

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2017 at Chedington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle (Vice Chairman), Asha Braginton, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche and Anthony de la Poer, Also in attendance: District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff, Clerk Angela Gillingham and 8 residents.

1492. PUBLIC SESSION

Donald Hargreaves advised that the road outside Sarum had flooded repeatedly because of a blocked drain. In addition, the "road narrows" sign outside his property had been knocked and was pointing in the wrong direction. Mr Hargreaves also referred to the traffic jams outside his property and requested that a Highways officer be asked to make a site visit. Clerk to contact Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

Peter Coles warned members about a telephone scam, purporting to come from HMRC. He had reported the scam to Trading Standards. It appeared that the scammers had targeted a number of residents in Chedington.

1493. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Tony Alford and Dave McSkelly.

Grant of Dispensations – the Clerk advised that the applications which members had previously signed for a dispensation to enable them to speak and vote on the setting of the parish Precept, were still current.

1494. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017 were approved, with one amendment, and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Birtwhistle)

1495. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff reported on the Local Government Reorganisation. He advised that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had announced that he was "minded to" support the proposal for two Unitary Authorities in Dorset – one covering rural Dorset and the other covering Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. Cllr Barrowcliff read out the Secretary of State's statement which said "*I am satisfied on the basis of the information currently available to me that this proposal if implemented is likely to improve local government across the area, establishing two new councils with a credible geography, and which would command local support.*" There will now be a final consultation period until 8th January 2018. The nine Dorset councils have started working together, to achieve economies of scale. In response to questions, Cllr Barrowcliff advised that in due course all council taxes across the two Unitaries will be harmonised, and all statutory services will continue to be provided by the Unitaries.

In a written report County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported that a Joint Committee for the Dorset area has been formed, which she chairs, and consists of councillors from across the whole geography and from each borough and district council proportionately.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports. There were no further reports.

1496. MATTERS ARISING

a) Highway issues

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

Report No.	Location	Defect	Status
WWOKYG91	BT Cables over Peter Simmons' field, Chedington	At a previous meeting Peter Simmons reported that the telephone and internet cables crossing his fields were hanging dangerously low.	BT have now erected a new pole to replace the one that was leaning over.

1081148	A356 on approaches to South Perrott	Vegetation obscuring 30mph signs	Reported and subsequently chased. Members were concerned that Highways have taken no action, and it was suggested that we may need to consider paying for the hedges to be cut back.
1082182	Shire Cottage, SP	Roof damaged by HGV turning into Lecher Lane	Following the site visit by Simon Roberts, Highways, on 8 th August, he has confirmed that works orders have been raised for all the improvements to the white lines and signage at this junction, which were discussed at the meeting.
	Langmoor Lane footpath	Locked gate obstructing access.	Ann Studley, the owner of the field, has spoken to the farmer. The chain and padlock have now been replaced with a loop of rope.
1086430	Section of footpath between Coach & Horses and Church Hill	3 kerbstones cracked	Reported and Highways have replaced the kerbstones.
1087410	Pipplepen Lane	Gullies alongside the road are blocked	Reported and Highways have dealt with it.

In addition, it was reported that guests staying at the Coach & Horses have complained about the noise of heavy vehicles driving over the kerb. Problem to be reported to Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

b) Mosterton Pre-School

This item was deferred to later in the meeting, to be discussed with the Budget.

c) Footway on A356 through South Perrott

Following a request at the previous meeting, David Lines was invited to voice his concerns about the road scheme which had been completed over six years ago. In his opinion, the pilot scheme had not been a success, the road surface is now patched, the noise levels increased, and an evaluation of the scheme is urgently needed.

It was agreed that the Head of Highways should be contacted and invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

d) Mobile Telephone Reception in South Perrott

Following a request at the previous meeting, the clerk had contacted Oliver Letwin MP to ask him to make enquiries at the Home Office to ascertain when the two telephone masts which serve South Perrott will be upgraded to improve the mobile telephone signal. Mr Letwin has requested this information and will let us know when he receives a reply.

e) Dog Fouling

The Chairman reported that, following concerns raised at the previous meeting of an increase in dog fouling in both villages, a supply of "dog fouling" signs has been obtained from DCC. Cllr Anthony de la Poer has erected a number of these signs in South Perrott, some on wooden posts. Cllr Birtwhistle confirmed that a sign has been put up in Chedington.

f) DAPTC AGM, 4th November

The Chairman reported on the DAPTC meeting which she had attended. All the motions which had been put forward by member councils were passed. These included (1) to lobby Central Government for a change in the law to make Parish Councils statutory consultees on tree applications, (2) to amend the legislation on parish polls to prevent a parish council being forced to pay for a poll on an issue which is outside its remit, and (3) to ensure that when a parish council objects to the recommendations for a planning application, the application

should be considered by the planning committee. There were also presentations on the future of healthcare in Dorset, and an update on local government reorganisation.

