

## PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>. April 2008

**Members Present:** Cllr. A. Wright, Chairman  
Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Edward, Cllr. Jacobs  
Cllr. Latham, Cllr. McCoy, Cllr. Mrs. Palmer  
Cllr. Roake, Cllr. Mrs. Rowe, Cllr. Mrs. Russell, Cllr. Sage,  
and Cllr. Short

**1. Apologies** were received from Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC). The Full Council was in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed to the Meeting the newly co-opted Members, Cllr. Joe Roake and Cllr. Andy Short. Both Councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and had completed a Declaration of Interest form.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. The Minutes** as previously circulated of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>. March were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### **4. Items for Report not on the Agenda**

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Participation.

#### **5. Public Participation**

Mr. Geoff Cox was present but had no specific question.

The meeting was re-convened.

#### **6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. John Edwards (SCC/ENP) had nothing to report.

Cllr. Mrs. Angela Palmer (WSC) reported that there will be a public meeting about the Vulcan Road site at Danesfield School on 16<sup>th</sup>. April.

The laws concerning the control of stray dogs have been amended. WSC have taken over responsibility for dealing with stray animals as from 6<sup>th</sup>. April.

Tone Leisure has commissioned a report on the Aquasplash plant and until this has been produced nothing further will be known on the future of the Pool.

The Chairman confirmed that there has been a very strong reaction to the loss of Aquasplash registered in the replies to the Parish Plan Questionnaire. It was

**RESOLVED** that a letter outlining the preliminary findings concerning Aquasplash should be sent to the District Council.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 The following application was considered:-

**6/27/08/105      Change of Use of existing stable to Aquarium**  
Anchor Stables, Porlock Weir

This was welcomed as an enterprising attraction to the area.  
Fully support. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

## 7.2 Local List of Validation Requirements for Planning Applications

It was agreed that the consultation document should be considered by a Planning sub-committee. A meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup>. April at 2pm in the Parish Room and will be Chaired by Cllr. Mrs. Russell. Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Edward, Cllr. Jacobs and Cllr. Mrs. Palmer will also attend.

## **8. Finance**

8.1 The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

Mr. A. Binding, grass cutting contract	850.00
EDF Energy, energy charge, Village Hall Car Park light	22.11
SALC, annual subscription	304.99
West Somerset Free Press, classified ad. for Annual Parish Meeting	23.50
WSC – rates for Lovelace Centre	406.47
WSC – rates for Cemetery	207.90
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk’s salary less tax	678.46
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, expenses and 50% of Internet & phone service charges for April	31.48
HM Revenue & Customs, tax and NIC due	222.14
Mr. B. Hammett, Caretaker’s wages	60.66
Porlock Manor Estate, first half year rent for V.Hall Car	150.00
Total:	<b>2957.71</b>

## 8.2 **Bank Balances**

Current Account	226.00
Reserve Account	36687.71
Total:	<b>36913.71</b>

## Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	2516.92
Reserve Account	5373.13
Total:	<b>7890.05</b>

Car Park Account	<b>7076.62</b>
Standard Life Account	<b>17772.23</b>

### 8.3 Repairs to windows at Old School

The Librarian had reported three broken window panes in the Library kitchen window. Although it was not apparent whether the damage had been caused by vandalism she had reported the matter to the police. The Clerk was authorised to arrange for the panes to be repaired, and also the cracked pane in the Parish Room.

## **9. Matters Arising**

### 9.1 Site meeting – Parsons Street bridleway

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting had been arranged for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>. May at 2.30pm

### 9.2 Post Office network

Cllr. John Edwards (SCC/ENP) confirmed that Wheddon Cross has put forward a very strong submission for retaining the Post Office.

### 9.3 Cemetery – Changes to refuse collection arrangements

Cllr. McCoy reported that, due to the weight restriction on the bridge between Doverhay and Hawkcombe, Veolia have been unable to collect refuse from the Cemetery. Cllr. McCoy is at present transferring waste to refuse sacks, and until such time as work on the bridge is complete, arrangements have been made for WSC to pick this up as part of Cllr. McCoy's domestic waste collection.

