

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at South Perrott Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Asha Braginton, Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche and Anthony de la Poer,
Also in attendance: District Cllr Tony Alford, Mike Westwood, Clerk Angela Gillingham and 14 residents.

1513. PUBLIC SESSION

Martyn Gillingham highlighted that the A356 had remained clear of snow following the recent snowfall, due to the effective gritting by Highways. Members recorded their thanks to Mike Westwood.

Bob Buckland reported that a Pine tree, planted on the riverbank at the Picket Lane bridge has now grown very tall and does not have the root space to support it. Ron Martin, Tree Officer, to be asked to inspect it.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

1514. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Chris Birtwhistle (Vice Chairman), County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff, David Lines, Donald Hargreaves.

1515. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.
(Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Cooper)

1516. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

In a written report, County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the following issues -

Local Government Reorganisation - The Secretary of State has given Dorset the go-ahead to form two unitary councils, which for us will mean residents will be looking to what will be called the Dorset Council. At the moment a parliamentary is being prepared to be laid in the Houses of Parliament which will create the new legal entity. Through secondary legislation it could be subject to some controversial discussion but it is unlikely to be stopped entirely. The new organisation of Dorset Council will come into force on 1 April 2019, and in the meantime, a Shadow Authority will be created in June to ensure the transition from six councils to one takes place. There are some subject areas where it is going to be really important to work with parish and town councils to see what they view about certain aspects of service delivery – this could be a really good opportunity for closer working and to get more involvement with others in community, if that is what is appropriate. I am going to be arranging a meeting in this area probably for April so will keep you posted on dates – there is so much to potentially explore and it would be good to meet with others in the division.

Budget - Dorset County Council has voted to increase council tax to the limits which were set by central government. Part of the 5.99% will be used and ring fenced for social care (3%). This is a welcome amount, however, with the living wage to implement, most will be taken up to cover that cost in social care. There are some really exciting opportunities which Dorset is pursuing to increase the access and service to residents who need care, particularly for those remaining in their own homes, but we are also working with others to hopefully invest in homes suited to those who need more help. We are also investing considerably in social workers, for all ages, and foster carers.

District Cllr Tony Alford reported that, apart from LGR, the big news is the planned increase in house-building. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, which is the guiding document to approvals of planning proposals, are aimed at encouraging more house-building, particularly where plans have already been approved. In West Dorset, the local plan, which was approved in 2015, set out an annual figure of 775 houses to be built each year. This figure is not likely to change.

In answer to a question on devolved responsibility to Town and Parish Councils, Cllr Alford advised that the DAPTC has set up a forum to look at activities which could be devolved. In West Dorset there is an ongoing conversation with Town Councils about activities which could be devolved, e.g. public toilets. There are no specific proposals yet but Town and Parish Councils are likely to work more closely together.

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

1517. MATTERS ARISING

a) A356 Footway through South Perrott

Mike Westwood, Community Highways Manager, attended the meeting to receive feedback on the footway scheme installed in South Perrott in 2011. David Lines, ex-parish councillor who had been involved with the pilot scheme, provided the following written report -

- *The road scheme in South Perrott was part of a larger experiment to deal with traffic calming along the A356;*
- *The scheme was funded independently from the County's road budget;*
- *We are not aware of any systematic, independent research on the impact of the scheme;*
- *From the outset, certain limitations or drawbacks to the experiment became apparent, namely:*
 - i. *The kerbstones were unable to stand the weight of the traffic that 'shared' the space with pedestrians. We are informed that an incorrect type was used. As a result, many have broken up. They have been replaced in places and patched up in others.*
 - ii. *The shared space at the western end of the village denoted by raised kerbstones was a hazard, especially for motorbikes. Consequently these were removed.*
 - iii. *The raised, transverse sections across the road failed to meet their objectives of helping pedestrians to cross; instead they simply caused additional traffic noise, especially from trailers and agricultural vehicles. Attempts have been made to smooth out the surface on a number of occasions, but the only result has been even more fragmentation that has increased noise pollution significantly.*
 - iv. *The coloured section at the western end of the village has deteriorated significantly and now presents a potential traffic and pedestrian hazard.*
- *In contrast to the limitations, however, certain benefits of the scheme are apparent, namely:*
 - i. *The average speed of traffic through the village has reduced, albeit by only a very small amount. This information was obtained by a traffic assessment immediately after the scheme was installed, and is the only objective research on the project that we are aware of.*
 - ii. *Pedestrians do feel more secure when walking along the different coloured sections of the road.*
 - iii. *The shared space has encouraged drivers at the 'pinch point' to be more aware and considerate. Unfortunately, this has not prevented HGVs in particular, from getting stuck there.*
 - iv. *The shared space is just as effectively delineated by a white line and a different road colour as by raised kerbstones.*

It was never my intention to argue for any major works or modifications to the A356 through the village. Only a radical, extremely expensive scheme can provide a comprehensive solution; the pinch point is essentially an intractable problem. I do believe that part solutions are possible, however. In my opinion 'smart traffic' controls could eliminate the problems with HGVs, but the last time that idea was tested certain elements within the village objected and the idea was dropped. The road surface is now a mess and creates more noise than before the scheme was implemented.

