

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th November 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. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, PCSO Alex Bishop, clerk Angela Gillingham and 8 residents.

1152. **APOLOGIES** – none.

Grant of Dispensations – the Clerk explained that under the new Code of Conduct regulations all councillors needed to apply for a dispensation to enable them to speak and vote on the setting of the parish Precept. Applications had been received from all the councillors. Members resolved to grant the dispensations.

1153. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Johnson)

1154. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the present position regarding the Beaminster Tunnel. Cabinet had met to discuss two options – option 1: soil nailing techniques, and option 2: reinforcement of the entrances with concrete saddles, and also option 2a: to erect hoods on each end of the tunnel. Investigation of the slopes found them to be uniform and suitable for soil nailing. Permissions would be needed from landowners. It was hoped that work would start at the end of the year and efforts were being made to obtain national funding for the project.

Cllr Knox also reported on the suggestion of traffic lights to control traffic on the A356 in South Perrott. Matthew Williams in DCC Highways had advised her on the limitations and unsuitability of traffic lights and had suggested instead the use of Variable Message signs (VMS) which could be set to alert oncoming drivers to a large vehicle already in the narrow section of the road. The signs, which were solar powered, would cost in the region of £15,000. Members expressed an interest in principle and it was agreed that Matthew Williams would be invited to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council in order to explain to members in greater detail how the signs worked.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

District Cllr Janet Page reported on the new Dorset Waste Partnership. In April 2013 all waste collector staff will become DCC employees. In April 2014 the waste collection timetable would change to fortnightly collections of general waste with weekly food waste collections. Wheelie bins will be available. Cllr Page advised that she had been appointed as Chairman of WDDC Audit Committee and that the District Council was planning strategic changes to the way it operated.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported on the consultation for alternative sites development for the new Local Plan for West Dorset. Two thousand responses had been received, but no sites had been suggested in the area of our parish. The District Council would soon be moving its offices from Stratton House to South Walks House in Dorchester.

PCSO Alex Bishop advised that there were no crimes in the area to report but encouraged residents to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious. The Police were continuing to conduct speed checks in South Perrott but the camera van team was finding it difficult to site their vehicle. The Vice-Chairman reported that the Fair held on Buckham Down in the summer had caused a gridlock of traffic through the village. PCSO Bishop advised that the organisers of the

event were aware of the problems and were in discussions with the District Council to find alternative routes to the venue.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1155. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Scheme**

A356 issues -

Cllr Liz Fray reported that the cats eyes had still not been fitted along the road by the former Golf Club. The Clerk to write to Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

The Vice-Chairman reported that the kerbstones alongside Swing Gate Cottage were damaged and causing a noise nuisance to the owners of Swing Gate. She also referred to the flooding across the road at Hunters Hatch. The Clerk advised that she had reported both these issues to Highways.

Lecher Lane turning – the Clerk reported that Richard Stubbs of DCC Highways had attended a site meeting on 27th September with Ian Wylie and Ann and Hugh Studley to discuss the damage to Mr Wylie’s roof, caused by HGVs attempting to turn right into Lecher Lane. Richard Stubbs had advised that a Traffic Regulation Order to limit HGVs would not be appropriate, but he would arrange for “Unsuitable for HGVs” signs to be erected at each end of Lecher Lane, and for the “Mosterton” sign to be removed from the finger post at the junction. In addition, three 3m high black and white poles with reflective tops would be placed behind the kerbline where the damage has occurred.

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

The Vice-Chairman reported that Bob Buckland had commissioned a sketch of the proposed refurbished Pound from Desmond Thomas, and suggested that this should be included in the ‘Pump & Pound’ newsletter with a request for a contribution from South Perrott residents towards the costs of the refurbishment if there is a shortfall. Cllr Organ had obtained a quote of £420 for building the stone planter, with an additional cost for paving. Two more estimates were awaited.

c) **Queen’s Diamond Jubilee – Trees for Dorset**

The Clerk advised that the commemorative tree would be planted on the Millennium Green on 30th November.

d) **Community Farmers Snow Plough Scheme**

The Chairman referred to the Snow Plough Scheme being promoted by DCC, and suggested that as DCC is responsible for clearing the main road and local farmers generally clear the side roads to their farms, this would account for most of the roads through the parish. It was agreed therefore that it will not be necessary for the Parish Council to join the Farmers Snow Plough Scheme. Cllr Knox suggested that all the grit bins in the two villages should be regarded as ‘strategic’. The Clerk to write to DCC Highways. The Clerk also to request a replacement dumpy bag of grit. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

e) **Dorset Country Cars Scheme**

The Clerk reported that she and Joyce Osborne had attended a Country Cars meeting at DCC. All Country Car organisers and drivers are now required to become DCC volunteers and comply

with new regulations. These included compulsory CRB checks, health and safety training and attendance at a Driver Theory course.

f) **Life Education Wessex**

Members considered a request from Life Education Wessex for a grant towards their work in providing health and drug prevention education at Parrett & Axe School. It was agreed that it would be preferable for the parish council to deal direct with the school for any requests for funding.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

1156. Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders –

The Clerk advised that the Council's Standing Orders were likely to be out-of-date, having last been amended in 2003. As an alternative, members reviewed copies of the NALC Model Standing Orders.

