

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2013 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Kate Organ (Vice-Chairman), Sue Coutanche and Liz Fray. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Janet Page, PCSO Alex Bishop, Freda Hennessy (parish clerk for Corscombe & Halstock), Sally Welford (parish clerk for Thorncombe), clerk Angela Gillingham and 7 residents.

1210. **APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr Anita Legg, Cllr Peter Simmons, District Cllr Caroline Payne and footpaths officer Dominie de la Poer.

1211. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1212. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues –

- Refurbishment of The Pound – she suggested it might be worth speaking to Andrew Bradley in Highways, to see if the men who will be laying the new kerbstones might be willing to lay the paving at the same time.
- Broadband – the BT team are now in County Hall, and are expecting there to be 97% coverage of broadband across the county. The team is working hard to improve the coverage for the remaining 3%.
- Beaminster Tunnel - the Himalayan balsam which can be seen growing on the slopes, is being monitored and will be cut down and destroyed in the spring.
- Review of Bus Services - Cllr Knox has been in direct contact with the Passenger Transport team regarding any proposals for change to any of the services in her area.
- County Council – the Highways Department is being scrutinised with a view to restructuring at local level. The new Chief Executive, Cabinet and members are looking at new ways of providing the services, with a reduction in lengthy processes. The County Council is encouraging more people into the foster care service to reduce the number of children in care.

Cllr Organ recorded her thanks to Cllr Knox for all her help, particularly with regard to pushing on the repair work on the Beaminster Tunnel.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that she will be attending a Broadband meeting with DAPTC on 14th September, and offered to be the contact for any concerns members might want to raise. The District Council is going through a boundary review which is likely to lead to a reduction in the number of councillors, from 48 down to 42 or 44. The boundary changes could result in a different mix of villages in the same ward. She encouraged people to comment on the consultation. The District Council is conducting a peer review, where councillors from other districts across the country are invited to visit and make a critical analysis of how WDDC functions. This will be followed by a residents' survey to get feedback on WDDC's services. Cllr Page advised that she has been made joint chairman of the Health & Safety Committee with Weymouth & Portland. She advised that the Chairman of WDDC hosts a civic day annually and this year it was held at Beaminster, with all aspects of the town, such as the church, school and tunnel, being looked at.

PCSO Alex Bishop reported that crime had again been very low but in other areas there had been a couple of thefts of garden ornaments. He cautioned anyone with ornaments close to the roadway to protect them, and was willing to give advice on security. He reminded everyone of the need to report any suspicious vehicles - telephone 101 - Dorset Police non-emergency centre.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1213. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Bus Service 204 Thorncombe to Yeovil**

Cllr Liz Fray welcomed Freda Hennessy, parish clerk for Corscombe & Halstock, and Sally Welford, parish clerk for Thorncombe, who would be joining the discussion on the DCC's proposed withdrawal of the 204 bus service.

Cllr Fray reported that she had canvassed residents in Chedington to seek their views on the proposed withdrawal of the 204 bus, and that Cllr Coutanche had canvassed residents in South Perrott. The following points came out from the survey and discussion –

- Neither Chedington nor South Perrott have any shops or a post office and the bus is the only means of shopping for a number of the residents who do not drive or have access to a car in the daytime.
- The bus enables elderly people, who would otherwise be isolated, to get out and socialise.
- Possibly reduce the number of days that the bus runs to Yeovil from three days to once a week, and also have a bus running to Crewkerne one day a week.
- 'Bus Pass' passengers would be prepared to pay a contribution towards the cost.
- The petition in Halstock has 250 signatures.

Cllr Knox advised that the solution for each parish might be different so it would be preferable for each parish council to write separately to the County Council.

IT WAS AGREED that the parish council would send a letter setting out the views of residents, and enclosing all the comments sheets, by the deadline of 23rd September.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

Cllrs Fray and Coutanche were thanked for the work they had done.

b) **A356 Road Scheme**

No new issues were raised. It was noted that pot holes have started appearing again along the A356 and also in Lecher Lane. Cllr Coutanche advised that when the resurfacing by the former golf course is carried out, Ian Legg has offered to re-use the planings to surface some of the bridleways.

c) **Village and Parish Plans**

The Vice-Chairman reported that a meeting of the Working Group had been held to discuss Village and Parish Plans. The Working Group consisted of Cllrs Organ, Coutanche, Fray and Legg; no parishioners had put themselves forward. Cllr Organ had spoken to Maria Clarke, Community Planning Officer at WDDC, who reminded her that a Parish Plan existed, which was compiled in 2004, and this could just be reviewed and refreshed. Cllr Organ suggested a short questionnaire to obtain the views of parishioners, and circulation of the original Plan. She said that the Working Group had not yet reached agreement on whether or not to recommend the production of a new Plan.

