

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2013 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Kate Organ (Vice-Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Anita Legg and Peter Simmons. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Janet Page, Matthew Williams (DCC Highways), clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1163. **APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr Liz Fray, District Cllr Caroline Payne, PCSO Alex Bishop, Dominie de la Poer and Dave McSkelly.

1164. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1165. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox advised that work had started on the Beaminster Tunnel and it was hoped that the tunnel would be re-opened by May 2013. She referred to the new bus route from Broadwindsor to Dorchester, which runs through South Perrott and Chedington, and hoped that residents were supporting this by using it. (Cllr Coutanche advised that the regular bus had not been stopping at the correct place in South Perrott and she has now arranged for the bus to pull into the pub car park.) Cllr Knox reported that progress was being made with Superfast Broadband and hoped that the parish would benefit from the money which was available specifically for rural areas. There is now an improved timetable for the mobile library service. The Orange mobile phone mast at Beaminster has been switched off and this has adversely affected the mobile phone signal in the area.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that the new District Council offices were now fully functioning, and that the telephone numbers and email addresses remained the same. She had joined a group of district and county councillors working with young people to encourage them to work together, and they will be attending a conference at Kingston Maurward in March.

In a written report, Cllr Caroline Payne reported that the Government intends to deregulate entertainment, from April 2013. This means that community premises such as church and village halls and community centres will be exempt from licensing requirements for live and recorded music for audiences of up to 500 people. The exemption will apply until 2300 hrs.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop advised that crime had been very quiet in the parish over the last month, but reminded everyone to keep vigilant as there is always a potential for crime where an opportunity presents itself to criminals. He warned that at this time of year it is particularly important that farmers/landowners/contractors are aware of their responsibilities to keep the roads clear of hazards, including mud and hedge trimmings, when carrying out their operations, to minimise the risk to other road users.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1166. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Scheme**

Variable Message Signs

Matthew Williams, Manager, Network Traffic Control, DCC Highways, attended the meeting to put forward his proposals for tackling traffic flow through the narrowest part of South Perrott, by Swing Gate Cottage. He advised that it would not be appropriate to install traffic lights, because each access within the stretch of road would need to have a set of lights and this would destroy the rural charm of the village. His proposal was for Variable Message Signs at each end of the narrow section, which are triggered by a large vehicle entering the section, to warn traffic coming from the other direction. The illuminated signs would have a "road narrows" symbol above wording such as "oncoming vehicle in middle of road". The two signs would be linked by radio and solar powered. The cost would be £15,000 and the money was likely to be available in this financial year. Matthew Williams said that the signs might not be the perfect solution, as they were a bit 'urban', but they had been used successfully in the north of the county. It was noted that with this type of sign it was not mandatory for traffic to stop, but an alternative type of sign reading "HGV approaching, please wait here" would be a considerably more expensive system and take longer to provide as it would need Department of Transport permission.

IT WAS AGREED to accept the proposal for the variable message signs and for them to be installed as soon as possible. A site meeting would be arranged between Matthew Williams and councillors to agree the most appropriate positions for the signs. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Other issues

Members and residents raised the following other issues relating to the A356 –

- The hedges of Winterhayes and Whitestop House need to be kept cut back to improve visibility on the road.
- The kerbstones outside Swing Gate Cottage are loose and broken.
- The cats eyes should be replaced on the road past the former golf club, for reasons of safety.
- Pot holes on the Crewkerne side keep opening up, despite frequent patching. Cllr Knox advised that the road is scheduled for resurfacing but cannot be closed for works until the Beaminster tunnel is reopened, as it is the official diversion route.
- Drains between Winton Cottage and Shepherds Farm and outside Hunters Hatch need regular clearing.
- At the Lecher Lane junction with the A356, water tracks across the road, and will be a hazard in icy weather.

Matthew Williams suggested that these problems could be looked at during the site visit. The clerk to email the list to his manager, Mike Westwood. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

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

The Vice-Chairman reported that she had obtained two quotes for building the planter and laying the paving slabs: one for £903 and one for £640. The parish council had funds of £300 in its budget, and South Perrott Village Hall had promised a donation. It was hoped that the remainder of the cost could be raised by donations from residents. Residents had all received a copy of the sketch of the proposed refurbishment and no negative comments had been received.