Cllr Coutanche requested that the Public Session should be changed from the end to the start of parish council meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that it was preferable to keep the Public Session at the end of the meetings.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 28 of the Standing Orders – Relations with the Press/Media – and reminded members that they should be wary of speaking to the press and media in a personal capacity as it could be construed as an official comment.

Members resolved to adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray)

Financial Regulations –

The Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1157. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's circular 9/12 and 10/12
2. Email from Cllr Rebecca Knox giving update on Beaminster Tunnel.
3. Letter from WDDC re. Police & Crime Commissioner Election.
4. Letter from Life Education Wessex requesting a grant towards health & drug prevention education at Parrett & Axe Primary School.
5. Letter from WDDC re. Christmas refuse & recycling collection arrangements 2012
6. Email from Donald Hargreaves, South Perrott re. traffic problems on A356.
7. Email from DCC re. road maintenance in South Perrott and Chedington.
8. Email from DCC re. Lecher Lane turning, South Perrott.
9. Email from DCC re. Superfast Broadband.
10. Letter from Somerset CC re. Somerset Waste Core Strategy Development Plan.
11. DAPTC Newsletter, Autumn 2012
12. DAPTC Annual Report 2012
13. Email from County Cllr Rebecca Knox re. update on Beaminster Tunnel

Correspondence Out

1. Letter of thanks to WDDC for Diamond Jubilee grant of £250.
2. Letter of thanks to Michael Charles, Chedington, for constructing the new parish council noticeboard.

1158. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/12/001248 Otter Cottage, South Perrott – removal of condition 8 of p.p. 1/W/93/0667 to enable replacement of wooden windows and doors with UVP equivalents. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

1/D/12/001255 Badger Cottage, South Perrott – removal of condition 8 of p.p. 1/W/93/0667 to allow replacement of wooden windows and doors with UPVC equivalents. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

1/D/12/001353 Chedington Lodge, Chedington – rear extension to existing North facing courtyard and internal reconfiguration. PC comments – no concerns.

1/D/12/001425 Sockety Farm, South Perrott – replacement agricultural barn/storage. PC comments – some concerns regarding the risk of damage to watercourse running in underground pipe adjacent to existing barn.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/12/000887 Hazel Barton, Chedington – erection of workshop and carport; creation of vehicle access gate from private driveway; reinstatement of pedestrian gate. Approved.

1/D/12/001162 Court Farm, Chedington – proposed new agricultural access. Approved.

1D/12/000350 Land adjacent Picket Lane, South Perrott – outline application for residential development of two semi-detached properties. Application Withdrawn.

c) New applications to be considered: None.

d) Tree Applications:

CA/12/00284 Bellamy Farm, South Perrott – fell 2 Silver Birch trees. Approved.

CA/12/00294 Manor Farm House, Chedington – fell 1 Cypress tree. Approved.

1159. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:

Precept (2 nd half)	£1,800
VAT refund	£55.41

b) Payments made since the last meeting: None

c) Payments to be made:

Sunnyside Web Design (annual website maintenance)	£150
DAPTC (clerks seminar)	£30
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50
Michael Charles (materials for Chedington notice board)	£188.90
Clerk's salary for Oct/Nov 2012	£273.44
Clerk's expenses	£41.44

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

Bank account as at 2 nd November 2012:	£4,446.27
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,712.49

d) **Approval of Budget and Precept for 2013-2014**

The Clerk explained that new regulations prevented the Council from formally approving next year's Precept until the meeting in January 2013 but members could consider it. Following discussion, members were minded to approve a Precept of

£3,800 and this decision would be ratified in January.

1160. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman requested that the Children's Christmas Party be advertised in the 'Pump & Pound'.
- b) The Clerk advised that Dave McSkelly had kindly agreed to undertake the task of keeping the parish website up-to-date.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Organ referred to Pipplepen Lane, which had been closed for several months because of flooding under the bridge. Clerk to contact Somerset CC and North Perrott PC.
Action: Mrs Gillingham
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the 'Pump & Pound' by 23rd November.
- d) Footpaths Officers – Dominie de la Poer would remind Jill Exton, Rights of Way officer, that repairs were needed to the section of wall that had fallen into the river along the Langmoor Lane bridleway.

1161. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

The following issues were raised –

- Peter Coles requested action on flooding in the dip on A356 on Crewkerne side of South Perrott.
- Donald Hargreaves said that the number of HGVs getting jammed outside Sarum was on the increase.
- Wendy O'Leary reported a pot hole and damaged road surface outside her property.
Clerk to report these items to Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1162. **DATES OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS**

Members agreed the following dates for next year -

Thurs 10th January 2013 – South Perrott
Thurs 14th March 2013 – Chedington
Thurs 9th May 2013 (incl AGM) – South Perrott
Thurs 11th July 2013 – Chedington
Thurs 12th September 2013 – South Perrott
Thurs 14th November 2013 – Chedington

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date