

## PARRETT AND AXE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.30pm at Chedington Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Mike Johnson (Chairman), Sue Coutanche, Liz Fray, and Peter Simmons. Also in attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Knox, District Cllrs Janet Page and Caroline Payne, PCSO Alex Bishop, clerk Angela Gillingham and 7 residents.

1142. **APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs Anita Legg and Kate Organ.

1143. **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Coutanche, seconded by Cllr Simmons)

#### **1144. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

County Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the present position regarding the Beaminster Tunnel. Engineers were currently working on the sloping sides with the aim of opening the tunnel to light traffic. A report is due shortly setting out all the options for a permanent solution with costs and timescales. A community meeting will be held in Beaminster in mid-October to discuss the options. Meanwhile the diversion routes are being inspected daily and it has been noted that the unofficial routes, such as White Sheet Hill, are being damaged by HGVs. A temporary enforceable speed limit of 20 mph is being introduced in North Street, Beaminster, and a "steep slope" sign will be erected on White Sheet Hill.

There followed discussion on whether it was possible to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in South Perrott or to install traffic lights. Cllr Knox confirmed that she would support a 20 mph limit but it was not a national standard, and she suggested that parishes should push for the speed limit in order to change the policy. The Parish Council could put in a request for temporary traffic lights to deal with the extra traffic caused by the tunnel closure.

District Cllr Caroline Payne referred to the business centre which had been set up in Weymouth to promote business opportunities in West Dorset. There will be an open day on 27<sup>th</sup> October (9.30am – 12.00 noon) in the Sports Pavilion, Beaminster, to promote all the sporting opportunities available in the area.

District Cllr Janet Page apologised that WDDC officers have been very busy with the Olympics in recent weeks. She advised that WDDC was running a consultation on the Government's proposals for the calculation of the Council Tax base.

PCSO Alex Bishop thanked everyone who had needed to contact them for their patience when the Police were short-staffed due to the Olympics. Crime in the area was low, but a theft of tractor parts from a farm on the outskirts of South Perrott had just been reported. Due to the tunnel closure, the Police were conducting regular speed checks on the surrounding roads and will be checking on the speed of traffic entering South Perrott from the Chedington side.

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their reports.

#### **1145. MATTERS ARISING**

a) **Superfast Broadband** – this item was deferred owing to the unavailability of the officer from DCC who was due to give a presentation. Cllr Knox offered to send the Parish Council a briefing note on Superfast Broadband.

#### b) **A356 Road Scheme**

The Clerk read out a letter from Ian Wylie of Shire Cottage, South Perrott, which expressed his concern regarding access to Lecher Lane for heavy vehicles coming from the Crewkerne direction. The roof of his property has been damaged repeatedly by the vehicles as they attempt to turn into the lane. Cllr Knox advised that she had reported the problem and a temporary sign "unsuitable for diverted traffic" had been put in place.

The Chairman suggested that the best solution would be a "no right turn" restriction which would feed into the satnav system.

Cllr Coutanche reported that traffic continued to have difficulties in the narrow section by Swing Gate Cottage. Trailers do not follow their towing vehicles onto the shared footway and can ricochet on the shallow raised kerb by Swing Gate and cars are still hitting the kerb by Sarum.

#### c) **Refurbishment of The Pound, South Perrott**

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman invited Bob Buckland to give an update. Mr Buckland advised that he had already purchased the new seat and was arranging for an artist's impression of the finished site to be produced. The Chairman advised that two quotes for the building of the planters had been obtained and a third was awaited. Dave McSkelly had kindly offered to donate a quantity of paving slabs. Thanks were recorded to Phil Smith, Tim Bartlett and Roger Legg for their help in clearing the ground.

#### d) **Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Trees for Dorset**

The Clerk advised that Rachel Palmer from Trees for Dorset had visited the Millennium Green with Bob Buckland and Peter Hinton and had looked at the site for the tree which is to be planted to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It had been agreed that the tree would be a Wild Service Tree and would be positioned by the fence on the first part of the Green coming up from the river. Rachel Palmer will organise a commemorative plaque, the cost of which will be charged to the Parish Council.

#### e) **Maintenance of Bridleways**

The Clerk reported on an incident which had occurred recently on the Langmoor Lane bridleway when a horse, which was being ridden through the water near Hunters Hatch, was spooked by the overhanging branches and nearly threw its rider. Jill Exton, DCC Rights of Way officer, responded quickly by arranging for the overhanging vegetation to be cut back. Jill Exton suggested that the Parish Council could consider the occasional use of a Lengthsman to cut the vegetation back more frequently than the DCC's timetable allowed. The cost of purchasing the services of a Lengthsman would be in the region of £100 per day, or £55 per half-day. It might be possible to apply for funding under the Parish Grant Scheme.