### 9.4 Cemetery – Committee meeting

Cllr. McCoy listed areas for discussion and a Committee meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>. May at 3.45pm.

## **10. Parish Plan**

Cllr. Wright had provided each councillor with a preliminary breakdown and summary of the data from the completed household questionnaires. The return rate for the Questionnaires had been just over 50% and this was felt to be an excellent response. The Youth and Business surveys are not yet complete.

The draw took place for the winner of the prize hamper which will be awarded to Mr. J.E. Perkins of Porlock Weir.

## **11. Local Housing**

Many of the responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire had indicated that any new housing should be for local residents only. Cllr. Sage confirmed that consultation documents received on new allocation procedures for social housing have not been

specific on the matter of residency. It was **RESOLVED** to invite the Rural Housing Enabler to the next meeting in order that this can be clarified.

## **12. Village of the Year Competition**

Application forms had been received. Mrs. Sage, Manager of the Visitor Centre, felt that the level of community activities had improved since the last entry and was happy to take an entry forward. It was duly **RESOLVED** to enter the Competition.

## **13. Lovelace Centre**

A letter had been received from the Chairman of Porlock Tourist Association asking for a meeting to discuss, amongst other things, the future of the Lovelace Centre. It was **RESOLVED** to form a Finance sub-committee to take this matter forward. Members to consist of Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Latham, Cllr. Mrs. Rowe and Cllr. Mrs. Russell. The Clerk will liaise with the PTA to arrange a suitable date.

## **14. Correspondence**

### Porlock Tourist Association – Enhancement of Highway Signs

A letter had been received suggesting several means by which highway signs in the village could be enhanced to improve the image of Porlock. The Council fully supported the comments made in the letter and will contact County Highways with a view to arranging a site meeting.

### Somerset Highways – Temporary closure of Bossington Lane

Notification received of temporary closure for 3 days as from 28<sup>th</sup>. April.

### SCC – Local Action for Rural Communities – Western Somerset

Notification of a meeting to be held to discuss the above bid was received. Background information on the chief objectives of the programme was given – this is largely to adapt to a carbon neutral economy for this area. It was hoped that members of the Porlock Power group would be attending and report back to the Council.

### West Somerset Scouts – St. George's Day Parade

A letter of thanks for the grant of £50 was received.

### WSC – Local Development Framework – Housing Survey

Notification and details of the random household consultation at present being carried out was received.

## Exmoor Association of Parish Councils – Agenda – Local Employment

The Agenda for the meeting to be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Wheddon Cross was received. Cllr. Sage was unable to attend but Cllr. Short offered to act as representative and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

### Somerset Field of the Year Competition

Details passed to Cllr. Jacobs for the information of the Rec. Committee.

### Somerset Highways – Group Changes

Notification of changes received and passed to Cllr. Edward for information .

## **15. Reports from Outside Bodies**

### Village Hall

Nothing to report.

### Recreation Ground

Cllr. Jacobs reported that maintenance on the Pavilion is on-going. Unfortunately the fencing across the dog walking field has been vandalised and a more substantial fence will need to be erected. There will be a Mouse Racing fund raising event in the Village Hall on Saturday. It was confirmed that at the recent AGM both the Chairman and Secretary had been re-elected.

### Doverly Manor

Nothing to report other than the fact that it is hoped that Sweetlands will shortly be recommencing building work.

### School Governors

Nothing to report.

### Highways

Cllr. Edward confirmed that the repairs to pot holes in the High Street will not take place until Somerset Highways receive their budget for the new financial year.

## **16. Items for Report**

The Chairman reported that he had asked Cllr. Jacobs to look into possible sources of funding for issues which might arise from the Parish Plan. The Chairman will also consult with the Community Council on possible sources.

### Parking in the High Street

Concern was expressed that parked vehicles outside The Castle are still causing an obstruction. It was agreed that the new waiting restrictions outside the Methodist Chapel have not made any difference to delivery times to the shops, but it was appreciated by all Members that set times for deliveries would not be possible to achieve.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.44pm