

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 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 Cllr Janet Page, clerk Angela Gillingham and 5 residents.

#### **1230. APOLOGIES / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

Apologies were received from District Cllr Caroline Payne and PCSO Alex Bishop.

1231. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

#### **1232. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that the 204 bus will continue to run on Fridays, as from 6 April. She thanked everyone who had taken part in the consultation. The issue of rural transport was in the spotlight and the expansion of the Community Volunteer Service was going ahead with more community cars and minibuses. There was an increase in online reporting of road damage and the highway teams attending to a reported pothole now had authority to repair others that they saw, which saved money. Nevertheless, the County had some difficult decisions to make in its February Budget.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that there is no longer a Standards Committee at district level and councillors had received Code of Conduct training. The district council now holds a register of scrap metal dealers who now need a licence to operate. Cllr Page referred to the localisation of Council Tax benefits and confirmed that although the Government has withdrawn some of the grant, the district council is not reducing its funding to parish councils this year.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop reported that crime in the local area had been low but across the 'patch' there had been thefts of oil and power tools and the theft of a vehicle. He reminded people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

#### **1233. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a) A356 Road Issues - accidents**

The Chairman reported that following a series of accidents on the A356 near the old Golf Club, a site meeting had been held on 13 December with Phil Abley from Highways, County Cllr Rebecca Knox and three parish councillors. Phil Abley had explained that the promised resurfacing work had been put back until July 2014. The clerk has written to Adrian Norcombe, Construction Manager, to request that the work is not delayed again beyond that date. County Cllr Rebecca Knox commented that unfortunately if there are more urgent roads needing repair, they will get priority over ours. She suggested that we invite Adrian Norcombe to a site meeting to discuss the problems along the A356. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Cllr Kate Organ reported that one of the kerbstones outside the Bakers Arms in South Perrott had been dislodged and the owners are concerned about the noise nuisance caused by vehicles bumping over the kerb. The clerk to report to Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

It was reported that many potholes had opened up in the section of road between the 30mph and 40mph signs, travelling out of South Perrott in the Crewkerne direction. Some of these had been repaired but some large ones remained. The clerk has reported these.

**b) Mobile Phone Reception**

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Peter Speroni, from the BT team at County Hall, who had advised that under the Government's Mobile Infrastructure Project mobile phone coverage will be extended to areas where no coverage is currently available. Various sites are under consideration, including one in this parish. The aim is for sites to be acquired and building to be completed by 2015. The sites will be surveyed in a phased manner, and Dorset is in phase 3 of the programme.

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

Members considered WDDC's Conservation and Community Planning Grant Scheme, under which they could apply for a grant towards the cost of a particular project in the parish. Cllr Sue Coutanche suggested that the parish council could apply for funding towards a new Parish Plan but the costings had not been calculated.

Members expressed concern that there was insufficient money set aside in the budget to match fund any project at this time and so it was decided not to apply for funding on this occasion. It was agreed that it would be prudent to build up the council's contingency fund when the budget is next considered (in November 2014) to enable small projects to be undertaken.

**d) Grit Bins**

Cllr Anita Legg requested the purchase of a grit bin to be sited outside Pickett Farm in South Perrott, as Picket Lane can become very slippery in icy conditions. The purchase of one grit bin was agreed (proposed by Cllr Legg, seconded by Cllr Simmons). *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

**1234. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence In**

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 9/13.
2. DAPTC Newsletter, Autumn 2013
3. DAPTC Chief Executive's Extraordinary Circulars x 2, January 2014
4. Letter from Parrett & Axe Primary School thanking Parish Council for its donation.
5. Letter from Dorset Fire & Rescue Service advising re. Community Update Reports.
6. Letter from Dept for Communities and Local Government re. Neighbourhood and Local Plans.
7. WDDC re. Budget setting 2014/15.
8. DCC re. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Sites Plan and Waste Plan consultations.
9. DAPTC Annual Report 2012-2013.
10. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter.

