

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2013 at 7.30pm at Chedington 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, clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1174. **APOLOGIES** were received from PCSO Alex Bishop and Mr & Mrs Thackwell.

1175. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1176. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on a forthcoming meeting to discuss Superfast Broadband. This will be held in Beaminster at 6.30pm on 26th March and is open to representatives from DT6 and DT8 postcode areas, and will give an update on progress to get faster broadband into the area. Cllr Knox referred to changes in school bus routes and suggested that the parish council contacts the Parrett & Axe School to ask whether the proposed changes will cause any difficulties, and she would try to assist if necessary. Beaminster School is trialling bus passes for the children, which will give useful information on why is using the buses and how much space might be available for 16 year olds to use.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that she is working with the District Council and the County Council to get young people working together. She encouraged members to attend a seminar at Kingston Maurward College on 22nd March, which will be looking at ways to get funding for working with young people. The District Council is looking at ways to get more affordable housing into Dorset. A select committee has been set up to look at the Sustainability Act, which could be a useful way to ask the Government to change the law to help communities.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported that from 1st April Dorset Waste Partnership will be taking over all waste collection vehicles which are currently run by West Dorset. The logos will be different but it is hoped that there will be a smooth transition. (The Chairman referred to an email which had been sent to the PC regarding new charges for waste collections from village halls. Cllr Payne to seek clarification on this.) Cllr Payne reported that the Policy & Scrutiny Committee was looking at a protocol for community wellbeing assets. This was an opportunity for communities to consider whether their wellbeing was being compromised if an asset was lost (e.g. the loss of a village pub). The community would have the right to bid for the asset. Under their housing strategy, the District Council was looking at long-term empty homes and had developed an incremental intervention policy, ranging from advice to legal action, to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use.

There was no Police report.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1177. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Scheme**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February to discuss issues relating to the A356 in South Perrott. Cllr Coutanche advised that the broken kerbstones outside Swing Gate Cottage are due to be repaired on 15th March. She also reported that on one occasion a driver had to wait 20 minutes to get onto the main road from Picket Lane because of HGVs causing a traffic jam.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February were signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray).

In order to take matters forward, IT WAS AGREED that the parish council should write to Highways asking for the crossings to be removed and the kerbstones alongside footways to be replaced with something less obtrusive and more fit for purpose but retaining the delineated area of footway.
Action: Cllr Johnson and Mrs Gillingham

Members discussed the possibility of having flashing 30mph signs at either end of the village, which had received a close vote at the meeting. Cllr Rebecca Knox advised that the money that had been allocated due to the tunnel closure would be lost if not used. It was not clear how big these signs would be. The Clerk to speak to Matthew Williams, DCC Highways.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

A question was raised as to whether the parish council had acted incorrectly by agreeing at its January meeting to accept the proposed variable message signs, but subsequently backtracking on its decision after ascertaining that one of the proposed installation sites would be unacceptable, following the public meeting for all residents held on 20th April, called by the PC, who voted overwhelmingly against the installation of the signs. The Clerk to check on the legality of this.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

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

The Vice-Chairman reported that John Harris will undertake the work to build the stone planter in The Pound. Cllr Organ has some stone available which John Harris will inspect for suitability. She asked that if anyone else has some spare stone, could they place it at the back of The Pound by mid-April when the building work will begin. The work should be completed in two weeks, in time for spring/summer planting.

c) **Tree Donation from Waitrose**

The Clerk reported that Waitrose had donated to the parish a tree to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Waitrose joining the John Lewis Partnership. Peter Hinton planted the tree on the Millennium Green on 5th March. The clerk advised that a brass plaque was likely to cost in the region of £30. The Chairman offered to investigate a cheaper option.

Action: Cllr Johnson

d) **Parish Grant Scheme**

The Clerk advised that DCC is promoting a scheme whereby the parish council can employ contractors directly to carry out minor works on the rights of way network throughout the parish, using DCC funding. Dominic de la Poer, footpaths officer, advised that currently Rights of Way are responsible for getting repairs done, but it can take a long time. She expressed concern as to who might be responsible for the work if the parish council liaised direct with the contractors. Dominic also advised that a section of sandbags bordering the river along Langmoor Lane had fallen into the water again. Jill Exton, RoW officer, was aware of the problem which was due to pressure of water from a drain on higher land.

Roger Legg referred to the road planings which he had used successfully to resurface part of the Langmoor Lane bridleway. The Chairman advised that the A356 from Winyards Gap to Sockety was due to be resurfaced this autumn and this may result in a further supply of planings.

