

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche, Also in attendance: District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff, Clerk Angela Gillingham, Sarah Woods and Lisa Raison (Mosterton Pre-School) and 9 residents.

#### 1480. PUBLIC SESSION

David Lines raised the subject of the footway installed on the A356 through South Perrott six years ago. The road surface is now looking very worn in places. He reminded members that this had been a pilot traffic-calming project and the results should now be reviewed. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Jill Turner reported a locked gate on the Langmoor Lane footpath. Rights of Way to be alerted.

*Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Dave McSkelly reported that the blackthorn bushes on the Millennium Green have encroached onto the grass because the grass is no longer mown regularly. He also raised the subject of fundraising for St Mary's Church and was concerned that any monies raised are, in fact, paid to the Diocese rather than going directly to our Church. Peter Coles responded that some money is paid to the Diocese for the cost of the clergy, but the money received for St Mary's is administered by the PCC for St Mary's. Dave McSkelly also questioned why the repairs to the church clock were taking so long. The Chairman advised that she had discussed this issue with Peter Hinton who has endeavoured many times to contact the repairer. Peter awaits a reply to his latest letter to resolve the situation.

Martyn Gillingham reported that he had asked Tim Bartlett to cut all the grass on the Millennium Green and advised that the Environment Agency is planning to lay the hedge again, which will tidy it up. He also asked for an update on the promised improvements to the mobile telephone reception in South Perrott since Oliver Letwin MP's intervention last year. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

#### 1481. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Anthony de la Poer, County Cllr Rebecca Knox and District Cllr Tony Alford.

#### 1482. CASUAL VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that, following the resignation of Liz Fray, a public Notice of Vacancy had been placed on the Chedington noticeboard and on West Dorset District Council's website. By the end of the statutory 14 day period no request for an election to fill the vacancy had been received, and the parish council could therefore fill the vacancy by co-option.

The Chairman invited nominations and Mrs Asha Braginton, a Chedington resident, was proposed. There were no further nominations and Mrs Braginton was unanimously approved for co-option onto the parish council. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

#### 1483. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved, and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

## 1484. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff reported on the following issues –

- Local Government Reorganisation is still in progress and the councils are waiting for a response from the Secretary of State. As part of the reorganisation, there are plans to devolve powers down to town and parish councils in a process called double devolution. It has not yet been decided which services will be devolved to local councils but they will be given a grant to run the additional services.
- There is to be a roll-out of universal credits. Up to now the District Council has paid housing benefit to claimants and the universal credit scheme is a new scheme being piloted in West Dorset. From 6 December it will apply to all claimants who are changing their circumstances. It is an on-line scheme and claimants will be supported by trained officers.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Barrowcliff for his report. There were no further reports.

## 1485. MOSTERTON PRE-SCHOOL

Sarah Woods (Manager) and Lisa Raison (Chairman) of Mosterton Pre-School, gave a presentation about the new pre-school building which was in the process of being built in the grounds of the Parrett & Axe School in Mosterton. They explained that they had been raising money for the past eight years and had received a £70,000 grant from the Department of Education towards the total cost of £180,000. In addition, Mosterton Parish Council had facilitated a loan of £40,000 to cover the shortfall.

The pre-school takes children aged from 2-4 years and currently runs morning-only sessions in the village hall. The new purpose-built building will give much-needed extra space and will enable the pre-school to offer afternoon and holiday sessions and to take advantage of the Government-funded 30 hours of childcare a week. Children from the surrounding villages, including South Perrott and Chedington, attend the pre-school and will benefit from the additional hours available.

The pre-school is a not-for-profit charity which operates as a business, and it will need to raise funds for the next 25 years to pay back the loan. They are appealing to our Parish Council to pay a contribution towards the costs.

The Chairman thanked Sarah Woods and Lisa Raison and said that members will consider at the next meeting, when the budget for next year is drawn up, whether the parish council can afford to make a contribution.

*Action: Mrs Gillingham*

## 1486. MATTERS ARISING

### a) Matters arising from minutes

#### Highway issues

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

<i>Report No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Defect</i>	<i>Status</i>
WWOKYG91	BT Cables over Peter Simmons' field, Chedington	At the last meeting Peter Simmons reported that the telephone and internet cables crossing his fields were hanging dangerously low.	This has been reported to Openreach on their Damage Reporting Number and an engineer from Openreach has made a site visit.
1081148	A356 on approaches to South Perrott	Vegetation obscuring 30mph signs	Reported and subsequently chased.

