

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2015 at 7.30pm at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Liz Fray (Vice-Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche, Anthony de la Poer. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Tony Alford, PCSO Alex Bishop, clerk Angela Gillingham and 5 residents.

1344. PUBLIC SESSION

Dave McSkelly referred to the new recycling and rubbish bins that had been delivered to all local residents, and said the accompanying booklet he had received referred to blue bags, which was not relevant.

1345. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff and Dominie de la Poer (footpaths officer).

1346. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1347. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

PCSO Alex Bishop advised that there was nothing specific to report but reminded everyone that his team offers crime prevention advice – contact tel. 101. In response to a question he advised that, due to budget cuts, the Beaminster Police Station is closing and that his team will work from the Fire Station. The yellow telephone on the door of the Police Station is currently still in use. The nearest Police Station will be at Bridport.

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that DCC's Health & Wellbeing Board was looking at issues on the rural side of the county. A recent Road Safety Workshop run by the emergency services had looked at all aspects of road safety. The Board recognises that driver behaviour is the challenge and that education is needed. Funding has been agreed for targeted education programmes for drivers and the Board is working with the Police to increase attendance at driver awareness courses. They are also looking at holistic transport. DCC currently spends £23 million on all forms of public transport across the county, with only £120,000 spent on community car schemes. They are looking at utilising spare capacity in any of the separate services. The Highways Department has been restructured and a new community support officer, Blair Turner, has taken over from Dave Maunder. Cllr Knox reiterated that we should use online reporting for any highways issues.

District Cllr Alford reported that the development of the Charles Street site in Dorchester has stalled because the developer partners have pulled out saying the project is not viable. WDDC will rethink the plans for the site. The Inspector has given approval for the Local Plan to be adopted and it will go through its final stage at the Council meeting in October. WDDC is undertaking reviews of all its services to ensure value for money. The result of the consultation on Tourist Information Centres is that most people want the service to remain as it is. Two more consultations are being undertaken – one for Community Planning, with proposals to reduce funding to the area partnerships, and the other consultation proposes a reduction in the grants to community bodies, but CABs may retain their grants as a special case.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1348. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Matters arising from minutes**

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the following matters –

- (1334) New electronic sign at Charminster – County Cllr Rebecca Knox had provided information that the funding for the sign was met through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The objective of the scheme is to direct traffic to available car parking spaces, avoiding unnecessary congestion around the town. The sign can also inform drivers of any local incidents and provide road safety messages.
- (1337) Attempted theft at Rampisham Down – Alex Bishop was aware of the theft but it falls under the Dorchester Police area.
- (1342c) Dorset Best Village Neighbourliness Award – Cllr Coutanche had submitted an application but had heard nothing yet.
- (1342c) Outstanding Highways issues – since becoming aware of the restructuring in Highways, the Clerk has contacted the new officer, Blair Turner, about the outstanding issues and is awaiting a response. It was agreed that Blair Turner should be invited to attend the next meeting.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

b) **Superfast Broadband**

Martyn Gillingham reported that South Perrott residents who had signed up for email updates from Superfast Broadband at DCC will have received an email reporting that Superfast Broadband had arrived in postcode area DT8 3HU, the eastern half of the village. This information is also shown on the coverage map on the SB website. Unfortunately, this is not correct and data errors have resulted in mis-information. Both South Perrott and Chedington are now due to receive Superfast Broadband in the first part of 2016.

County Cllr Rebecca Knox apologised that South Perrott had been let down on this occasion.

Martyn Gillingham was thanked for his report.

c) **Mobile Phone Coverage**

David Lines presented the results of a mobile phone survey questionnaire which had been delivered to every household in South Perrott. He had received a 46% response rate, showing equal distribution of signal coverage from the main providers. He had drawn a map showing the results - no signal in the middle of the village but some signal when climbing the hills out of the village. The Government is hoping to tackle the mobile "not-spots" by 2017. The Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) imposed on providers an obligation to spend up to £5 billion to reach not-spots. Whilst many people used the internet to get a mobile signal, those not computer literate were not able to.

County Councillor Rebecca Knox advised that the County Council has no control of the MI Project, but it can help with information on alternative ways of getting a signal via the internet. There are no planned sites for a mast in this area and a new application for a mast would not get through before the MIP's cut-off date in 2016. However, the Fire Service, which is rolling out a new "Airwaves" transmission system, may have capacity in the future for adding in residential use.