I would therefore request that the Parish Council lobbies the County Council for the following:

- i. *A completely new road surface, such as those recently installed in Mosterton and at Rampisham, should be laid along the length of the village. These new, quiet surfaces would make a tremendous difference to the village ambience of South Perrott.*
- ii. *The 'shared space' for pedestrians should be retained, delineated by a white line and a different coloured section.*
- iii. *The crossing points should be eliminated.*
- iv. *The yellow section at the western end should be abandoned.*
- v. *Further investigations should take place regarding 'smart' technologies for assisting HGV drivers.*

I contend that as the village was part of an experiment, which has had only limited success and which was funded from outside the County's main road budget, it should now be considered favourably in the list of priorities for resurfacing in the style and manner outlined above.

Mike Westwood responded by saying that since the matter was raised with him, he had made a number of visits to the village, looking at problem points. He agreed with everything in David Lines' report. Any work would have to be prioritised, using a scoring system, against essential work in other areas. The white line denoting the footway seems to work. There is now smart technology available to assist with flow of traffic at pinch points but need to consider where to place the signs and allow space for vehicles to queue. This is a problem across much of Dorset where roads are narrow and vehicles have got larger.

In discussion the following points were made –

- Traffic speeds down the hill from Chedington.
- Kerbstones edging the footway cause a noise nuisance, even where their edges have been feathered.
- Vibrations and noise from HGVs can be heard in the Coach & Horses.
- A proper kerb is necessary to safeguard children walking through the village.
- The original scheme was a good idea but some drivers are reluctant to drive onto the raised footway; a white line is sufficient
- Before the footway was installed there were incidents of cars colliding with the bollards alongside the river.
- Prefer to see the village as it was; take off the buff coloured tarmac at Hill Farm bend and just have white line delineating the footway.

The Chairman summed up the comments by saying that the crossing points and repairs to the kerbstones still create a noise. Resurfacing is the only solution. We do not want any more signs than necessary. All agreed.

Mike Westwood promised to try to get the kerbstones removed and the road resurfaced with white lines denoting the footway. With regard to the speeding traffic, Mr Westwood suggested a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the approach to the village might help. He offered to arrange for speed checks to be carried out at each end of the village, and asked if we can suggest suitable points. *Action: Cllr Organ/Mrs Gillingham*

The Chairman thanked Mr Westwood for his attendance and for his very positive comments.

b) **Other 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>
1089097	A356 outside Sarum, S Perrott	Gullies blocked, causing flooding in heavy rain	Further jetting of drains to be undertaken
1092333	Coach & Horses, SP	Kerbstones broken and loose	Reported and repaired
1092334	Picket Lane, S Perrott – Between Engineers Road and the Nursery	Edges of the tarmac are crumbling away	Reported and works scheduled
1092335	A356, dip in road on Crewkerne side of SP	Gullies blocked, causing road to flood in heavy rain	Reported and dealt with
1092340	Chedington – between Penny's Hill Cottage and A356	Edges of the tarmac are crumbling away	Reported and works scheduled
1092344	Sandy Knapp end of Chedington	The "slow" sign which has been painted on the road cannot be seen because of its positioning on the steep slope	Reported and works scheduled

1092344	Winyards Gap end of Chedington	A "slow" sign is needed here on approach to village	Reported and works scheduled
	A356 at Sockety	"South Perrott" sign has been damaged by car travelling at high speed down the hill. The car swerved to avoid another car, mounted the verge and collided with the sign. The car continued into South Perrott and stopped outside Hunters Hatch, where it was seen that the air bag had activated. The Police were informed of the incident.	Damaged sign reported to Simon Roberts.
	Hill Farm bend, SP	Missing chevron	Reported to Simon Roberts.
1095985	School Hill, SP	Road and footpath surface breaking up causing deep potholes and cracks.	Reported.
1095986	A356/corner of Picket Lane, SP	Plastic striped bollard knocked and broken at base.	Reported.

