

PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2018 at Chedington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Kate Organ (Chairman), Chris Birtwhistle (Vice-Chairman), Jane Cooper, Sue Coutanche and Anthony de la Poer, Also in attendance: District Cllr Tony Alford, Clerk Angela Gillingham and six residents.

1529. PUBLIC SESSION

Peter Simmons reported that the new telephone pole has been erected two metres into his field. He was aware of a number of petty thefts in the area.

Liz Fray reported that the pothole outside Book Tree Cottage in Chedington had opened up again because the edge of the tarmac was disintegrating. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

1530. APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Asha Braginton, County Cllr Rebecca Knox and District Cllr Peter Barrowcliff.

1531. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Birtwhistle)

1532. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Tony Alford reported on the following matters –

He had held a meeting on 2nd May with representatives of all town and parish councils in the West Dorset area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the devolvement to T&PCs of some of WDDC's assets and services, such as public conveniences, tourist information centres and street cleaning, which might otherwise be lost when WDDC becomes part of the Unitary Authority. Due to pressure on the new Unitary's budget there is unlikely to be any additional funding for PCs who take on extra responsibilities but it would be possible to raise the precept to cover additional costs.

Christchurch BC was still unhappy with the new Unitary Authority proposals and are preparing to start judicial review proceedings.

Dorset Waste Partnership is beginning a campaign to discourage fly tipping. Cllr Birtwhistle commented that garden waste and a lawn mower had been dumped near his property in Chedington. Cllr Alford advised anyone who employs someone to take away rubbish to check that they have a proper licence to dispose of it lawfully.

Cllr Alford advised that PCSO Alex Bishop had returned to Beaminster and we should invite him to PC meetings.

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

Over the past year a significant change in local government has been agreed by consultation with residents, and by 8 of the 9 councils in the two tiers of government in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. For our area this will mean that those services delivered by WDDC and the DCC will now come from one Council which will be named Dorset Council. The number of councillors covering the Dorset Council area will reduce from 205 to 82. This we all hope will bring local communities, parish and town councils and other organisations together more without the present layers of confusion about who does what.

In particular my focus has been on looking at the social care system across all ages and how it works with the NHS at the hospital end and with GPs and schools, in order to prevent either health, safeguarding, social exclusion or rural exclusion from creating what can be really complex situations for individuals and families.

I have received an increasing number of concerns about roads, potholes in particular, in the past few weeks. The highways team had been doing exceptionally well for a long period of time but the cold weather has set back road resurfacing work, drainage clearance and added vast numbers of potholes to the programme of works. There is an internet portal which shows which roads are up for surfacing over the next year. There is an ongoing issue with rural transport particularly for schools, healthcare visits and use of community transport. I can assure you that there is a huge determination in Dorset to address this, and working with the health service is increasingly allowing the pressures on the travel system to be addressed but it is a detailed and complex area. Our country lanes are an issue in terms of overhanging branches which prevent buses from travelling to certain places.

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

1533. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **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>
1075682	Pipplepen Lane, South Perrott	Series of potholes	Simon Roberts says works are scheduled but some potholes over the border in Somerset.
	A356 at Sockety	"South Perrott" sign has been damaged by car travelling at high speed down the hill.	Enquiry closed – works scheduled.
1095985	School Hill, SP	Road and footpath surface breaking up causing deep potholes and cracks.	Enquiry closed – works scheduled.
1095986	A356/corner of Picket Lane, SP	Plastic striped bollard knocked and broken at base.	Enquiry closed – works scheduled.
1096199	A356 dip in road on Crewkerne side	Road still floods in heavy rain.	Enquiry closed – permanently repaired.
1096203	Layby on A356, Crewkerne side of SP	The sign asking people to take their litter home has been removed.	Reported and works scheduled.
1096209	Pipplepen Lane, outside SP village hall	Edge of tarmac is eroding because of water run-off which is missing the drains.	Reported and works scheduled.
1101386	Lecher Lane, opposite Tumberlands	Large pothole.	Reported
1101537	Lecher Lane, past barns	Very large pothole.	Reported
1101434	Lecher Lane junction with A3066	Overgrown verge obscuring visibility.	Reported

b) **Speed of Traffic in South Perrott**

Following the discussion with Mike Westwood, Highways Manager, at the last meeting, it has been agreed that speed check equipment will be set up at each end of South Perrott – at the entrance to Hill Farm on the West side, and at the entrance to Shepherds Farm Bungalow on the East side.

c) **Grit Bin in Church Hill, South Perrott**

Highways have confirmed that this grit bin is a community one (meaning that we have to pay for mid-season refills). It has been agreed that we will wait for the standard refill in the autumn.

d) **Flooding under Railway Bridge in Pipplepen Lane**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted North Perrott Parish Council about the constant flooding under the railway bridge in Pipplepen Lane. They have advised that there are complicated relationship issues between Network Rail who own the bridge, Somerset County Council who have legal responsibility to keep the highway passable to traffic and the owners of the private land under which the drains run. An extensive section of drains may need to be re-laid at considerable cost. As yet there is no agreed solution between the parties concerned.

e) **Mobile Telephone Reception in South Perrott**

The Chairman reported that, following Sir Oliver Letwin's intervention last year, we were assured by the Home Office that there would be an improvement in mobile reception by the end of March this year. On 16th April Jill Turner undertook a tour of the village with her new iPhone 6 on an EE contract. She found a consistent 2 bars and 4G signal throughout most of the village. This is definitely an improvement as the signal was generally non-existent in the centre of the village previously.