CLLr Rebecca Knox advised that under the Parish Grant Scheme there was only £30,000 available for the whole of the county. Currently there is a huge backlog of work and it might be worth the parish council going direct to a contractor to get an estimate for the work which could be submitted to the County Council for approval.

IT WAS AGREED that Dominie de la Poer and the Clerk would liaise to get an estimate from a contractor for the repair work on Langmoor Lane. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1178. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's circulars Jan & Feb 2013 and newsletter Winter 2012.
2. South Western Ambulance Service re. Right Care Initiative.
3. DCC re. Statement of Community Involvement on Planning Matters – consultation draft.
4. Letter from Lord Lieutenant re. National Honours for Local People.
5. Email from WDDC re. changes to West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Draft Local Plan.
6. DCC re. postponement of Parliamentary constituency boundary review.
7. Dorset AONB newsletter January 2013.
8. Letter from Cornish Mutual Assurance re. Community South West campaign.
9. Email from County CLLr Rebecca Knox giving update on Beaminster Tunnel.
10. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter January 2013.
11. 24/7, South Western Ambulance Service newspaper.
12. Police & Crime Commissioner's letter of introduction and newsletter.
13. Budget Speech by Angus Campbell, Leader of Dorset CC.
14. Letter from NALC re. retirement of Chief Executive.
15. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, March 2013.
16. WDDC re. West Dorset Spring Clean, 1-30 April 2013.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to Waitrose thanking them for the tree to mark the 75th Anniversary of joining the John Lewis Partnership.

1179. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/12/001637 Lower Farm Cottage, Chedington – to insert two dormer windows in the north west roof of cottage. PC comments – no concerns.

1/D/13/000167 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 1/D/11/001640 to alter the access into the compound. PC comments – no concerns.

1/D/13/000149 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – proposed building extension for feed yard and a separate forage storage building. PC comments – no concerns.

1/D/13/000151 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – to form field access gateway from unclassified road. PC comments – no concerns.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/12/001625 & 1/D/12/001626 Rose Cottage, South Perrott – erect rear extension (renewal of previous permissions). Approved.

c) New applications to be considered: None.

d) Tree Applications: None.

1180. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	
WDDC - Xmas Tree Collection	£8.00
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Chedington Village Hall (hire of hall July 2011 – Mar 2013)	£90.00
Clerk's salary for Feb & March 2013	£273.44
Clerk's expenses	£31.64

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

Bank account as at 27 th February 2013:	£3,296.77
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£2,851.69

d) **Risk Assessment**

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated. It was approved and duly signed. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Legg)

1181. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman advised that the landlord of Winyards Gap inn had requested a grit bin to be sited near the pub. Cllr Liz Fray to speak to him to confirm the request. *Action: Cllr Fray*
- b) The Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
- Cllr Legg requested a grit bin to be sited outside Pickett Farm, South Perrott. Cllr Knox advised that any suitable container such as a 'pheasant feeder' could be acquired more cheaply than a traditional grit bin and as long as Highways was notified to allocate it a number, it would be filled at no cost at the start of the winter season.
 - Cllr Simmons advised that the grit bin at Monarch's Way, Chedington had been badly damaged by a passing car and would need to be replaced. The clerk to investigate if an insurance claim could be made for this. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Simmons reported that the caravan at Penny's Hill had now been pushed back onto level ground. The clerk to notify the County enforcement officer. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Organ referred to agricultural land which is for sale in South Perrott and asked where we stand regarding development of the land if we have no local plan in place. Cllr Knox suggested that the parish council should revise its village plan and consider compiling a parish plan. [Item for next agenda] *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by 20th March.
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that the village Spring Clean in South Perrott would take place on the morning of Sunday 28th April.

d) Footpaths Officers – Dominie de la Poer reported that the stiles across the fields on the footpath between South Perrott and Mosterton are to be replaced with metal gates, in order to improve access.

1182. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The following issues were raised –

- It was reported that stone plant pots have been stolen from outside Winton Cottage in South Perrott. The Police are aware. There had also been an attempted burglary from the barn at Mount Pleasant Cottage, South Perrott.
- The two grit spreaders purchased last winter do not work with damp grit.
- The blue “unsuitable for HGVs” sign at Lecher Lane should be moved to the left hand side of the lane to make it visible for HGVs approaching from Crewkerne direction. *Clerk to request.*
- A large hole has appeared next to the drain opposite Woodcock Lane, Chedington. *Clerk to report.*
- A drain is blocked above Picket Lane Nursery. *Clerk to report.*

1183. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thurs 9th May 2013, at 7.30pm (to include AGM) in South Perrott Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed

Date