

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016 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 Cllr Peter Barrowcliff, Acting Clerk Vicky Reed and 4 residents.

1411. PUBLIC SESSION

Dave McSkelly reported that the roof of the village hall in South Perrott has once again broken, but the ceiling has been propped and the hall can continue to be safely used.

Peter Hinton raised the matter of white paint on the wall of Pattens Cottage. Cllr Organ reported that the matter has been reported to Highways, but no action has been taken to date. It was agreed to ask the clerk to chase up with highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Mike Johnson raised the matter of cars regularly parking in The Pound, South Perrott. There was a discussion about the matter and concerns were raised that should people park in the area for a period of time, they may subsequently claim it as a right. It was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate who owns the land, and who has the right to determine the use of the land. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Peter Simmons requested that the drains and gullies between Keepers Peace and Pretty Box Cottage be cleared and dug out. It was agreed to log this with the Highways Department. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Peter Simmons asked if the Parish Council knew which mobile phone mast in Crewkerne serves South Perrott, as the land owners of one mast may not allow further upgrading. It was agreed that the clerk will investigate, and report back to Peter Simmons. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1412. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Tony Alford, PCSO Alex Bishop, Clerk Angela Gillingham, Mr & Mrs Lucas, Peter Coles, Dominic de la Poer and Martyn Gillingham.

1413. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Fray)

1414. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS

District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff reported that the Full Council had approved WDDC joining the Combined Authority, (with Weymouth and North Dorset still to approve). The Local Government Reorganisation includes proposals to form two unitary authorities and these proposals are the subject of a public consultation that has just started. There will be a local consultation event taking place on Thursday 15th September in Beaminster Square. The public consultation concludes on 25th October. It is hoped that the changes will produce significant financial savings and efficiencies, which are essential for meeting the challenges presented by the reduced budget revenue support.

PCSO Alex Bishop was not present, but reported via email that there had been a report of a suspicious vehicle being driven around the area, a red Land Rover Defender. Should this be seen and anyone acting suspiciously, please call 101. The Police are conducting some 'Autumn Roadshows' around the area in the coming weeks. This is just another means of community engagements as their surgeries, but most will be adhoc visits to villages that don't have surgeries in. Alex Bishop's colleague, Dave Ash, will be at The Coach and Horses on Thursday 29th at 7pm. Should anyone want to say hello/raise any issues, please feel free to join him.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

1415. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Matters arising from minutes**

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the following matters –

Highway issues – The Chairman reported on the progress on a number of Highways issues, logged with the Highways Dept, as follows:

1059849 - Pipplepen Lane – Enquiry closed as potholes permanently repaired. Those present agreed that the potholes are already reappearing. It was agreed to ask the clerk to reopen the case.

1059652 - Lecher Lane - surface sweeping has taken place – enquiry closed.

1061509 – A356 Overgrown hedges obscuring signs – closed, as not at intervention level. Those present agreed that the issue is significant and it was agreed to ask the clerk to reopen the case.

There was a discussion about whether or not a 30mph speed limit is enforceable if the road signs are obscured. It was noted that some households along the A356 have overgrown hedges, which are obscuring road signs. Cllr Organ agreed to speak to the relevant households.

1061510 – Pattens Cottage – ongoing, clerk to follow up as per public discussion.

1061726 Finger Posts – see below.

1061911 - Chedington Lane –depressions in road have been repaired. Enquiry closed.

1061912 – Chedington Lane – sign for cyclists. Highways Dept have reported that no suitable sign is available. Enquiry closed.

1063529 – West Side Chedington – Drains blocked – works instructed and commenced as per public discussion.

Cllr Coutanche reported that the owners of Winterhayes are happy to have a SID sited on the property. County Cllr Knox is investigating the matter and will report back.

Picket Lane Railings – Cllr Organ reported that, following agreement at the last meeting, four oak posts would be purchased by the Parish Council to replace the four damaged posts in the first section of railings. Local residents however would like all nine oak posts to be replaced as the Highways Dept have agreed to provide the labour to replace all nine posts. As a result, some local residents are privately funding the costs of replacing the additional five posts. Confirmation has been received from Blair Turner that the job is on his works schedule, and that the Highways Dept will install and make good the railing too. Cllr Coutanche thanked the local residents for their generosity.

