

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th July 2014 at 7.30pm at South Perrott 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 3 residents.

1266. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from PCSO Alex Bishop and Jo Morgan.

Cllr Anita Legg declared an interest in planning application WD/D/14/001457.

1267. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th May 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1268. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues –

Superfast Broadband – the map showing the progress of superfast broadband across the county is changing as new agreements are made with BT and new bids received. South Perrott is now shown green on the map and will get the improved service in 2015. Chedington will get it in 2016.

Children Safeguarding – physical abuse of children is currently in the news, but abuse by neglect is also a big issue.

Community Safety – Dorset schools have been chosen to promote information packs on Fire Safety in the Home.

Children in Care – Cllr Knox will be attending an awards ceremony on 19th July, which will be a great day out for the children. There are currently 344 children in care.

Highways – Cllr Knox referred to the recent A356 road closure which had been brought forward from its original date. The County Council has just received £3.1m more funding for potholes and drainage issues, in addition to the £5.8m already received.

Himalayan Balsam – in response to a question, Cllr Knox advised that teams were abseiling down the sides of Beaminster Tunnel in an attempt to eradicate the plant. Volunteers were always welcome to assist working parties.

District Cllr Janet Page reported on West Dorset's Local Plan which was being revised. Discussions were in progress with the Inspector regarding the number of new developments – the Inspector wants to see more housing on the Plan. Difficulties are encountered when a proposed development is on the boundary of another district. The old Plan is now defunct and the new Plan is not ready yet, and in the meantime the Council will have to revert to the National Plan, which means that currently no new neighbourhood plans can be put into effect. The new Local Plan is up for consultation until September and then it must be approved by the Inspector before it can be put into operation.

District Cllr Caroline Payne added that the Council needed to identify additional land for new houses. There is a higher than average age population in West Dorset area and new housing will bring in younger people. West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland District Councils are still

considering whether to join up with North Dorset.

There was no Police report.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1269. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Parish Plans -**

Maria Clarke, Community Planning Officer at WDDC, attended the meeting to give a presentation on Parish Plans.

Ms Clarke explained that parish planning was aimed at improving life in the area by looking at the needs and aspirations of people and then working together to find solutions. These could be local or national issues and a plan can bring community members together. In West Dorset, 47 parish plans have been published. Parish plans are complementary to neighbourhood plans.

Ms Clarke noted that the South Perrott and Chedington Plan was now ten years old and she suggested that it was important to do an analysis of what it had achieved and what is still relevant. She suggested that a public consultation event could be held to discuss the achievements and outstanding issues. Working groups could be set up to look at specific issues, then analyse the results and draft a way forward. Then consult the community again before launching the new plan.

In discussion, the following points were made:-

- There is a lack of support from villagers. We need more volunteers to get things done.
- The Drop-In Breakfast consultation was a very positive event.
- The Pump & Pound keeps people informed and is well received.
- The previous plan took a lot of time and money. A new plan would be a wasted exercise; we only need a review of the original one.
- We don't need a formal document, but need to encourage a sense of community.
- Ten years ago Government funding was available for the creation of the plan, but now there is no money. A paper document was the only way of disseminating information, but now other ways are available.
- Although the population of the villages has changed, the demography is the same.

IT WAS AGREED that the working group would continue its work and review the existing plan.

Maria Clarke was thanked for her presentation.

b) **Drop-In Breakfast Consultation, 8th June -**

Cllr Sue Coutanche read a written report compiled by Jo Morgan and Dave McSkelly. The event had been well attended with 50 people representing both villages. Key themes in the comments made had been about transport, broadband, the road scheme, village amenities and activities. Suggestions made included community garden/allotments, wifi in the village hall, village Facebook page/Twitter account and the desire for a regular breakfast event.

All the comments will be analysed and a full report will be produced identifying potential solutions, suggestions and actions. It is suggested that there could be a presentation of results to both villages one Sunday in the autumn at a "Morning Tea and Cake – Let's Answer it!" event. Thanks were recorded to all who had participated in and contributed to the event.

Public Sessions at Parish Council Meetings - In the discussion which followed, members considered the opportunities for residents to express their views at parish council meetings. The timing of the Public Session was considered and IT WAS AGREED that for a trial period at the next two meetings (September and November) the Public Session would be moved to the beginning of the meetings, starting at 7.30pm with the main meeting starting no later than 7.45pm. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche.) The Clerk reminded members that the Public Session was an opportunity for residents to express their views on items on the agenda or for a future agenda, but it was not an open discussion forum.

c) **A356 Road Issues –**

Crossing outside Bakers Arms – It was noted that there is no Highway funding for the existing crossing, which causes a noise nuisance to the adjacent property, to be removed. The Clerk to write to Highways asking for the works to be done at a future date when funding allowed.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

Resurfacing Works - The Clerk to thank Highways for the prompt and effective works undertaken on the A356 either side of South Perrott and for resurfacing The Pound. Also, to request that the cats' eyes are replaced on the old tarmac towards Winyards Gap. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Refurbishment of The Pound – The Vice-Chairman recorded her thanks to Martyn Gillingham and Barry Chatfield for laying the slabs in readiness for the new seat. It was hoped that the seat will be installed in time for Open Day.