In addition, James Harris reported that the kerbstones outside the Coach House, next to the Coach & Horses, have not yet been repaired. Also, the dip in the A356 towards Crewkerne still floods in heavy rain. Clerk to report to Highways.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

c) **Chedington Public Telephone Kiosk**

The Clerk advised that Chedington Village Hall Committee is interested in adopting the telephone kiosk and BT is willing to draw up a contract direct with them, particularly as the kiosk is sited on village hall land.

d) **Grit Bin at Winyards Gap junction**

The Chairman advised that the owners of Winyards Gap Inn were unwilling for a grit bin to be sited on their land. The only other site, on the Halstock side of the main road, was considered to be too dangerous for access. In view of the fact that the A356 is gritted and had not iced over in the recent snowy weather, it was decided not to proceed with the purchase of a grit bin for this location.

Cllr de la Poer advised that the grit bin at the top of Church Hill in South Perrott needed to be refilled. Clerk to check on whether this is a community or strategic bin before arranging a refill.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

e) **Dog Fouling**

The Chairman reported that over recent months there had been an increase in dog fouling in South Perrott, particularly in the Churchyard. The WDDC's Dog Warden had patrolled the area and had advised that there was a new Public Spaces Protection Order which made it an offence for an owner not to clear up after their dog on any land in the West Dorset administrative area, and to keep their dog on a lead in all churchyards.

Jonathan Baker offered to set up CCTV equipment in the Churchyard. This was agreed, subject to obtaining permission from the PCC. It was agreed that a loose-leaf page, with an extract from the Protection Order, should be included in the Pump & Pound. (Thank you to James Harris who offered to print sufficient copies.)

f) **Village Clean-up**

It was agreed that the South Perrott village clean-up would take place on Sunday 8th April.

1518. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Chief Executive's report to Area Meetings, January 2018.
2. DAPTC Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular, 27 February 2018.
3. Email correspondence with BT re. Chedington telephone kiosk.
4. DCC email re. Planning Training session.
5. DAPTC re. General Data Protection regulations training session.
6. Dorset AONB Annual Forum: Views on your Landscape.
7. Email correspondence re. blocked drain outside Sarum, South Perrott.
8. DAPTC newsletter, February 2018.
9. Letter from Dorset Youth Association requesting donation.
10. Dorset Community Action re. Best Kept Village Competition.
11. DAPTC re. Secretary of State's announcement to support LGR proposals.
12. DAPTC re. programme for Annual Conference.
13. Local Council Public Advisory Service re. review of ethical standards in Local Government.
14. DCC email re. survey on Devolution of Assets and Services
15. Dorset Police – Dorset Alerts since previous meeting.
16. Clerks & Councils Direct newsletter, March 2018.

1519. **PLANNING**

- a) **Applications handled since last meeting:** None.
- b) **Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting:** None.
- c) **New applications to be considered:**

WD/D/18/000052 Old Post Office, Chedington – external alterations to rebuild existing chimney stack with existing materials, divide stack internally in order for it to accept standard chimney lining. PC comments – no concerns.

d) **Tree Applications:**

WD/CA/18/00100, 5 Parrett Mead, South Perrott – T1 Sallow, cut all branches 4.3m - 4.8m in length, overshadowing. PC comments – no concerns.

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

1520. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	None
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
Hire of Chedington Village Hall (July 2017 – Jan 2018)	£60.00
Hire of South Perrott Village Hall (May 2017 – March 2018)	£45.00
Clerk's salary for February & March 2018	£291.84
Clerk's expenses	£25.45

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

Bank account stands at:	£7,709.14
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£7,236.85

d) **Risk Assessment**

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment was reviewed. It was approved without amendment and duly signed. (Proposed by Cllr de la Poer, seconded by Cllr Coutanche)

1521. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

a) Chairman – reported that the road surface outside the village hall was eroding because of water run-off which was missing the drains. There is a need to repair the tarmac and review the drainage system. In addition, in the layby on the A356, Crewkerne side of South Perrott, the sign asking people to take their rubbish home has been removed, and the area is strewn with litter. Clerk to contact Highways.

Action: Mrs Gillingham

b) Clerk – none.

c) Members – Cllr Coutanche requested items for Pump & Pound by 19th March.

d) Footpaths Officers – none.

e) River Warden – none.

1522. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th May 2018, at 7.30pm (including AGM) in Chedington Village Hall.

Dates of Annual Village Meetings

South Perrott – Tuesday 1st May at 7.00pm, in South Perrott village hall

Chedington – Tuesday 8th May at 7.15pm, in Chedington village hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Date