

The Chairman reported that the parish council had asked DCC Highways to consider the installation of a flashing 30mph sign at the eastern approach to the village. Matthew Williams had responded to say that small vehicle-activated signs (VAS), similar to those installed in Misterton, are not used by DCC. He did not consider that there is a speeding issue in South Perrott that would be resolved by a sign.

- *Resurfacing*

The Chairman reported that part of the A356 is scheduled to be closed for resurfacing in October - the section between the Chedington crossroads and the former Golf Club, together with a section in Corscombe parish. Resurfacing the section of road from the western end of South Perrott to the county border has not yet been scheduled.

- *Lecher Lane Turning*

The Chairman reported that the parish council had asked Highways to move the "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign from its existing position to the other side of the junction with Lecher Lane. Richard Stubbs had responded to say that the suggested location would be too close to the carriageway.

He considered that the sign, which could be seen from a reasonable distance, was in the best position.

c) **Matters arising from the two Village Meetings**

Chedington

The Chairman reported on the following issues –

- The caravan at Penny’s Hill had been moved within the site. The enforcement officer had been made aware.
- The road surface was in very poor condition. Highways to be asked to conduct a site visit with the Chairman and Cllr Fray in attendance. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Hedging at Court Farm was growing up behind the fencing bordering the road, and was now above the permitted height of the fence. Cllr Fray had reported this to the enforcement officer who will investigate.
- The tall laurel hedge bordering The Court was encroaching on the highway.

South Perrott

The Vice-Chairman reported on the following issues –

A356

- Cars are travelling too fast and wide round Hill Farm corner.
- Most of the HGVs which travel fast are local traffic.
- A speed check is needed in both directions between the old Golf Club and the former Post Office. Clerk to request. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Cars, still in the 30mph zone, accelerate up the hill towards Dorchester.
- There was support for a community speed gun, but volunteers are normally from another village.
- There was general agreement that we should press for a 20mph speed limit through the village.
- The laurel hedge on the corner of Picket Lane needed to be cut back to improve visibility for drivers. Vice-Chairman to speak to owners. *Action: Cllr Organ*
- WDDC to be asked to sweep the road before the village Open Day. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Refurbishment of The Pound

- John Harris had built the stone planter in The Pound and residents had voiced their approval of the finished structure. There was discussion on whether grass or gravel was preferable to paving, but cost was an issue. A number of votes were taken for the following options –

A mix of gravel and paving	13
Grass	0
Concrete	2
All gravel	9
All gravel but with slabs under the seat	17

- Mr Hinton had advised that a geologist who had visited the village thought that the rockface of The Pound was of interest and would benefit from an “interpretation board”. It was suggested that we should contact Dorset RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) as a first step. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

The Vice-Chairman reported that subsequent to the village meeting Bob Buckland had generously offered to pay for all the paving slabs. The Vice-Chairman was intending to contact all residents who had attended the meeting to ask if this would have affected their voting, had they known about the offer at the meeting. *Action: Cllr Organ*

d) Refurbishment of The Pound, South Perrott

The Vice-Chairman reported that the cost of building the planter was £440. The parish council had budgeted £300, the Village Hall £100 and the Flower Show £150. It was agreed that John Harris should be asked to submit his invoice to the parish council who would settle the bill and recoup the additional money from the Village Hall and Flower Show. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ.)

A second quote would be obtained for laying the paving slabs. *Action: Cllr Organ*

e) Parish Grant Scheme

The Clerk reported that DCC is encouraging parish councils to work direct with contractors when work is required on local footpaths and bridleways, and to reclaim the cost under the parish grant scheme. It was agreed at the last meeting that Dominie de la Poer and the Clerk would get a quote from a contractor for the repair work to the Langmoor Lane footpath. However, the work has turned out to be quite complex, involving a specification for pre-cast concrete dishes or similar to take the water from the field drain across the footpath, and because of this the parish council has decided to keep to the existing arrangements whereby the Rights of Way team organises the repair work.

f) Village and Parish Plans

The Chairman proposed that a Working Group is set up, consisting of councillors and interested parishioners, to consider and draft a set of Village and Parish Plans. THIS WAS AGREED. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ.)