Public Liability Insurance for two new Bench Seats – members discussed the need for public liability insurance and decided that as the parish council will not own the seats it does not need to include them on its insurance. District Cllr Janet Page agreed that there are a lot of benches in Beaminster which are not insured.

d) **Review of Parish Council representation -**

The Chairman reported that there were a number of rumours circulating about changes to parish council (PC) representation. He said that as regards decisions made, these mainly consist of a so-called fact which is untrue, this being that the Chedington councillors have declared UDI and that all has been settled. The truth is that a suggestion has been made and the only decision taken so far is to investigate further as to the pros, cons (for both villages) and the process to be followed.

The main reasons for looking into this are (in terms of the PC):-

- i) the current and growing disparity between the two villages;
- ii) the lack of business at PC which is about or which concerns Chedington;
- iii) the fact that none of the present councillors from Chedington are willing to stand for a further term of office after the May 2015 elections, and that they cannot see anyone from Chedington willing to serve.

The Chairman requested that his report be published in the "Pump & Pound".

e) **Dorset Country Cars Scheme –**

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with Erica Pretty from Dorset POPP and members of the existing Country Cars scheme. The Clerk had offered to take on the role of organiser for the new NeighbourCar Scheme which will replace the existing scheme and an application has been made to Dorset POPP for initial start-up funding. The initial money will fund

the necessary Public Liability Insurance for the first year but, if the new scheme is to continue, the cost in future years will need to be covered either by the users or the parish council.

f) **Grit Spreaders –**

The Clerk reported that the two grit spreaders, which the parish council had purchased two years ago for use in icy weather, were not effective in spreading damp grit from the grit bins, although they would be perfectly usable for spreading dry sand or fertilizer on lawns. IT WAS AGREED that these machines could be offered for sale in the community. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ.)

1270. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Newsletter Spring 2014.
2. DAPTC Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circulars for May & June 2014.
3. NSPCC re. Childline Schools Service.
4. Victim Support re. Grant Aid.
5. DCC - Ask Dorset Roadshows
6. DAPTC email re. Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner – Community Remedy Consultation.
7. DAPTC email re. Birthday Honours List.
8. DAPTC email re. DCC Traffic Engineering Team Enquiries.
9. DAPTC email re. DCC's Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
10. Email correspondence with DCC Highways re. crossing outside Bakers Arms, South Perrott.
11. Email from Natural England and reply re. Himalayan Balsam.
12. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, July 2014.
13. Dorset AONB Management Plan 2014-2019

Correspondence Out

1. Email to DCC Highways and reply, re. road repair issues.

1271. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

WD/D/14/000805 8 West Side, Chedington – rebuild chimney over party wall of nos. 7 & 8 West Side. Approval of Listed Building Consent.

WD/D/14/000410 Pickett Farm, South Perrott – construct 1000 tonne open silage clamp. Approval of Planning Permission.

c) New applications to be considered:

WD/D/14/001457 Shepherds Farm Bungalow, South Perrott – make internal alterations and externally excavate the north garden area to accommodate the construction of a single storey granny annexe extension. Members raised no concerns about this application.

d) Tree Applications:

WD/CA/14/00219 School Hill, South Perrott – surgery to 2 Norway Maples and mixed broadleaves. PC comments – no concerns.

1272. FINANCE

a) Income received:	None
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
DAPTC Annual Subscription 2014/2015	£112.35
Cllr Coutanche – reimbursement for refreshments for Drop-in Breakfast	£6.36
Clerk's salary for June & July 2014	£282.72
Clerk's expenses	£43.78

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Organ.
Bank account as at 26 June 2014 £4,424.01
Balance after above cheques agreed: £3,928.80

1273. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) The Chairman reported that the road surface outside Sandy Knapp was cracked and the edges crumbling. Clerk to report. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
- Cllr Organ reported that Dave Maunder from Dorset Highways had inspected the drainage ditch behind the village hall which discharges into Pipplepen Lane. The Clerk to write and thank him and ask if there is any update from the Environment Agency. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Simmons reported that the largest pothole in Pretty Box Lane had been repaired. The Clerk to enquire when the lane will be resurfaced. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr Simmons advised that he had heard from the Police that cattle were being stolen in the area. He was also aware of Travellers in the area.
 - Cllr Legg reported that the deep drain in Picket Lane was still making driving difficult.
 - Cllr Coutanche reported overgrown hedging on the corner of Lecher Lane. She requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 21 July.
- d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

1274. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mobile phone reception – Martyn Gillingham asked when the new mast might be installed. The parish council has no new information.

Hedging at Court Farm, Chedington – Peter Coles advised that the hedging obscures visibility. It was noted that a high hedge is not illegal.

First World War commemoration – Peter Coles advised that on 4th August all churches throughout the country would be open from 8.00am to 11.00pm.

White Lines – Dave McSkelly reported that the white lines on the A356, from the 30mph signs downwards, need to be repainted. The Clerk to contact Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1275. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 11th September 2014 in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed

Date