It was agreed that local residents need to be made more aware of the ways to improve mobile reception via the internet through the use of apps and booster boxes. A special meeting will be set up to consider this. *Action: Mrs Gillingham / All*

David Lines was thanked for his presentation.

d) The Pensions Regulator: new legal duties

The Clerk reported that under the Pensions Act 2008 every employer with staff must automatically enrol those who meet certain criteria into a workplace pension scheme, to take effect from August 2016. The Parish Council is an employer of one member of staff – the clerk. The Clerk had so far signed up for the email updates and would report progress in due course.

e) New Printer

Members considered the purchase of a new office printer with scanning function now that the Clerk is required to scan and upload documents onto the website. It was agreed that a new printer could be purchased at a cost in the region of £70. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Fray) *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1349. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Matt Prosser, Elections Returning Officer, thanking the parish council following his attendance at the last meeting.
2. Dorset Waste Partnership News – new bins coming to part of West Dorset.
3. Letter from The Pensions Regulator re. new legal duties.
4. DCC email re. ITN film of Dorset Highways.
5. DCC email re. changes to the Mobile Library Service.
6. DCC letter re. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Mineral Sites Plan.
7. DAPTC email re. 'Ask Dorset' community engagement programme.
8. DAPTC email re. The Big Pathwatch.
9. DAPTC email re. Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.
10. DAPTC email re. Commonwealth Flag Day – 14 March 2016.
11. DCC invitation to visit Broomhills Waste Management Centre.
12. Email from Rural Services Network re. networking across Rural England.
13. DCC email re. Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation.
14. Correspondence with Highways re. crossing and footpath outside Bakers Arms, South Perrott
15. DAPTC Magazine, Summer 2015.
16. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, September 2015

In relation to item 14 – Bakers Arms – it was noted that the work has been scheduled for the end of this year.

1350. PLANNING

- a) Applications handled since last meeting: None.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:
 - 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. PC response – no concerns. Approval of Planning Permission.
- c) New applications to be considered: None.
- d) Tree Applications: None.

e) Other Planning Issues:

The Chairman referred to the beautiful area of Dorset in which we live and explained that, whilst she is keen not to suppress development, the parish council needs to ensure that nothing gets built or altered to the detriment of our village heritage and environment. This is the reason that the council scrutinises very carefully all planning applications. However, sometimes building works take place without the appropriate consent or adherence to the approved plans. Currently the Chairman has the following concerns and the Planning Enforcement Officer has been made aware of them –

- Bellamy Farm, South Perrott – the rebuilt coach house has not followed the approved plans.
- Maple Cottage, South Perrott – a Grade II listed property where building works have been carried out without the appropriate listed building consent.
- A strip of land on the A356, opposite Shepherds Farm Bungalow - where excavation and levelling works have taken place close to the hedge line.

1351. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	
Precept (2 nd half)	£1845.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£55.00
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
BDO – external audit fee	£36.00
DAPTC Chairmanship courses x 2	£60.00
Clerk's salary for August & September 2015	£288.93
Clerk's expenses	£15.00

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

Bank account as at 4 September 2015:	£7,056.66
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£6,606.73

The Clerk reported that Cllrs Anthony de la Poer and Liz Fray were now authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the parish council.

- d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2015 - the clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by BDO, the external auditors, and no issues had arisen requiring any action. Members approved and accepted the Annual Return. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Fray)

1352. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman reported on the following issues –

- Fly tipping in Lecher Lane - a number of black bags had been deposited. *(Cllr Coutanche advised that she has reported this.)*
- Road surface around Hill Farm corner, South Perrott, is breaking up. Also water tracking across road. *Clerk to report.*
- Flooding on A356 at dip in road on west side of South Perrott, caused by blocked drain on right-hand side of road. *Clerk to report.*

- b) Clerk – reported that South Perrott now has a community Facebook page, which is available for all events, announcements, photos, etc. It is linked to the parish council website. Thanks were recorded to its creator, Jill Turner.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Fray pointed out again the highway issues of missing white lines and cats eyes on the A356 and the deterioration of the Chedington road surface. *Clerk to chase.*
 - Cllr Coutanche advised that she and Cllr Fray had attended a BAVLAP meeting, which had provided a useful exchange of information. She requested items for the Pump & Pound by the deadline of 19th September.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.
- e) River Warden – Martyn Gillingham advised that whilst it had been agreed that we would store flood warning signs in the village, they have not yet been delivered. He asked that local residents who have a gully outside their property could help by keeping it clear. Cllr de la Poer advised that the river at the corner of Picket Lane had been dredged and should now flow better.

1353. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th November 2015, in Chedington Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed

Date