

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2014 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 Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, clerk Angela Gillingham and 4 residents.

1241. APOLOGIES / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Fray and Dominie de la Poer.

1242. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2014 were approved, with one minor amendment, and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1243. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues –

- The County Council has submitted various bids to central Government for the cost of repairing the main roads following the recent floods, and has allocated £5 million for repairs to the small lanes. Cllr Knox asked that if the parish council had incurred any costs in relation to clearing flooded roads, we should contact Andrew Martin who is compiling a list of costings.
- The County Council is conducting a major review of how Adult Services are delivered in the county, which has a budget of £270 million, just under half of the total funding for the county. It is predicted that there will be an increase of 0-4 year olds, resulting in a need to provide additional school places, and eventually a need for affordable housing if they are to stay in the area. There is likely to be an increase in 35-45 year olds. There are plans to increase the capacity to deal with families with problems under the "Troubled Families" agenda, and to link children's services with young people's services.
- There is a drive to promote the rural economy with a new look at rural transport schemes. The Country Car scheme, which is due to be wound up, has been very successful in this part of the county and Cllr Knox is keen that any voluntary car scheme should also be accessible for younger people to enable them to get to college and work.
- Cllr Knox encouraged members to report all road defects as soon as they occur, via the online system.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that WDDC has appointed a new Chief Executive who will take up his post in mid-June. She had attended a Waste Partnership and Recycling seminar. The new waste and recycling arrangements are gradually being implemented across the county and this area is in tranche 5, which is due to begin in September 2015.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported that the District Council had approved a budget which will raise council tax by 1.99%. The effect of this rise will be equal to £950,000 extra revenue, (or 4p a week on a Band D property). The grant to parishes will not be cut this year but subsequently will be cut by 25% a year over four years. A new Head Teacher has been appointed at Beaminster School.

There was no Police report.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1244. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Issues –**

The Chairman reported that a site meeting had been arranged with Adrian Norcombe, Construction Group Manager, on 20th March, in order for him to inspect the potholes, kerbs and other issues of concern. Cllr Peter Simmons offered to drive Mr Norcombe around to see the extent of the defects.

Cllr Simmons requested information on the costing per capita for road maintenance. He reported that hydroblasting had taken place on the A356 from the Mosterton junction down to Winyards Gap, but understood that it would not be continued further down the road. The procedure had left a very rough road surface which he felt could be dangerous to motorcyclists. Cllr Simmons advised that there was subsidence on the road down to Crook Hill, which he had reported.

County Cllr Knox advised that the Highway teams now carry GPS equipment and can fill other potholes when they see them during the course of their work. These are only temporary fillings and a new system is to be introduced whereby a road will be closed in order for the road surface to be repaired properly.

b) **DAPTC Annual Conference: Vibrant Communities**

Cllr Sue Coutanche reported on the DAPTC Annual Conference which she had attended. The subject was Vibrant Communities and the keynote speaker had spoken about his own community of Ilfracombe. This community had a high level of deprivation and over the last 10 years it had set up a number of initiatives to make improvements in health, crime and the economy and had encouraged community engagement and working together.

c) **Dorset Best Village Competition 2014**

This item was withdrawn.

d) **Dorset Country Cars Scheme**

The clerk reported that the Country Cars Scheme is coming to an end on 30th June 2014 and the County Council is encouraging parishes to join up with the new NeighbourCar Community Transport Scheme which will start on 1st July. Joyce Osborne, the present organiser, has expressed a wish to stand down but is happy to assist with a changeover to the new scheme. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Erica Pretty, the community development worker for POPP, who was leading the work on community car schemes, to find out more about the new scheme.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

1245. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Newsletter, Winter 2013/14
2. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 1/14
3. Email from Richard Stubbs, DCC Highways, re. A3066 Junction with Lecher Lane
4. Email correspondence with Phil Abley, DCC Highways, re. repair work on A356
5. WDDC re. Licensing Act 2013 – Statement of Licensing Policy Revision
6. DCC re. Future of Country Car Support (2 letters)
7. WDDC re. Proposed Revisions to Local Validation Checklists for Planning Applications
8. Email from WDDC re. West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Planning Policy Consultations.
9. DCC: Councillors Survey Feedback – responses from Highway's annual satisfaction survey.

Correspondence Out

1. Email to Adrian Norcombe, DCC Highways, re. potholes etc. on A356, and his reply.

1246. PLANNING

- a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:
1/D/13/001731 Winyards Gap Inn, Chedington – proposed outbuilding to contain biomass boiler installation. Approval of Planning Permission.
- c) New applications to be considered: None.
- d) Tree Applications:
CA/14/00020 The Granary Hill Farm, South Perrott – reduce height of Western Red Cedar by 20%, and fell one Ash Tree. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

1247. FINANCE

- a) Income received: None
- b) Payments made since the last meeting: None
- c) Payments to be made:

Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Hire of South Perrott Village Hall (Feb 2013 – Mar 2014)	£60.00
Hire of Chedington Village Hall (July 2013 – Jan 2014)	£45.00
Attendance at DAPTC Annual Conference	£50.00
Angela Gillingham – reimbursement for purchase of new grit bin	90.00
Clerk's salary for February & March 2014	£282.72
Clerk's expenses	£28.00

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

Bank account as at 20 January 2014:	£3,650.68
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,044.96

a) Risk Assessment

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

1248. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) The Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Organ referred to the tree which had brought down the power and telephone lines in Pipplepen Lane in the recent gales. She requested that a letter of thanks be sent to PC Tim Poole for his attendance at the scene from 4.00pm until 2.00am the following morning.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

- Cllr Coutanche advised that the planned village drop-in session had been deferred until Sunday 8th June. She requested an item on the next agenda for the parish council to consider a contribution towards the cost of refreshments.
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 24th March.
- Cllr Legg reported that a mutilated deer had recently been found on her farm.

d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

1249. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- Peter Hinton referred to the power lines which had recently been brought down in Baileys Lane. Western Power had attended within an hour.
- Martyn Gillingham, as River Warden, reported that following the storms he had retrieved a fence panel from the river beside Swing Gate Cottage, and had placed sandbags to protect a property in Picket Lane from the force of the river. Following a request from the Environment Agency, he and Peter Hinton had moved the tree donated by "Trees for Dorset" to another position on the Millennium Green, away from the spillway. Unfortunately the commemorative brass plaque has disappeared.
- Jill turner recorded her appreciation for the effectiveness of the flood prevention scheme.

1250. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8th May 2014 (incl. AGM) in Chedington Village Hall.

Signed

Date