**Correspondence Out**

1. Email to DCC and response re. mobile phone reception.
2. Email to DCC Highways re. accidents on A356.

**1235. PLANNING**

**a) Applications handled since last meeting:**

1/D/13/001527 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – Demolish outbuilding, erect building for calf rearing and alter road access. PC comments – no concerns.

**b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:**

1/D/13/001527 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – Demolish outbuilding, erect building for calf rearing and alter road access. Approval of Planning Permission.

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

c) New applications to be considered:

1/D/13/001731 Winyards Gap Inn, Chedington – proposed outbuilding to contain biomass boiler installation. Members considered this application and raised no concerns.

d) Tree Applications:

CA/13/00343 Hunters Hatch, South Perrott – fell one Ash and one Cypress tree. Approved.

CA/13/00359 Hunters Hatch, South Perrott – reduce height of Copper Beech by 30%. Approved.

## 1236. FINANCE

a) Income received:

HMRC – VAT Refund	£59.39
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b) Payments made since the last meeting:

None

c) Payments to be made:

Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Angela Gillingham – reimbursement for purchase of new grit bin	£90.00
Clerk's salary for December 2013 & January 2014	£282.72
Clerk's expenses	£20.89

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

Bank account as at 13 December 2013:	£4,094.29
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,650.68

d) **Precept for 2014-2015** – 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 still not confirmed the tax base and the local council tax support grant which make up the parish precept, but Cllr Janet Page confirmed that there would be no reduction this year.

Members approved the Precept for 2014-2015 of £3,800 (proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray).

## 1237. ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

### Standing Orders –

The clerk explained that she had updated the council's Standing Orders into the latest format which had been issued by NALC/DAPTC in October 2013. Members reviewed and adopted the Standing Orders with no amendments. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

### Financial Regulations –

The Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed and the following amendments were made –  
Para 3.5 - It was resolved that unspent provisions in the revenue budget shall be placed in an earmarked reserve and carried forward to a subsequent year.

Para 5.3 – cheques drawn on the bank account ... shall be signed by two members of council [*delete the words "and countersigned by the clerk"*].  
With these amendments, the Financial Regulations were adopted. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ)

**1238. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk –
  - recorded her thanks to Dave McSkelley for setting up her new computer.
  - she also passed on thanks from a South Perrott resident to Martyn Gillingham for his work in keeping the drains and gullies in Picket Lane clear of debris during the recent heavy rain.
- c) Members –
  - Cllr Organ reported that during heavy rain water cascaded from the ditch at the back of the village hall in South Perrott, down Pipplepen Lane and into The Pound. A review of the drains was needed.
  - Cllr Fray reported that a shipping container had appeared on land at Penny’s Hill. The enforcement officer at WDDC had been made aware of this.
  - Cllr Coutanche referred to flooding under the railway bridge in Pipplepen Lane, and requested that Somerset CC erect a road closure warning sign at the bottom of Pipplepen Lane, as well as at the North Perrott end. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
  - Cllr Coutanche requested items for The Pump & Pound by the deadline of 21 January.
- d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**1239. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Sue Lucas referred to the potholes on the A356 near Pretty Box Lane. The chairman advised that this stretch of road was scheduled to be patched in July.

Peter Hinton noted how effective the Environment Agency’s dam had been during the last five weeks of heavy rain, controlling the flow of water into the river.

The Chairman advised that historically the village had a River Warden to oversee any problems along the water course. Martyn Gillingham expressed a willingness to take on this voluntary role and his offer was accepted.

Martyn Gillingham reported that the Environment Agency had made a night-time visit to the dam on Christmas Eve to check water levels. He reported that the Environment Agency had requested that the “Trees for Dorset” tree which had been planted at the bottom of the spillway, be moved off the spillway.

**1240. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in South Perrott Village Hall.

Signed .....

Date .....