1081149	A356 on approaches to South Perrott	Request to remove "New Road Layout Ahead" signs	Reported and signs have been removed.
1082143	Outside Sarum, SP	Blocked drains	Reported and cleared by Highways. Since then, one drain has blocked again – possibly by an otter.
1082182	Shire Cottage, SP	Roof damaged by HGV turning into Lecher Lane	Site visit by Simon Roberts, Highways on 8 <sup>th</sup> August. He will arrange for more hazard poles to be erected on the side of Shire Cottage and for the white lines to be extended alongside the property. He will arrange for an additional "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign to be erected at the Lecher Lane turning. Simon will also request a re-whitening of the line from Hunters Hatch to Lecher Lane, and for the worn-out white lines on Chedington Hill to be renewed. He has raised an order to repair the broken kerbstones outside John Harris's house.

In addition, Dave McSkelly reported a broken kerbstone outside the drive to his property.

*Action: Mrs Gillingham*

#### Picket Lane Railings

The Chairman advised that quotations had been received from two local builders for the repair of a section of the railings from Parrett Mead bridge up to the footbridge crossing to Di Coote's cottage. Both these builders have advised that building a retaining wall in the river to support the river bank will be a very costly exercise and they have both recommended that if the line of the railings is brought back slightly further away from the edge of the bank, closer to the road, then new posts could be fixed securely into the ground. A third quotation is awaited from another local builder.

#### Broadband "not-spot" areas

Jill Turner reported on her work to identify the properties between South Perrott and Chedington which fell into a "not-spot" area where they were unable to benefit from Superfast Broadband. She had visited the seven properties affected and tested the line speeds at different times of the day. All but one of the properties registered a line speed of just over 2 mbps, which means that they are just above the level at which they could benefit from a Government subsidy. She advised that there is not much more she can do to assist.

The Chairman thanked Jill for her hard work in trying to resolve the problem.

#### 1487. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular, 14 July 2017.
2. DAPTC Chief Executive's Extraordinary Circular, 9 August 2017.
3. DAPTC Chief Executive's Report to Area Meetings, Autumn 2017.
4. DAPTC Western Area Committee, Minutes of meetings 25 May and 7 September 2017.
5. Email from BAVLAP, re. new Chairman.
6. Email correspondence with Highways re. damage to Shire Cottage roof.

7. Email correspondence with Dorset Electoral Services re. Vacancy on Parish Council.
8. Email correspondence with BT team at DCC re. low hanging cables.
9. Letter from DCC re. Dorset Local Access Forum Recruitment.
10. Email from DAPTC re. Dorset AONB conference invitation.
11. Email from DAPTC re. Highways online "Report a Collision" form.
12. Report by Jonathan Baker re. slow Broadband speeds in South Perrott.
13. Dorset Waste Partnership, introductory guide 2017/18.
14. Dorset Police – Dorset Alerts since previous meeting.
15. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, September 2017.

#### 1488. **PLANNING**

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

WD/D/17/001649 Shepherds Farmhouse, South Perrott – alterations, extension, porch and new garage/storage buildings. PC comments – no objections but some concerns about the height of the proposed garage.

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

c) **New applications to be considered:** None.

d) **Tree Applications:**

WD/CA/17/00266 Court Byre Cottage, South Perrott. 4 x Conifers - fell, 1 x Apple Tree – fell, 1 x Apple Tree – reduce crown, 1 x Holly Bush - fell. Approved.

WD/CA/17/00282 Swing Gate Cottage, South Perrott. 1 x Conifer – fell. Approved.

e) **Other planning issues:** None.

#### 1489. **FINANCE**

a)	Income received:	None
b)	Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c)	Payments to be made:	
	Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
	DAPTC Annual Subscription	£120.00
	Sunnyside Web Design (annual maintenance charge)	£150.00
	Clerk's salary for August & September 2017	£291.84
	Clerk's expenses	£30.24

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

Bank account stands at:	£7,053.16
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£6,410.33

- d) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017 - 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 Organ, seconded by Cllr Birtwhistle)

**1490. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) Chairman – reiterated her concerns about the vegetation blocking the 30mph signs on the A356 at both ends of South Perrott.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
  - Cllr Coutanche raised her concerns about the speed of traffic driving down the hill from Chedington into South Perrott. She also raised concerns about the increase in dog fouling in South Perrott. Cllr Cooper advised that this was also a problem in Chedington. It was agreed that an item should be put in Pump & Pound reminding owners to clear up after their dogs.
  - Cllr Coutanche requested items for Pump & Pound by 21<sup>th</sup> September.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.
- e) River Warden – none.

**1491. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at 7.30pm in Chedington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....