

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Kate Organ (Vice-Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Liz Fray, and Peter Simmons. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, clerk Angela Gillingham and 6 residents.

1296. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Martyn Gillingham requested an update on the mobile phone project and the Broadband roll-out.

1297. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Anita Legg, District Cllr Janet Page (for part of the meeting) and PCSO Alex Bishop.

Declarations of Interests – Cllr Kate Organ declared an interest in planning application WD/D/14/003173 Cornerways, South Perrott.

1298. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Simmons)

1299. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues –

- Community Transport – the County Council is giving this a high priority.
- Mobile phone signal – the Government is planning to provide further investment to encourage commercial operators to put up masts in areas with no mobile phone signal, such as South Perrott and Chedington. However Cllr Knox has been advised by those working on the project that there is full coverage from at least one mobile phone provider in this area. Members disputed this assertion and asked Cllr Knox to press for a mobile mast.
- Broadband – green boxes are currently being installed in Beaminster, and South Perrott is still on target for later this year.
- Crossing outside Bakers Arms, South Perrott – Cllr Knox is supportive of having the crossing removed.

District Cllr Caroline Payne advised that WDDC has won a best website award for tourism and for their revenue and benefit work. Robert Gould, WDDC's Leader of the Council, has been promoted to Leader of DCC. Tony Alford, a Netherbury councillor, is due to become the new Leader of WDDC. The first Neighbourhood Plan has been passed; it is for Cerne Valley and Cllr Payne encouraged members to look at it, with a view to creating our own plan. It was noted that a plan could cover a group of villages, and that once a plan was in place no changes could be made to it for 10 years.

In a written report, District Cllr Janet Page reported that the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan has been through its public examination and awaits the Government Inspector's verdict.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop reported that there have been no crimes in the immediate area but there have been a couple of dwelling burglaries in neighbouring villages recently. Each

similar in mode of operation – offenders target a rear door or window to force entry and once inside, target valuables such as jewellery, silver, cash, etc. He advised that anyone concerned about their security should contact him for advice.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1300. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Issues –**

Crossing outside Bakers Arms – the Chairman advised that Mr & Mrs Thackwell had written to Oliver Letwin MP to plead for the crossing to be removed, and that the parish council had written in support. John Harris, owner of The Coach House, advised that the crossing outside his property was also a noise nuisance and requested its removal.

b) **A3066/Lecher Lane junction –**

The clerk advised that the parish council's formal request for a dedicated right-turn lane into Lecher Lane was being assessed by Highways Local Transport Plan Team for possible future funding in the Capital Local Transport Programme.

c) **BT proposal to remove Phone Box -**

The clerk advised that a robust argument had been sent in response to BT's proposal to remove the public telephone box in South Perrott.

d) **Speedwatch**

Members considered a written report from PCSO Alex Bishop which explained the process for setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme. It would be necessary for at least 7 volunteers to be recruited (with one acting as the co-ordinator). They would need to be vetted for suitability and have training in policies and procedures. A kit would need to be purchased at a cost of £300. This includes the speed checking device, hi-vis tabards, a clipboard and counter and signage. Risk assessments must be carried out for sites identified for possible checks. There is no insurance to cover the volunteers carrying out the activity.

It was noted that the speed checks which Highways had undertaken in South Perrott in 2012 had not shown a significant speeding problem in the village.

After discussion, it was agreed that, due to the cost of equipment and lack of insurance, no further action would be taken. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

e) **Footpaths**

Cllr Liz Fray advised that she had obtained a list of the bridleways and footpaths in Chedington. She expressed concern that the parish council had not been given sufficient information about the costs of maintaining stiles, bridges and signs, if it were to enter into a service level agreement with DCC for the maintenance of the paths. It was confirmed that the parish council has no plans at present to progress this proposal.