1497. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular, 22 September 2017.
2. Email correspondence with Woodland Trust re. Tree Charter.
3. Email from Dorset Highways re. grit bins and dumpy bags.
4. Email from DAPTC re. motions for discussion at AGM on 4 November.
5. Email correspondence with Dorset Highways re. works on junction A356/Lecher Lane.
6. Letter from WDDC re. Budget Setting 2018/19.
7. Email from Jill Turner re. Broadband in not-spot area.
8. Email from DAPTC re. NALC guides for councillors.
9. Email from South Somerset DC re. consultation on its Local Plan.
10. Email correspondence with Oliver Letwin MP re. mobile phone reception.
11. Email from WDDC re. Beaminster Neighbourhood Area Consultation.
12. DAPTC Annual Report 2016-2017.
13. Dorset Police – Dorset Alerts since previous meeting.
14. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, November 2017.

1498. **PLANNING**

a) **Applications handled since last meeting:** None.

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

WD/D/17/001649 Shepherds Farmhouse, South Perrott – alterations, extension, porch and new garage/storage buildings. Approval of Planning Permission.

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

d) **Tree Applications:**

WD/CA/17/00410, Lee Holme, South Perrott. 1 x Cherry reduce branch by 30%, 1 x Crab Apple reduce by 30%. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

WD/CA/17/00411, 11 Parrett Mead, South Perrott. 1 x Norway Maple – raise crown and thin by 30%. PC comments – no concerns. Approved.

The clerk raised a concern that some tree applications had been approved before they appeared on the planning website, which meant there was no opportunity for consultation. She had raised this with the case officer and was awaiting his reply.

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

1499. **FINANCE**

a)	Income received:	
	Precept (2 nd half)	2,231.50
	Local Council Tax Support Grant (2 nd half)	<u>18.50</u>
		2,250.00
	VAT refund	13.38
b)	Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c)	Payments to be made:	
	Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
	Cllr Anthony de la Poer (reimbursement for cost of wooden posts)	£62.46
	Clerk's salary for October & November 2017	£291.84
	Clerk's expenses	£57.98
	Donation to Mosterton Pre-School (see item (e) below)	£100.00

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Organ and seconded by Cllr de la Poer.

Bank account stands at:	£8,673.71
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£8,111.43

d) Approval of Budget and Precept for 2018-2019

The clerk advised that the Council could not formally approve next year's Precept until the District Council has announced the Council Tax Base, but members could consider it.

Following discussion, members approved the proposed Budget for 2018-2019 (proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr de la Poer) and were minded to approve a Precept of £4,635, which was a 3% increase on the previous year (proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Organ). This decision would be ratified in January.

e) Mosterton Pre-School

During the discussion on the Budget members considered whether to give a contribution towards the building project costs for Mosterton Pre-School. It was agreed that a sum of £100 from the contingency fund in this year's Budget would be given to the Pre-School and that consideration would be given to giving a further donation next year. (Proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr de la Poer).

Action: Mrs Gillingham

1500. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members –
 - Cllr Braginton suggested that "please drive slowly" signs should be installed on the approaches to Chedington. Clerk to ask Highways. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*
 - Cllr de la Poer asked for an update on the repairs to the fingerposts. The Chairman advised that there was a delay in the lettering being made.
 - Cllr Coutanche requested items for Pump & Pound by 21th November.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.
- e) River Warden – Martyn Gillingham reported that he had cleared many of the gullies in South Perrott following the recent heavy rain, and would put an item in Pump & Pound asking residents to assist with keeping drain covers clear of debris.

1501. DATES OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS

Members agreed the following dates for next year's meetings –

- Thursday 11th January 2018 – Chedington
- Thursday 8th March 2018 – South Perrott
- Thursday 10th May 2018 (incl AGM) – Chedington
- Thursday 12th July 2018 – South Perrott
- Thursday 13th September 2018 – Chedington
- Thursday 8th November 2018 – South Perrott

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed

Date