IT WAS AGREED to accept the quote for £640 and proceed with the work. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Johnson). *Action: Cllr Organ*

c) **Superfast Broadband**

Jill Turner reported that she had attended a meeting at County Hall of Superfast Broadband Champions. At the meeting it had been explained that superfast broadband would be available to 95% of properties by 2015. It would be transmitted by fibre optic cables but there is a funding gap between areas where there are sufficient people to justify the cost and sparsely populated rural areas. If the County Council can increase the take-up in the rural areas, it can access more money from central Government. The greater the demand created, the better. They are looking for as much evidence as possible that residents want the improved broadband. The County Council is therefore encouraging people to register their interest online at www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast or by telephoning 01305 221048. Jill Turner will contact people on her 'oil list', put an item in 'Pump & Pound' and put up posters. She asked that the parish council writes to the Superfast Broadband Team to express our interest in an improved broadband service.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

d) **Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Trees for Dorset**

The Clerk reported that on Friday 30th November Tony Warne from 'Trees for Dorset' donated to the parish a Wild Service Tree to commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Tony Warne, Peter Hinton and Bob Buckland planted the tree on the Millennium Green. A brass plaque will be mounted alongside the tree.

1168. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's circulars x 3, December 2012 and circular 1/13
2. Email from DAPTC re. Localising Council Tax Support.
3. Letter from DCC re. changes to mobile library service.
4. Letter from Waitrose, Crewkerne, offering the parish a tree to mark their 75th anniversary of joining the John Lewis Partnership.
5. Letter from Victim Support requesting financial support for 2013-14.
6. Letter from Dorset Wildlife Trust promoting their volunteer training programme.
7. LCR, local councils magazine, Winter 2012.
8. Twentyfourseven, South Western Ambulance Service newspaper.
9. WDDC re. Town and Parish Precepts for 2013/2014.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to Life Education Wessex declining their request for funding.
2. Letter to Waitrose accepting offer of tree to mark their anniversary.
3. Letter to Trees for Dorset thanking them for the tree to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

1169. **PLANNING**

- a) Applications handled since last meeting:
1/D/12/001625 & 1/D/12/001626 Rose Cottage, South Perrott – erect rear extension (renewal of previous permissions). PC comments – a concern that the conditions attached to the approval for the retaining wall at the rear of the property have not yet been met, and a concern that the front porch of the property is absent on the proposed plans, which could allow the possibility of a car parking there and reversing out onto a blind bend.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:
1/D/12/001353 Chedington Lodge, Chedington – rear extension to existing North facing courtyard and internal reconfiguration. Approved.

1/D/12/001425 Sockety Farm, South Perrott – replacement agricultural barn/storage. Approved.

1/D/12/000505 Holts Farm, South Perrott – change of use of part of former Golf Club premises to use as a depot for an agricultural contractor. Approved.

c) New applications to be considered: None.

d) Tree Applications: None.

1170. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	None
Coach & Horses (share of insertion fee for flyer)	£3.60
South Perrott Village Hall (share of insertion fee for flyer)	£3.60
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter and "The Pound" flyer + insertion fee for 3 flyers)	£100.80
South Perrott Village Hall (hire of hall Nov 2012 & Jan 2013)	£24.00
Clerk's salary for Dec 2012 & Jan 2013	£273.44
Clerk's expenses	£32.68

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

Bank account as at 8 th January 2013:	£3,719.69
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,288.77

d) **Precept for 2013-2014**

The clerk explained that changes to the way the council tax base was calculated had meant that the parish council had not been able to approve its proposed precept at the November meeting. The district council, as billing authority, has now confirmed the tax base and the local council tax support grant which will make up the parish precept.

Members approved the Precept for 2013-2014 of £3,800. (Proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Johnson)

1171. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman requested that the new timetable for the mobile library service should be published in the 'Pump & Pound'.
- b) The Clerk advised that the subscription for the Local Council Review (LCR) magazine was due for renewal. Members agreed that it was not necessary to continue with the magazine.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Organ advised that Pipplepen Lane was no longer flooded and was open.
 - Cllr Organ suggested that the start time of parish council meetings should come forward to 7.00pm during the winter months, which had been the practice historically.
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that County Cllr Knox had given a compliment on the presentation of the 'Pump & Pound'. Deadline for items for P&P was 21st January.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.

1172. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The following issues were raised –

- Ann Studley asked when the telephone box in The Pound would be repainted. The clerk to write to BT. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Sue Lucas asked about council tax rates for second home owners. District Cllr Page confirmed that after April 2013 they will be required to pay full council tax.

1173. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thurs 14th March 2013, at 7.30pm in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Date