1301. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Newsletter, Autumn 2014.
2. DAPTC Annual Report 2013-2014.
3. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 9/14.
4. Email from PCSO Alex Bishop re. Speedwatch.
5. Email correspondence with Mr & Mrs Thackwell and Oliver Letwin MP re. crossing outside Bakers Arms.
6. Email from Andrew Brown, Highways, re. A3066/junction with Lecher Lane.
7. WDDC re. Review of election recharges to towns and parishes.
8. Dorset Waste Partnership re. consultation on changes to Dorset's household recycling centres.
9. Email from DAPTC - Dorset Waste Partnership re. 'Recycle for Dorset' roll-out programme.
10. NHS re. Health & Wellbeing Small Grant Scheme in West Dorset.
11. DAPTC - Christmas message from DAPTC Chairman.

Correspondence Out

1. Email to WDDC responding to proposal to remove BT payphone in South Perrott.
2. Email to Oliver Letwin MP re. crossing outside Bakers Arms.

1302. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

WD/D/14/002843 Coach & Horses Inn, South Perrott – to construct a garage, cold store and cellar. PC comments – the building is in a conservation area and WDDC needs to ensure that the stonework of the proposed new garage matches the stonework of the existing building. The building is an important amenity for the village and the PC supports any proposals that are likely to lead to the continued viability of the business.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

WD/D/14/001923 Court Farm, Chedington – external alterations to agricultural barn (part retrospective). Approval of Planning Permission.

c) New applications to be considered:

WD/D/14/003173 (Listed Building Consent) Cornerways, South Perrott – internal and external alterations. Members discussed this application and raised concerns that unauthorised work had already begun and much of the old fabric of the building had been removed. The plans attached to the application were considered to be very sketchy and inadequate. The proposal to replace the existing windows with plain double-glazed glass and stained wooden frames would be a major alteration to the appearance of the exterior and was not considered acceptable. Replacement windows and doors should exactly replicate the existing ones. There was concern about the removal of internal walls, some of which may be load-bearing. The reason the floors and ceilings are at different levels is because the property was originally two cottages and it was considered that levelling them up for the sake of modernising the interior would result in much of the character of the property being lost.

d) Tree Applications:

WD/CA/14/00404 Three Farthings, South Perrott – fell 1 x Robinia, 1 x Cherry and a small number of Cherry and Ash. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

WD/CA/14/00420 Sarum House, South Perrott – fell 1 x Fir. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

1303. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	
HMRC – VAT refund	£78.24
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying of newsletter)	£50.00
Sunnyside Web Design (2 year domain registration)	£60.00
Clerk's salary for December 2014 & January 2015	£282.72
Clerk's expenses	£15.00

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

Bank account as at 21 November 2014:	£5,059.91
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£4,652.19

d) **Precept for 2015-2016**

Members approved the Precept for 2015-2016 of £3,800 (proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ).

e) **Review of election recharges to towns and parishes**

Members considered a letter from WDDC setting out the proposed charges which will be imposed on town and parish councils to recover the costs incurred in managing their elections. The charges will take effect from 1 April 2019 onwards and, if the election is combined with a district election, the charge would be £247.50, equivalent to £0.99 per elector. The parish council would be permitted to recover this cost from the electorate by raising the precept.

1304. **ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Standing Orders –

The Council's Standing Orders were reviewed and it was noted that one amendment was necessary because of an amendment to the 1960 Act which now gives members of the public the right to film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting of the council. With this amendment the Standing Orders were adopted. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

Financial Regulations –

The Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted without amendment. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1305. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

a) The Chairman – none.

b) Clerk – none.

c) Members –

- Cllr Organ raised again the problem of water tracking across the road on the Hill Farm corner. The clerk to contact Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

- Cllr Fray raised again the deteriorating state of the road surface through Chedington, past Sandy Knapp and up onto Chedington Lane. The clerk to contact Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
- Cllr Coutanche reported complaints from residents regarding the mud in Picket Lane. Cllr Organ advised that she had spoken to Roger Legg about this.
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 20 January.
- Cllr Coutanche advised that BAVLAP will be holding a community lunch on 20 Jan – further details on the noticeboard in The Pound.

d) Footpaths Officers – no report.

1306. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 12th March 2015, in Chedington Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Date