f) **Meetings and Training Sessions attended**

- i) Planning Training – the Vice-Chairman reported on the training session he had attended on 8th March. He referred to his previously circulated note and said that the meeting focussed on the material considerations that should be taken into account when commenting on an application. Retrospective planning applications were mentioned briefly.
- ii) DAPTC Annual Conference – the Vice-Chairman reported on the Annual Conference he had attended on 9th March. He referred to his previously circulated note and said that it had been a useful meeting. Parish councils will become a more important point of communication and decision-making body once the move to Unitary authorities takes place. There was general concern that funding may not follow any devolvement of services.
- iii) WDDC Devolution of Assets and Services – this meeting was attended by the Chairman and Clerk on 2nd May (see Cllr Alford's report above).
- iv) Data Protection – the Clerk reported on the meeting she had attended on 26th March. The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are due to come into force on 25th May and the parish council will need to ensure that it is compliant with the new rules on the use and storage of personal data. We need to develop a risk assessment process, but are advised to wait for further guidance before appointing a Data Protection Officer.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

g) **DAPTC Survey on LGR Matters**

Members considered the survey produced by DAPTC seeking the views of parish councils on how essential it is to retain a range of discretionary services currently provided by County and District Councils. Members felt they did not have enough information at this stage to make informed choices and agreed that an email should be sent to DAPTC explaining this.
Action: Mrs Gillingham

h) **Matters arising from South Perrott Village Meeting, 1st May**

The Chairman reported on the main points arising from the South Perrott meeting – the dangerous junction at Lecher Lane/A3066; the missing white lines on A356 on hill towards Chedington; the future of the Millennium Green; Picket Lane railings [*item for next agenda*] and dog fouling.

i) **Matters arising from Chedington Village Meeting, 8th May**

The Vice-Chairman reported that the main items of discussion at the Chedington meeting had been – the lack of finger posts; a reduction in dog fouling, possibly because of the new notices; continued problems with fly-tipping and potholes.

j) **Flood Warning Signs**

The Clerk explained that currently there is an agreement with DCC that when there is flooding on the road outside Sarum in South Perrott, Martyn Gillingham and Donald Hargreaves will put out flood warning signs which are stored in nearby properties. Col. Hargreaves has asked to relinquish this task and Peter Hinton is willing to take over the role. Members approved the appointment of Peter Hinton (proposed by Cllr Organ, seconded by Cllr Coutanche).
Action: Mrs Gillingham

1534. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. WDDC Electoral Services re. Re-charges for administering Town and Parish by-elections.
2. WDDC re. new online planning system.
3. DAPTC re. "Working with Community Partners" Task & Finish Group.
4. Extract from DAPTC Newsletter no.8 re. Local Government Review.
5. DCC Minerals & Waste Planning Team re. submission of Mineral Sites Plan to Secretary of State.
6. WDDC re. invitation to meeting to discuss Devolution of Assets and Services.
7. DCC Highways re. South Perrott speed check - historic data.
8. North Perrott PC re. flooding under railway bridge in Pipplepen Lane.
9. WDDC Planning Enforcement Officer re. new online reporting of planning breaches.
10. Dorset Community Action re. invitation to meeting to discuss Devolution of Power.
11. Broadwindsor PC (on behalf of Cllr Rebecca Knox) re. invitation to attend meeting to discuss Local Government Reform.
12. DAPTC re. survey on LGR matters.
13. NALC re. new pay scales for Parish Clerks.
14. Dorset Police – Dorset Alerts since previous meeting.

1535. **PLANNING**

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

WD/D/17/002908 Coach & Horses, South Perrott – change of use from public house to hotel. PC comments – no concerns.

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

WD/D/18/000560 Rowan Tree Cottage, South Perrott – non material amendment to approved application WD/D/16/002173. Grant of Non Material Amendment.

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

d) **Tree Applications:**

WD/CA/18/00100, 5 Parrett Mead, South Perrott – T1 Sallow, reduce branches. Approved.

WD/CA/18/00129, 1 Hazel Barton Cottages, Chedington – T1 Willow, remove, unhealthy. PC comments – no concerns.

In addition, the Pine tree on the riverbank by the bridge in Picket Lane, South Perrott, has been reported to DCC Tree Services as being possibly unsafe (report no. 1101530)

e) **Other planning issues:**

The Chairman reported that a resident in South Perrott had erected a number of radio aerials in his garden which were causing an eyesore to nearby neighbours. The Clerk has requested advice from the Planning Department as to whether planning permission is required.

1536. **FINANCE**

a) Income received:	
Precept (1 st half)	£2,317.50
b) Payments made since the last meeting:	None
c) Payments to be made:	
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
Community First annual insurance	£176.55
DAPTC – attendance at Annual Conference	£70.00
Clerk’s salary for April & May 2018 (<i>based on NALC pay scales from 1 April 2018</i>)	£310.56
Clerk’s expenses	£98.62

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

Bank account stands at:	£9,608.35
Balance after payment of the above cheques:	£8,902.62

1537. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) Chairman – request that Highways is chased about the overgrown verge at Lecher Lane/A3066.
- b) Clerk – none.
- c) Members – Cllr Coutanche requested items for the Pump & Pound by 21st May.
- d) Footpaths Officers – none.
- e) River Warden – none.

1538. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 12th July 2018, at 7.30pm in South Perrott Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed

Date