

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2015 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Liz Fray (Vice-Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: District Cllrs Tony Alford and Peter Barrowcliff, Returning Officer Matt Prosser, clerk Angela Gillingham and 7 residents.

1334. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Martyn Gillingham reported that he had been in contact with the Superfast Broadband team at DCC, who had informed him that they are currently carrying out surveys to find a suitable site to run a fibre optic cable to South Perrott. They are intending to install four green cabinets in this area, running from the Corscombe exchange, and one cabinet is likely to be located close to the east side of South Perrott. A cabinet will be sited north of Chedington next year. He urged everyone to keep up the momentum by registering an interest via the Superfast Broadband website.

Mike Johnson referred to the large electronic sign which had appeared at Charminster and asked the parish council to question DCC over the cost of this and whether the money could have been better spent on the backlog of road repairs. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Cllr Fray, on behalf of a local resident, referred to the new parking meters in Dorchester car parks which were causing delays and frustrations to motorists. She requested to know the costs of disposing of the old meters and installation of the new ones. District Cllr Tony Alford responded that many of the old machines were very old and had been replaced with new technology. It was thought that many visitors will be familiar with them and local residents will get used to them, although it was accepted that the keypad on the machine for entering a car registration number is a bit small.

1335. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from PCSO Alex Bishop and Dominie de la Poer (footpaths officer).

Cllr Kate Organ declared an interest as the adjoining owner to the property Cornerways, South Perrott, which was the subject of a listed building application.

1336. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Fray)

1337. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

District Cllr Alford referred to the WDDC's Local Plan which is in the process of being rewritten. They are waiting for the Inspector's report, and if it is positive, the new Plan will receive formal adoption in October. Whilst waiting, developers are submitting an increasing number of building applications which is creating extra demand on staff.

There was no County Council or Police report.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

Peter Simmons referred to the lack of a Police report and advised that there had been an attempted theft at the site of the former radio station at Rampisham Down. He also reported that he had been woken by a lorry engine running outside his Pretty Box Farm at 3.00am, which

he had chased off.

1338. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Elections**

The Chairman introduced Matt Prosser, the Returning Officer for the Elections, and Chief Executive of WDDC. The Chairman explained that significant errors had been made in the South Perrott election when Chedington voters had been handed South Perrott ballot papers. Despite this being queried early on in the day, the polling station inspector had confirmed that Chedington voters should continue to be given the ballot papers. This was an incorrect instruction. Subsequent alerts to the Elections Office were not acted upon and, as a result, the validity of the South Perrott election had been cast into doubt.

Matt Prosser responded by saying that he had clearly failed in his responsibility as Returning Officer. Although the District Council runs the elections, as Returning Officer he is personally liable for them. It had been a challenge for the Elections Office to administer general, district and local elections on the same day. Mr Prosser explained that once the ballot boxes were sealed at the end of the election day, the Chedington ballot papers could not be removed from the count, by law. Following the count, it would have required a prohibitively expensive court order to have the boxes opened and the count verified. As a result of the error, lessons had been learned and new procedures put in place to ensure that future "split polls" were conducted correctly. He was also pushing the Electoral Commission for a change to the law to allow Returning Officers more flexibility to enable them to respond to challenges.

The Chairman thanked Mr Prosser for attending the meeting and for his apology.

b) **Transparency Obligations for Parish Councils**

The clerk advised that new regulations, The Smaller Authority (Transparency Requirements) Regulations, came into force on 17th April and apply to parish councils with a turnover of less than £25,000. Under the regulations, by 1st July each year, we are required to publish on our website details of all items of expenditure over £100, and our end-of-year accounts, agenda papers and minutes of meetings. The clerk is endeavouring to comply with this, and most of the information is now on the website.

