

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th September 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: District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, clerk Angela Gillingham and 9 residents.

1276. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chedington Lane – Peter Coles reported that the road surface towards Mosterton was deteriorating. Clerk to liaise with Mosterton Parish Council. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Junction A3066/Lecher Lane – David Lines reported on a near-miss accident at this junction and requested a sign is erected at the end of Lecher Lane to warn drivers of overtaking vehicles on the main road. It was suggested that a register should be kept of all near-misses. The clerk to request a joint site meeting with Mosterton PC and Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Footpath opposite Old School House, Pipplepen Lane – Marion Swan reported that the field gate is often locked. Clerk to ask Footpaths Officer to monitor. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Flood Warden – Martyn Gillingham advised that the Environment Agency is recruiting Flood Wardens and he was willing to undertake training for the role. His offer was accepted.

1277. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from County Cllr Rebecca Knox, PCSO Alex Bishop and Dominie de la Poer. Cllr Anita Legg declared an interest in agenda item 4(d) Footpaths and Bridleways.

1278. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th July 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray)

1279. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

In a written report, County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that the County Council continues to find savings and is looking at how departments work with each other rather than in silos. A key part of this is to become "digital by default" which has required initial investment to upgrade technology, but it should lead to less travel, more on-site reporting of highways problems, and swifter engagement in social services with those they are helping. Flexible working will mean property can be reviewed with more services working from hubs. There has been a significant review of Heads of Service posts and a fundamental review within Environment, focusing on business growth and support for job creation. The online reporting feature on Dorset for You is improving and those who use it will be kept informed about the progress of their complaint. All residents can use it but it helps if a large issue is supported by the parish council.

District Cllr Janet Page reported that the cuts in WDDC's budget were taking effect. A three-year programme – Vision 2020 – is looking at ways to make savings in all non-statutory services; e.g. outsourcing Tourist Information Centres.

District Cllr Caroline Payne advised that West Dorset and North Dorset were in serious discussions about joining together. The resulting economies of scale could save £6m by 2020. Over the next ten years the Government's grant to WDDC will reduce from £22m to £13m.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop advised that in July and August there was a slight rise in

thefts from vehicles, particularly power tools from trade vehicles and on 28th August there was such a theft in the Chedington area. He reiterated his advice not to leave any valuables in unattended vehicles and to report anything suspicious to Dorset Police on 101. If anyone is interested in receiving messages from Dorset Police, they can register on www.dorsetalert.co.uk.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1280. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Issues –**

Crossing outside Bakers Arms – Jill Turner was invited to comment. She advised that the noise level from traffic driving over the crossing had increased. Agricultural vehicles and trailers in particular were noisy, often late at night. County Cllr Rebecca Knox was due to meet Mr and Mrs Thackwell, the owners of Bakers Arms and she had advised them that she believed the road hump was a design fault and would be requesting its removal.

Speed of traffic – Cllr Coutanche advised that new residents in Parrett Mead had raised a concern about the speed of traffic through the village.

White lines – Dave McSkelly again requested that the white lines are reinstated on the sides of the road coming into South Perrott from the Chedington direction within the 30mph limit. The clerk to write to Highways again. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Picket Lane fencing – the clerk advised that she had reported to Highways the damaged and deteriorating fencing alongside the river in Picket Lane.

b) **Breakfast Consultation – Feedback –**

Cllr Sue Coutanche reported that a feedback meeting would be held on Sunday 5th October.

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

The Chairman reported that the Chedington Councillors were still in discussion about the future representation on the Parish Council but there was nothing further to report at this stage.

d) **Maintenance of Footpaths and Bridleways –**

The Clerk reported that DCC was inviting all parish councils to sign up to a Service Level Agreement to share the cost of maintaining the footpaths and bridleways in their areas. She and Dominie de la Poer had met with Ben Hanley from the Rights of Way team and had walked the footpaths around South Perrott and identified some which were very overgrown. Under an SLA the cost to the parish council would be 20p per linear metre. Alternatively a local volunteer group could be set up and DCC would provide training and the loan of equipment for the group to undertake the maintenance. Members discussed the proposals and decided not to make a commitment at this stage.

Roger Legg advised that he had put forward a proposal to DCC that he would be willing to dedicate a strip of land across his fields to make a new bridleway joining Picket Lane with Langmoor Lane, if Highways will provide sufficient road planings to surface it. This would allow Mr Legg to drive his farm machinery between fields and would benefit the community by creating a circular walk around the village.

1281. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Newsletter Summer 2014.
2. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 6/14.
3. DAPTC re. new legislation for recording/filming parish and town council meetings.
4. DAPTC re. the Accessible Britain Challenge.
5. DCC re. Flood Risk Management.
6. Email correspondence re. road noise outside Bakers Arms, South Perrott.
7. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, 2014.
8. WDDC re. Service Review of Support to Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations.
9. WDDC re. Community Sandbag Stores
10. Dorset Waste Partnership re. Stakeholder consultation: Street cleaning and litter.

Correspondence Out

1. Email to DCC Highways and reply, re. road repair to Chedington High Street.
2. Email to DCC Highways and reply, re. Pretty Box Lane, Chedington.

1282. **PLANNING**

- a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting: None.
- c) New applications to be considered:
WD/D/14/001923 Court Farm, Chedington – external alterations to agricultural barn (part retrospective). Decision deferred as the papers had not circulated to all members.
- d) Tree Applications:
WD/CA/14/00219 School Hill, South Perrott – surgery to 2 Norway Maples and mixed broadleaves. Approved.
WD/CA/14/00272 – 5 Parrett Mead, South Perrott – fell 1 Silver Birch, 4 Cypress and 1 Norway Maple. PC comments – no concerns.

1283. **FINANCE**

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| a) Income received: | None |
| b) Payments made since the last meeting: | None |
| c) Payments to be made: | |
| Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter) | £50.00 |
| Sunnyside Web Design (annual website maintenance) | £150.00 |
| Clerk's salary for August & September 2014 | £282.72 |
| Clerk's expenses | £16.69 |

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Organ.

Bank account as at 22 July 2014:	£3,928.80
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,429.39

- d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2014 - the clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by BDO, the external auditors, and no significant issues had arisen requiring any action.

Members approved and accepted the Annual Return. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1284. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) The Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk –
 - grit spreaders. No offers have been received to purchase the two grit spreaders and it was agreed that they should be sold through Ebay. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Community Sandbag Stores – WDDC is offering to provide sandbags for use during flooding, providing suitable storage can be identified. It was agreed that Martyn Gillingham would follow this up. *Action: Mr Gillingham*
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Simmons advised that the road from Winyards Gap to Halstock is to be closed for resurfacing in November, and that Petty Box Lane would be resurfaced at the same time.
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 22 September. Peter Hinton requested that a leaflet about the Church Bell Fund Appeal is inserted in the P&P. This was agreed.
- d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

1285. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 13th November 2014 in South Perrott Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Date