

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 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 4 residents.

1220. APOLOGIES / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from PCSO Alex Bishop and footpaths officer Dominie de la Poer. Grant of Dispensations – the clerk advised that the dispensations that members applied for last year were still valid and would enable them to speak and vote on the setting of the new parish Precept at this meeting.

1221. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th September 2013 were approved with two amendments and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Fray, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1222. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox recorded her thanks to residents who had attended the Superfast Broadband meeting in Beaminster on 10 October. County officers were delighted with the response from rural areas which illustrated to BT that they must consider the last 3% in their roll-out plans. There had been an enormous response to the Bus Service consultation and Cllr Knox thanked the parish council for its individual response. The latest information is that no village will be without at least one bus a week, and the final decision will be made by DCC on 4th December. In order to speed up County Council processes, Highways was again being restructured to target services to specific areas and changes had been made to the online system for reporting road problems.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that WDDC had completed its boundary review which may result in 42 councillors instead of 48 and the inclusion of two new parishes, Corscombe and West Chelborough, to the Beaminster ward. The peer review had concluded that staff are stretched very thinly. She had attended a briefing on welfare reforms, dealing with universal benefit and the bedroom tax, and 683 families in West Dorset were affected and some were unable to move to other properties.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported that Mosterton has registered its pub and shop as community assets, and suggested that we consider the same for Winyards Gap and the Coach & Horses. She had attended a briefing by Chris Grays, the new officer for parking, who was very keen that WDDC does not penalise people for returning to their car a few minutes late. Many of the parking machines are to be updated.

In a written report, 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.

1223. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **South Perrott Telephone Lines**

Cllr Sue Coutanche referred to the recent disruption to the telephone service in South Perrott caused by the cable being brought down in a storm. She felt residents had been put in a very vulnerable position with no telephone and no mobile signal. When BT was contacted it had failed to understand that the whole line had come down, affecting every household, and did not treat the incident as an emergency. County Cllr Rebecca Knox was thanked for her intervention which had hastened the repair work.

Members discussed ways of improving the mobile phone signal in both villages. The idea of erecting a mast on the church tower had previously been considered. County Cllr Knox suggested contacting Dougal Lockhart at DCC, as a first step to ask his advice.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

Cllr Organ recorded her thanks to Roger Legg who had cleared the drain on the A356 on the Crewkerne side of South Perrott.

b) **A356 Road Scheme**

County Cllr Knox advised that the resurfacing work on the A356 planned for this autumn had been reprogrammed for Spring 2014 to tie in with other works. It was intended to implement a mix of hydroblasting and resurfacing to reduce the incidence of skidding along the section of the A356 from Winyards Gap to Toller Down. Highways will be reinstating side-verging and gully-clearing next year. Cllr Knox suggested the parish council writes to Highways to request that the work is not postponed again.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

c) **Refurbishment of The Pound**

The Vice-Chairman reported that she had met with Adrian Norcombe, Group Manager for Construction, DCC Highways, and discussed the options for completing the seating area of The Pound. Adrian had explained that if paving slabs were used, each one would need to be cut to fit the curved shape of the area, but this would be prohibitively expensive. A more realistic option would be to lay tarmac and then use paving slabs (if possible, the original ones) just under the seat. Adrian offered to draw up a suggested design, once Cllr Organ has given him the dimensions of the seat.

Action: Cllr Organ

d) **Village and Parish Plans**

The Vice-Chairman reported that a second meeting of the Working Group had been held to discuss the Parish Plan. The group had agreed to review the action points of the original plan which was now 10 years old. The group was planning to hold a breakfast open meeting in the Spring to encourage residents' views on what they want in their community. It was stressed that the two villages of South Perrott and Chedington are joined as a group parish and therefore the plan needs to be joint plan.

e) **Parrett & Axe Primary School**

Members considered a letter from the Head Teacher of the Parrett & Axe Primary School in Mosterton, requesting a donation towards the annual visit of the Dorset Life Education Van. It was agreed to give a donation of £50 (proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Legg).

f) **Conservation and Community Planning Grant Scheme**

Members considered WDDC's Conservation and Community Planning Grant Scheme, the application deadline for which had been extended until 31 January 2014. Under the scheme parish councils could apply for 50% of the total cost of projects in their community, up to a maximum of £3,000. Projects could be any which resulted in a lasting enhancement of the historic or landscape character of a village or the development of a parish or neighbourhood plan.

It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held to consider the options in more detail.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

g) **Superfast Broadband**

Members received a report from Martyn Gillingham, who had attended the Superfast Broadband meeting in Beaminster. By September 2016, 97% of properties in Dorset will have access to speeds of above 2 mbps, and 100% of properties will have access to speeds of at least 2 mbps. Communities will be contacted six months before the new service is available in their area. The more residents that register their interest in Superfast Broadband, the more likely that we will get an improved service.