It was noted that the next section of posts, from Parrett Mead to Court Farm Cottage, will need replacing in the future, and the cost will have to be borne by the Parish Council. It was agreed to consider this when preparing the budget for 2017-2018.

b) **Fingerpost**

Cllr Fray has investigated options for the repair or replacement of the finger post in South Perrott, which is in poor condition. Costs range depending on the level of repair or refurbishment required. A new post costs approximately £100, and £88 per bracket. It was noted that the responsibility for the cost of repairs fall to the parish council. The finger post in Chedington will also need refurbishment in the near future. There was a discussion about various options. Mike Johnson offered to laser cut new lettering for the signs, and it was agreed to seek other volunteers who may be able to assist with the work. It was agreed that once costs have been ascertained, they will be included when considering the budget for 2017-2018.

1416. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. DAPTC Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular, July 2016
2. DAPTC Magazine, Summer 2016
3. DCC Top 12 – Dorset Highways Performance
4. Letter to Oliver Letwin MP re. mobile phone reception
5. DAPTC re. new phone number 105 for electricity network operators.
6. Letter from The Pensions Regulator re. compliance with workplace pensions regulations.
7. Letter from Peter Hinton re. Langmoor Lane bridleway.
8. Email correspondence with Mr & Mrs Barber re. Bellamy Farm planning consent.
9. Email correspondence with WDDC re. planning applications.
10. Email from Blair Turner, Highways, re. Chedington Lane.
11. Letter from BAVLAP re. local business directory.
12. Email from DCC Highways re. Working Together SharePoint.
13. Email and documents from DCC Highways re. Working Together.
14. Email correspondence with Mrs Barnes, Manor Close, re. Picket Lane railings.
15. Quotations for repair of Picket Lane railings.
16. Email to Highways re. Picket Lane railings.
17. Document re. Fingerpost refurbishment.

Dave McSkelly asked about the information from the DAPTC regarding the new phone number 105 for electricity network operators. The acting clerk agreed to send the information for inclusion in the next edition of the Pump & Pound.

1417. **PLANNING**

a) **Applications handled since last meeting:**

WD/D/16/001584 Winterhayes, South Perrott – Two storey extension, detached garage/carport and vehicle access. PC comments – some concerns regarding size and proximity of proposed garage to A356.

WD/D/16/001631 Chedington Court, Chedington – Internal and external alterations to include repositioning the entrance drive wall and piers. PC comments – no concerns.

b) **Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:**

WD/D/16/000810 Highfield House, Chedington – replace existing conservatory with oak framed garden room. Approval of Planning Permission.

WD/D/15/002365 Bellamy Farm, South Perrott (retrospective application) – demolish coach house and erect building for use as ancillary residential accommodation. Approval of Planning Permission.

WD/D/15/002440 Maple Cottage, South Perrott (retrospective application) – conversion of double garage to living accommodation, infill of garage. Approval of Listed Building Consent.

c) New applications to be considered:

None.

d) Tree Applications:

None.

e) Other planning issues:

Cllr Organ reported that there are concerns within the Parish Council about the number of retrospective applications which are being received. There was a discussion about the matter and the feeling that retrospective applications do not receive the same level of scrutiny as primary applications, with very little weight being given to the comments submitted by the Parish Council. Cllr Barrowcliff confirmed that the planning officers are aware of the comments submitted by the Parish Council in all applications.

Cllr de la Poer requested that Cllr Barrowcliff enquire about the number of retrospective planning applications which have been received within the county and the percentage of primary versus retrospective applications, in order to assess whether there has been an increase in the number of retrospective applications.

Cllr Organ reported that she had received a complaint from a recent applicant regarding the parish council's comments on their application. Councillors felt that their comments are always constructive, fair and justifiable, including highlighting concerns, and are made after talking to local residents, in line with the invitation by the District Council to comment on local issues.

Cllr Organ advised that when The Coach & Horses in South Perrott received approval for their retrospective planning application, conditions were applied, including a reduction in the width of the veranda, which have been complied with.

1418. FINANCE

a) Income received:	
Sale of surplus Queen's 90 th Commemorative Medals (4 x £1.99)	£7.96
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
Clerk's salary for August & September 2016	£291.84
Clerk's expenses	£25.90

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

Bank account stands at:	£5,898.08
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£5,530.34

d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 - the clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by BDO, the external auditors, and no issues had arisen requiring any action. A notice of conclusion of audit had been received and was displayed on the

noticeboards and website. Members approved and accepted the Annual Return.
(Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Organ)

1419. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) Chairman – None.
- b) Clerk – None.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by Monday 19th September.
- d) Footpaths Officers – No comments from the Footpaths Officer. It was noted that Langmoor Lane is becoming overgrown. A post requiring repair will be monitored. Several cattle have been seen wandering Langmoor Lane.
- e) River Warden – none.

1420. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th November 2016, at 7.30pm in South Perrott Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Signed

Date