Discussion ensued on whose responsibility it was to maintain a bridleway. Cllr Rebecca Knox advised that it was Highways' responsibility to keep the ground surface clear, but adjoining landowners' responsibility to cut back the vegetation.

The Chairman asked that the landowner adjoining this particular stretch of bridleway be contacted and asked to keep the vegetation cut back. *Action: Mrs Gillingham*

### 1146. **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Correspondence In**

1. DAPTC Newsletter, Summer 2012

2. DAPTC Chief Executive's circulars 7/12 and 8/12.
3. DCC email re. Roundabout Sponsorship.
4. DCC letter re. future organisation of the Country Car Scheme.
5. DCC email re. update on Beaminster Tunnel.
6. Email from Mrs Bartlett, South Perrott, re. Langmoor Lane Bridleway, and response from DCC Rights of Way.
7. Letter from Rachel Palmer, Trees for Dorset, re. Diamond Jubilee tree.
8. Letter from Mr Wylie, South Perrott, regarding HGV's turning right into Lecher Lane.

### **Correspondence Out**

1. Email to Andrew Bradley, DCC Highways re. stopping lines at Lecher Lane, and his response.
2. Letter to DCC Highways re. A3066 - junction with Lecher Lane.
3. Letter to DCC Highways re. pot holes and flooding spots.
4. Letter to DCC Highways requesting repairs to railings alongside river in Picket Lane, South Perrott

### **1147. PLANNING**

- a) Applications handled since last meeting:
  - 1/D/12/000887 Hazel Barton, Chedington – erection of workshop and carport; creation of vehicle access gate from private driveway; reinstatement of pedestrian gate. PC comments - no concerns but noted that application had no details of design of pedestrian gate.
  - 1/D/12/001162 Court Farm, Chedington – proposed new agricultural access. PC comments – no concerns.
  - 1/D/11/002116 Hill Cottage, South Perrott – fencing. It was noted that WDDC had taken no action to enforce the requirement for the fence to be painted, because of the on-going dispute between the owners of the two adjoining properties . An offer by another neighbour to do the painting had been turned down by the owner of the adjoining property.
- b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting: None.
- c) New applications to be considered: None.
- d) Tree Applications:
  - CA/12/00284 Bellamy Farm, South Perrott – fell 2 Silver Birch trees. PC comments – no concerns.
  - CA/12/00294 Manor Farm House, Chedington – fell 1 Cypress tree. PC comments – no concerns.

### **1148. FINANCE**

- a) Income received:
 

WDDC Diamond Jubilee Grant Fund	£250.00
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- b) Payments made since the last meeting: None
- c) Payments to be made:
 

South Perrott Village Hall – Diamond Jubilee Grant Fund	£250.00
Footprintz (photocopying for newsletter)	£50.00
BDO (external audit fee)	£60.00
Sunnyside Web Design (domain registration)	£60.00
Clerk's salary for Aug/Sept 2012	£273.44
Clerk's expenses	£51.98

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Coutanche.

Bank account as at 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012: £3,336.28  
Balance after above cheques agreed: £2,590.86

- a) Audit for the year ended 31 March 2012 - the clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by BDO, the external auditors, and no issues had arisen requiring any action. Members approved and accepted the Annual Return. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Fray)

**1149. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a) The Chairman requested two items for 'Pump & Pound' :
- a reminder to residents to be considerate of their neighbours when lighting bonfires;
  - advice on how to report Satnav errors.
- b) The Clerk advised that the September edition of "Dorset Life" publicised a walk from Mosterton to South Perrott and Chedington.
- c) Members –
- Cllr Simmons requested an item for 'Pump & Pound' – a request that grass cuttings and garden waste should not be dumped on the verge in Pipplepen Lane opposite School Hill.
  - Cllr Simmons advised that heavy rain had caused a quantity of greensand to spread across the road on the lower bend of Pretty Box Lane. Clerk to report to Highways.  
*Action: Mrs Gillingham*
  - Cllr Coutanche advised that the deadline for items for 'Pump & Pound' was 20<sup>th</sup> September.
  - Cllr Coutanche referred to planning applications and other paperwork circulated to members and asked for these to be passed around more quickly.
- d) Footpaths Officers – None.

**1150. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

The following issues were raised –

Peter Coles advised that water was seeping out of the road opposite Sticklands in Chedington and he had contacted the Water Board to repair the leak.

Dave McSkelly thanked the Parish Council for obtaining the £250 grant towards the costs of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

**1151. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in South Perrott Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed .....

Date .....