1339. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 6/15.
2. Elections – nominations and results.
3. Email correspondence with WDDC re. errors in South Perrott Elections.
4. NALC Legal Briefing note re. Transparency obligations for parish councils.
5. NALC Legal Briefing note re. Local Government (Religious Observances) Act 2015.
6. Dorset Police – poster re. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, and follow-up email from WDDC Legal Services Manager.
7. Letter from WDDC Monitoring Officer re. Declaration of Acceptance / Register of Members Interests.
8. Email correspondence with Osmington Parish Council re. proposed Speed Indicator Device.
9. DCC Public Notice – closure of Chedington High Street for Street Fair.
10. Email from WDDC re. Review of West Dorset Tourist Information Centres.
11. Email from DAPTC re. new Chief Executive.
12. DAPTC Magazine, Spring 2015.
13. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, July 2015.

In relation to item 10, Review of Tourist Information Centres (TICs), Matt Prosser advised that the District Council was consulting widely on proposals for the future of the Tourist Information

Service and was keen to receive everyone's views via the website. TICs were used more by local people than by visitors. They cost a lot to run and the District Council was looking at other ways of providing the service.

1340. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

WD/D/15/001181 Cornerways, South Perrott (Listed Building Consent) – internal and external works to stabilise structural elements. PC response – a number of concerns have been raised regarding the work having already been started without consent, and to ensure that the renovation retains as much of the original fabric of the building as possible.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:

WD/D/15/000717 Shepherds Farm Bungalow, South Perrott – extend the west wall and include a front door (non-material amendment to planning permission WD/D/14/001457). Application Refused (because it was not a "non-material amendment" but required a new application – see below).

WD/D/15/000713 Pea Mead, Chedington – erect a new general storage building. PC response – a few concerns. Approved.

c) New applications to be considered:

WD/D/15/001343 Shepherds Farm Bungalow, South Perrott – extend west wall, include front door, continue north wall and roof, include window in loft of north wall. Members considered this application and raised no concerns, other than to note that there is no mention of provision for additional sewage.

d) Tree Applications:

WD/CA/15/00156 Sunnyside, South Perrrott – Fell 1 x Lawson Cypress. Application withdrawn.

1341. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:

Sale of two Grit Spreaders	£69.50
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b) Payments made since the last meeting:

None

c) Payments to be made:

Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
DAPTC Annual Subscription 2015/2016	£114.93
DAPTC New Councillor's course	£30.00
Clerk's salary for June & July 2015	£288.93
Clerk's expenses	£27.05

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

Bank account as at 9 July 2015:	£5,667.57
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£5,156.66

1342. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman proposed the purchase of a new printer with scanning function now that the clerk is required to publish documents on the website – *item for the next agenda*.

- b) Clerk – recorded thanks on behalf of the parish council to Jill Turner for selling the two grit spreaders on eBay, and to Barry Chatfield for varnishing the South Perrott noticeboard.

- c) Members –
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that BAVLAP (Beaminster local area partnership) will be holding a meeting at South Perrott village hall on 22nd July.
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that a cycling resident had reported a near-miss at the A3066/Lecher Lane junction.
 - Cllr Coutanche referred to a Dorset Best Village Neighbourliness Award run by Magna Housing.
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 18th July.
 - Cllr de la Poer advised that on 1st August there would be a family wedding in the village and he will be warning near residents of the likelihood of music disturbance up until midnight.
 - Cllr Fray highlighted the outstanding highways issues in both villages which had not yet been resolved and asked that the parish council puts pressure on Highways to get these dealt with. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

- d) Footpaths Officers – none.

- e) River Warden – Martyn Gillingham advised that he had received a request from the Environment Agency for South Perrott to be responsible for storing and putting out “Road Flooded” signs when needed. The area that regularly floods is outside Sarum and Donald Hargreaves normally phones Highways each time asking for warning signs to be put up. Mr Hargreaves is happy to be responsible for the signs, which would be stored at an adjoining property where they will be readily accessible.

1343. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th September 2015, in South Perrott Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed

Date