1194. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's circular 3/13.
2. DCC re. changes to management of Traffic Regulation Orders.
3. Email response from DCC Rights of Way re. Parish Grant Scheme.
4. Email from District Cllr Caroline Payne re. waste from village halls.
5. Email response from DCC Highways re. Lecher Lane turning.
6. Email response from DCC Highways re. vehicle activated signs.
7. Email from Karen Caile re. Superfast Broadband.
8. Opinion Research Services re. Gypsy & Traveller Needs Assessment 2013.
9. Western Power Newsletter, April 2013.
10. Email from County Cllr Rebecca Knox re. Beaminster Tunnel.
11. Email response from DAPTC with advice re. rescinding a parish council decision.
12. Email from DCC Highways re. footway outside Bakers Arms, and response from owners of property.
13. Village Life magazine, April 2013.
14. Today's Youth – Tomorrow's Leaders, WDDC magazine, April 2013.
15. Clerk & Councils Direct newsletter, May 2013.
16. Temporary closure notice: A3066 Whetley Cross, Mosterton, 23rd-31st May.
17. Temporary closure notice: High Street, Chedington for Street Fair, 27th July.

Correspondence Out

1. Email to DCC Rights of Way re. Parish Grant Scheme.
2. Email to DAPTC requesting advice re. rescinding a parish council decision.
3. Email to DCC Highways re. Lecher Lane turning.
4. Email to DCC Highways re. vehicle activated signs.

1195. PLANNING

- a) Applications handled since last meeting:
1/D/13/000254 Court Farm, Chedington – erect extensions. PC comments – no concerns, except to ask whether the agricultural tie on the property affects the extent to which it can be developed. Approval of Planning Permission received.
1/D/13/000238 Buckham Mill Farm, Mosterton (adjoining parish) – rebuild collapsed part of house. PC comments – no concerns.
1/D/13/000366 Holts Farm, South Perrott – Livestock and agricultural storage building. PC comments – no concerns.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:
1/D/12/001637 Lower Farm Cottage, Chedington – to insert two dormer windows in the north west roof of Lower Farm Cottage. Approval of Planning Permission.
- c) New applications:
1/D/13/000549 Greystones, Chedington – make internal and external alterations. PC comments - (*under consideration*)
- d) Tree Applications:
CA/13/00088 Lower Thatch, Chedington - Beech (T1) to fell (due to excessive shading, outgrown current position). PC comments – no concerns. Application Approved.
CA/13/00108 Hill Farm, South Perrott – remedial works to 4 Ash trees (fell two which are leaning and lift crowns on two). PC comments – two of the trees have preservation orders on them but are leaning heavily so no objections raised.

1196. FINANCE

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| a) Income received:
Precept (1 st half) | £1900.00 |
| b) Payments made since the last meeting: | None |
| c) Payments to be made: | |
| Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter) | £50.00 |
| Community First annual insurance | £168.19 |
| Clerk's salary for Apr & May 2013 | £279.90 |
| Clerk's expenses | £28.98 |

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

Bank account as at 24 th April 2013:	£4,751.69
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£4,224.62

1197. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) The Chairman – none.
- b) The Clerk advised that, following new HMRC requirements, she had successfully downloaded and used the new software for reporting PAYE in Real Time Information (RTI).
- c) Members –
 - The Vice-Chairman stressed the need to get the road resurfaced between the village and the county boundary.
 - Cllr Simmons reported that fly tipping was taking place in the layby above Winyards Gap, just outside the parish. The clerk to contact Corscombe PC. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Coutanche reported that rubbish, including dead pigeons, had been dumped by the bridge in Pipplepen Lane. The clerk to contact North Perrott PC. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for The Pump & Pound by 22nd May, including a photo of the new planter.
- d) Footpaths Officers – nothing to report.

1198. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No issues were raised.

1199. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thurs 11th July 2013, at 7.30pm in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Date