It was agreed that an item should appear in "Pump & Pound" encouraging residents to sign up.

Action: Cllr Coutanche

1224. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circulars 6/13 and 8/13.
2. Letter from WDDC re. extension to the consultation on a new local plan for West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland.
3. Letter from DCC re. Part Night Street Lighting.
4. Email from DCC attaching new Community Highway Areas Map.
5. Letter from Oliver Letwin MP re. proposed withdrawal of Bus Service 204.
6. Letter from Department for Communities & Local Government re. Sustainable Communities Act 2007: invitation to town and parish councils.
7. Clerk & Councils Direct newsletters, September and November 2013.
8. DCC Highways Winter Service Plan 2013/14.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to DCC re. proposed withdrawal of Bus Service 204.
2. Email to Highways re. Junction with Lecher Lane.

1225. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/13/001106 Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott – Proposed chalet bungalow.

PC comments – members raised a number of concerns in relation to this application.

1/D/13/001217 Bellamy Farm, South Perrott – Remove external walls to granny annexe.

PC comments – no concerns.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

1/D/13/001043 Chedington Lodge, Chedington – changing pitched roof to dormer window to create new dressing area to main bedroom. Approval of Planning Permission.

1/D/13/001017 Rowan Tree Cottage, South Perrott – replacement porch. Approval of Planning Permission.

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. Approval of Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.

1/D/13/001106 Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott – Proposed chalet bungalow. Refusal of Planning Permission.

c) New applications to be considered:

1/D/13/001425 Pickett Farm. South Perrott – application withdrawn.

1/D/13/001527 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – Demolish outbuilding, erect building for calf rearing and alter road access. (Cllr Legg offered to leave the meeting during discussion of this application.) Members considered the application and raised no concerns about the proposal other than wanting an assurance that it will not cause increased mud across the road.

d) Tree Applications:

CA/13/00238 Three Farthings, South Perrott – surgery to various specimens within the grounds. PC comments – no concerns. Approval received.

TP/13/00300 New House Farm, South Perrott – T1 Ash: crown reduction by 30% and removal of dead branches. PC comments – no concerns. Approval received.

1226. FINANCE

a) Income received:	£1,900
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Parrett & Axe Primary School	£50.00
Angela Gillingham – reimbursement for purchase of new computer	£399.95
Clerk's salary for October & November 2013	£282.72
Clerk's expenses	£44.40

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

Bank account as at 26 th September 2013:	£4,861.97
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£4,034.90

d) **Approval of Budget and Precept for 2014-2015**

The Clerk explained that new regulations prevented the Council from formally approving next year's Precept until the meeting in January 2014 but members could consider it. Following discussion, members approved the proposed Budget for 2014-2015 and were minded to approve a Precept of £3,800. This

decision would be ratified in January. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1227. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

a) The Chairman – none.

b) Clerk –

- reported that the Environment Agency was concerned about their rain gauge sited on the water reservoir at the top of Picket Lane, which had been vandalised for the second time. Agreed an item to be put into "Pump & Pound". *Action: Cllr Coutanche*
- reported that Highways had refused a request to repair the railings alongside the river in Picket Lane, South Perrott, because they were regarded as purely decorative, rather than a safety barrier. Members expressed their concern and the clerk will write again to Highways to stress that the railings are for safety reasons, particularly when the river is fast flowing. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

c) Members –

- Cllr Simmons raised again the issue of the broken grit bin sited outside Pretty Box Farm, which he had raised at the meeting on 14th March. In addition, Cllr Legg requested a new grit bin to be sited outside Pickett Farm. After discussion, it was agreed to purchase a replacement bin for Pretty Box Lane and to defer consideration of any further bins to the next meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Organ.) *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Cllr Simmons raised a concern about the number of HGVs using Pretty Box Lane, causing a deterioration of the road surface and vibrations to his house. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Highways to consider erecting a "unsuitable for HGVs" sign. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for The Pump & Pound by the deadline of 19th November.

d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

1228. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Roger Legg reported that he was working to reduce the flooding out from a field in Pipplepen Lane, by the Old School House, by closing off the field entrance and using another one higher up.

1229. **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR NEXT YEAR**

Members agreed the following dates for next year –

Thurs 9th January 2014 - Chedington
Thurs 13th March 2014 - South Perrott
Thurs 8th May 2014 (incl AGM) – Chedington
Thurs 10th July 2014 – South Perrott
Thurs 11th September 2014 – Chedington
Thurs 13th November 2014 – South Perrott

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date