

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th July 2012 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 13 residents.

1132. **APOLOGIES** were received from PC Tim Poole, PCSO Alex Bishop and Bob Buckland.

1133. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1134. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the damage to the Beaminster Tunnel which had suffered from a landslip caused by the heavy rain. She had visited the site with structural engineers and a geologist and reported that the site was currently too unstable for work to start on stabilising the ground or rebuilding the head wall of the tunnel. There was no timescale yet for the tunnel to re-open. She referred to the emergency signage which had been put up following the closure of the tunnel and was pressing Highways to give priority to erecting improved signage saying "businesses open as usual". She encouraged everyone to let her know where signage should be improved. Cllr Knox had visited Weymouth with the Minister for Local Government, who was very impressed with the Olympic Sailing Academy.

District Cllr Caroline Payne reported that she was back on the Licensing Committee. Changes to the Licensing Act 2003 have now come into force giving the District Council greater powers. Cllr Payne reported that the Moving Tides Procession planned for 12th July, as part of the run-up to the Olympics, had been postponed because of the bad weather and would be re-scheduled for the Paralympics in September. A business centre had been set up in Weymouth to promote local businesses.

District Cllr Janet Page referred to the current consultation on the funding arrangement for the Localisation of Council Tax Support, which is to be cut by 10%. The District Council was working out a strategy to cover the shortfall. It will not be cut from pensioners, who make up 55% of the population, so the remaining 45% will have to pay more. There are currently strong protests being made to Central Government. Cllr Page reported that the District Council was consulting on the charging policy for the new Community Infrastructure Levy (previously Section 106 money charged on new-build and extensions). The developer is charged a levy and the parish will have some input into how the money is spent. Cllr Page encouraged everyone to complete the survey about Superfast Broadband on the DorsetForYou website, which would help to raise the level of interest amongst prospective suppliers of the new service. Cllr Page encouraged everyone to visit the new Sealife Tower at Weymouth, which she regarded as excellent.

In a written report, PC Tim Poole advised that the Police were currently experiencing the greatest reduction of anti-social behaviour in the county, and enjoying a rolling reduction

in overall crime in the area. This is thought to be due to the 'Stop that Thief' and 'Stop that Oil' schemes. There is a continuing problem with "scrap" thieves and burglaries, but none of the 130 farms and rural businesses in the Beaminster/Bridport area who have installed a 'Stop that Thief' alarm system have suffered further successful burglaries.

In a written report, PCSO Alex Bishop reported that currently crime in the Parrett & Axe area was low, with the exception of thefts from two smallholdings in South Perrott and Mosterton. He advised that the Police Force will be under a lot of pressure over the coming months, covering the Olympics and Paralympics, and advised everyone to be extra vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Cllr Simmons advised that new regulations requiring traders to present ID at all scrap yards may result in a reduction in the number of scrap thieves.

1135. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **A356 Road Scheme**

The Chairman reported on the results of the recent speed monitoring through South Perrott. The speed of most vehicles entering and leaving the village on the Crewkerne side was 36-40mph, and most vehicles passed the pub in the centre of the village at 26-30mph. DCC Highways had confirmed that there is no budget to conduct any further speed checks.

It was reported that the pot holes in Pretty Box Lane have been repaired but that further pot holes have appeared on the Crewkerne side of the A356. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

b) **A3066 / Junction with Lecher Lane**

The clerk reported that, as agreed at the previous meeting, a joint letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of Mosterton Parish Council had been sent to DCC Highways requesting action to deter overtaking on the dangerous section of road on the A3066 at the junction with Lecher Lane. Highways had responded saying that it would not be appropriate to paint a solid white line in the centre of the carriageway as the criteria for this road marking was a lack of visibility and this stretch of road has good visibility. However, they would be willing to erect a 'side road ahead' warning sign (for north-bound traffic) and to place 'SLOW' signs on the road adjacent to the warning signs.

Members were generally pleased with the response but agreed that a further letter should be sent to Highways advising that there is an issue with visibility because of an overhanging tree. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

c) **Refurbishment of The Pound, South Perrott**

Cllr Kate Organ reported that since the last parish council meeting, the question of funding the new seat for the Pound had been resolved. Bob Buckland had kindly offered to donate a seat to the village in memory of his wife. The next step was to clear the ground behind the seating area; Phil Smith and Tim Bartlett were willing to do this and Roger Legg was willing to take away the surplus soil and rock. The seat would be free-standing with separate planters. It was agreed that a sub-committee meeting would be arranged to discuss the design of the planters and how best to use the wood which had already been purchased by the contractor. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

d) **Localism Act and Code of Conduct**

Cllr Anita Legg advised members that under the Localism Act all parish councils needed to adopt a new Code of Conduct. There were a number of codes in existence, but the District Council had recommended that it would be appropriate for parish councils to follow the code written by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). The code contains two appendices, and it was recommended that parish councils adopt Appendix A, which contains defined pecuniary interests, but leave Appendix B, containing other interests, until later.

IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council should adopt the NALC Code of Conduct, including Appendix A. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Organ).