Cllr Fray advised that in the last two years just 13 people had left Chedington and 9 had come in, which was insufficient to justify the production of a completely new Plan. Cllr Coutanche advised that in South Perrott there had been a 30% change in population in the last 10 years, and suggested that the starting point should be a review of the action plan from the existing Parish Plan. She said a new Plan was appropriate as the previous one referred to demographic information that is now 20 years out of date.

No decisions were made and it was agreed that the Working Group should meet again to consider the matter further and report back to the Parish Council. A date was arranged for Wednesday 23rd October, 6.30pm in South Perrott Village Hall, the date to be publicised in The Pump & Pound and parishioners encouraged to attend. *Action: Cllr Coutanche*

Cllr Johnson requested that a link to the existing Parish Plan is put on the website, with hard copies obtainable from the Clerk. *Action: Dave McSkelly*

Jo Morgan, South Perrott resident, advised that she had relevant consultation skills and offered to join the Working Group.

d) **Parish Council Computer**

The Clerk advised that Dave McSkelly had spent some time looking at the parish council's computer, and had declared it very slow in operation and with a flickering screen. In his opinion (and that of the clerk) it was in need of replacement. A sum of £500 had already been set aside in the budget for this purpose. Members approved the purchase of a new laptop (proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ). *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1214. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Newsletter, Summer 2013.
2. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 6/13.
3. DCC letter re. proposed changes to Bus Services.
4. DCC letter re. information pack on New Health Structures.
5. Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC Dorset) Newsletter, Summer 2013.
6. Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme – consultation results and analysis.
7. Dept. for Communities & Local Government – invitation to attend meeting re. Neighbourhood Planning & Community Rights, at Blandford Forum.
8. Local Government Boundary Commission re. Electoral Review of West Dorset.
9. Ray Hughes, South Perrott - copy of email to Cllr Knox re. Bus Service 204.

Correspondence Out

None.

1215. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/13/001043 Chedington Lodge, Chedington – changing pitched roof to dormer window to create new dressing area to main bedroom. PC comments – no concerns.

1/D/13/001017 Rowan Tree Cottage, South Perrott – replacement porch. PC comments – no concerns.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting: None.

c) New applications to be considered:

1/D/13/001197 Bridge Farmhouse, South Perrott – erection of a hardwood double glazed lean-to style conservatory and replacement of the original back door to the house. Members discussed this application and no concerns were raised.

1/D/13/001106 Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott – proposed chalet bungalow. Members deferred consideration on this application, which had only been in circulation for a few days, until all members had had the opportunity to read it.

d) Tree Applications:

TP/13/00172 Threshers Barn, South Perrott – lift crown on Sycamore. PC comments – no concerns. Approval received.

CA/13/00177 Mohun House, South Perrott – remove one stem from two-stemmed Ash. PC comments – no concerns. Approval received.

CA/13/00178 16 School Hill, South Perrott – thin crown on T1 Maple. PC comments – no concerns. Approval received.

1216. FINANCE

a) Income received:	None
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Sunnyside Wed Design (annual website maintenance)	£150.00
Clerk's salary for August & Sept 2013 (national pay award – increase of £1.41 a month. Figure includes back pay to April 2013)	£288.36
Clerk's expenses	£15.00

The increase in the clerk's salary was approved. (proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray)

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

Bank account as at 23 th August 2013:	£3,465.33
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£2,961.97

- d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2013 - 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 Coutanche)

1217. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) The Chairman – referred to the telephone box in South Perrott which has been freshly painted and asked if a request can be put in for the Chedington telephone box to be repainted.
Action: Mrs Gillingham
- b) Clerk – advised that a large buddliea bush was obscuring the parish notice board in Chedington. The Chairman advised that the shrub was not owned by anyone and offered to cut it back when it has finished flowering.
Action: Cllr Johnson

c) Members –

- Cllr Fray suggested that the Chedington notice board could be relocated to the Village Hall wall, where it would be more visible.
- Cllr Fray referred to a quantity of stone which had been dumped at the top of Picket Lane, at the junction with Chedington Lane. Cllr Johnson advised that it was on private land and not parish council responsibility.
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for The Pump & Pound by the deadline of 19th September.

Footpaths Officers – no report.

1218. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Jill Turner and David Lines referred to the Picket Lane Nursery planning application and stressed that this is the sort of development that the village needs. They advised that another house in Church Hill has recently been sold as a holiday home, and we should encourage local people to work and live in the village.

Dave McSkelly advised that the A3066/Lecher Lane junction is still very dangerous and he had witnessed three near misses recently. Clerk to write again to Highways.

Peter Coles referred to the 'flood' sign on the A356 towards Crewkerne and asked for Highways to keep the drain clear or make a hole in the wall to prevent flooding across the road at that point. He also reported on the state of the road at the bottom of Chedington, and the large pothole in Chedington Lane. Clerk to report to Highways.

1219. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date