1136. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular May 2012.
2. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular June 2012 (*on agenda*).
3. DCC re. Superfast Broadband in your Parish.
4. Email correspondence from Mr Reeves, Hill Cottage, South Perrott re. planning approval for fencing.
5. Letter from Ms Swan, Rose Cottage, South Perrott re. fencing at Hill Cottage.
6. Audit Commission re. appointment of external auditor.
7. DCC Road Safe newsletter, May 2012.
8. Relate re. counselling services.
9. Weymouth & Portland BC re. Gambling Act 2005 – consultation on policy.
10. Weymouth & Portland BC re. New Local Plan for West Dorset (*document in circulation to members*)
11. Weymouth & Portland BC re. Community Infrastructure Levy.
12. South Somerset DC re. Proposed Submission of Local Plan – consultation.
13. LCR Magazines, Spring and Summer 2012.
14. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, July 2012
15. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Development Framework – publication of the pre-submission Draft Minerals Core Strategy
16. DCC Traveltimes – Area Bus Guides (*retained by clerk*)
17. Response from DCC Highways regarding A3066 – junction with Lecher Lane.

Correspondence Out

1. Letter to DCC re. Superfast Broadband.
2. Letter to DCC Highways re A3066 – junction with Lecher Lane (joint letter from Chairmen of Parrett & Axe PC and Mosterton PC).
3. Response to Mr Reeves, South Perrott, re. fencing at Hill Cottage.

1137. **PLANNING**

a) Applications handled since last meeting:

1/D/11/002116 Hill Cottage, South Perrott – fencing. The clerk advised that WDDC was aware that the owner of the property was unable to comply with the requirement to repaint his fencing because of a dispute with his neighbour, and WDDC will not start enforcement proceedings because the owner is willing but unable to comply with the requirement. IT WAS AGREED that the parish council

should ask WDDC to enforce the requirement, as the fence, in its present colour, was detrimental to the village.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

1/D/12/000505 Holts Farm, South Perrott – change of use of part of former Golf Club premises to use as a depot for an agricultural contractor. PC response – no objections but would like signs erected at entrance to warn of tractors turning.

b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting: None.

c) New applications:

1/D/12/000350 Land adjacent Picket Lane, South Perrott – outline application for residential development of two semi detached properties. Members discussed this application and raised the following issues which would be forwarded to the Planning Department: – it was unclear whether the application was for a residential development, or for rural workers' dwellings with agricultural tie; the council did not accept that the dwellings were essential to the running of the enterprise; the pig-breeding side of the business was very small; the design of the proposed development was out of character; the land is designated an AONB and outside the designated development boundary of the village.

d) Tree Applications: None

1138. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	
DCC for Dorset Country Cars Scheme	£20.00
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
DAPTC Annual Subscription	£121.20
Dorset Country Cars	£20.00
Clerk's salary for June/July 2012	£273.44
Clerk's expenses	£28.47

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche.

Bank account as at 28 th May 2012:	£3,579.39
Balance after above cheques agreed:	£3,086.28

1139. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

a) Chairman – none.

b) Clerk – none.

c) Members –

- Cllr Organ advised that repairs to potholes are not lasting and requested that Highways repair whole areas, rather than individual holes. Also, the drainage needs to be improved on the Hill Farm bend in South Perrott because the camber of the road causes water to track across it.
Action: Mrs Gillingham
- Cllr Legg advised that a resident wished to thank Highways and residents for keeping the drains clear during the recent floods.

- Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by 24th July, and also to be informed when the regular village activities were stopping and starting over the summer.
- Cllr Coutanche requested items for the next meeting: Standing Orders and Timing of Public Session. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

d) Footpaths Officers – Dominie de la Poer advised that the Langmoor Lane footpath was now very good where it had been resurfaced, but closer to the village the edge of the path had fallen into the stream. The footpath at Old School House was firmly blocked by a gate, which was mysteriously being put back every time it was removed. Both of these issues had been reported to Jill Exton. Cllr Legg advised that the Old School House footpath was on the edge of a field belonging to the Leggs and they would resist any claim for adverse possession.

Roger Legg advised that he would be willing to resurface more of Langmoor Lane as and when more road planings became available. Clerk to write to Highways.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

e) Tree Warden – none.

1140. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The following issues were raised –

Planning application: land at Picket Lane – we should do all we can to support local businesses. Also if you have a profitable business, you should live on the site.

Flooding on Pipplepen Lane, near sewage works – water runs across the road because catch pit is blocked.

A3066/Lecher Lane junction – Dave McSkelley is willing to keep a log of all near-misses.

Flooding outside Maple Cottage, South Perrott – caused by a ‘road surface alignment issue’.

Hill Farm bend, South Perrott – stopping lines at end of Lecher Lane are too far forward now that the footpath has been moved back.

Manor Close, South Perrott – Highways to be asked to cut the grass verge.

Planters in Pound – Picket Lane Nursery is willing to donate plants to stock the planters.

1141. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 13th September 2012 in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Date