

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th. August 2011

Members Present: Cllr. A. Wright, Chairman
Cllr. K. Jacobs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Edward, Cllr. Mrs. Gable, Cllr. Mrs. Haynes,
Cllr. Latham, Cllr. McCoy, Cllr. Mrs. Palmer,
Cllr. Mrs. Rowe, Cllr. Mrs. Russell and Cllr. Sage
Also in attendance – Cllr. Frances Nicholson SCC/ENP
Cllr. Jon Freeman WSC/ENP
Cllr. Karen Mills WSC
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk

1. **Apologies** The Full Council was in attendance.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Wright – Item 7 – Planning. As a Member of the ENPA Planning Committee the Chairman wished it to be recorded that he would take no part in the vote on any planning application before the Council in order not to prejudice any decisions he might make as part of the ENPA Planning Committee.

3. **The Minutes** as previously circulated of the meeting held on 13th. July were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters for Report not on the Agenda**

Boundary Wall opposite the Ship Inn

The Clerk reported that Highways will be visiting to look at the wall and will contact the owner concerning repairs.

Fire Station

It had been confirmed that there are insufficient fire officers to man the station during the day, but that the station is still operational during evening and night time hours. A recruitment drive is underway to hopefully bring personnel up to operational levels for 24 hour cover. The first responders team is still in operation.

Library Closure

Cllr. Gable requested clarification on the meaning of the estate agent's opinion concerning Porlock as a business location as had been reported in the Free Press. Cllr. Mrs. Haynes explained what had been meant and how misunderstandings had arisen with some traders, but confirmed that the record had now been set straight.

Fly Tipping in Central Car Park

It had been reported once again that rubbish is being dumped behind the recycling bins in the Car Park. Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP) and Cllr. Karen Mills (WSC) will take this matter up with the District Council.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) confirmed that the Judicial Review on Library closures is to go ahead. If it goes against the County Council then cuts will need to be found in other services.

The number of children in care is still rising and is a very costly service to provide. The County Council has made a successful bid for funding to provide training for foster carers in a more therapeutic method of working with children. There are two pilot schemes running at present one for 5-8 year old and the other for 8-12 year olds. The hope is that this will reduce problems and benefit the children before they enter their teens.

Cllr. Nicholson explained that ENPA has now revised the means by which they allocate discretionary funding, and confirmed that the sustainable development funding is no longer ring-fenced. There is now a Partnership Fund through which grants will be allocated to schemes which further the purposes of the National Park in either Conservation or Education & Access. In addition to fulfilling one of these criteria there is a duty to ensure that the scheme improves the social and economic well being of the resident population.

Cllr. Karen Mills (WSC) confirmed that the Washford Cross roundabout will form part of the Hinkley C planning application.

Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP) reported that he will be attending a meeting next Monday when Selworthy and Minehead Without PC will be discussing devolution and delegation matters with WSC.

There is shortly to be a meeting of the Friends of Somerset Libraries at which Cllr. Freeman confirmed he will put forward the point that Porlock is not happy at having to find the sum of £7,500 to cover the withdrawal of the County Council from the Old School Centre site.

The Chairman felt that it was unfortunate that the legal challenge would probably not change the situation, but would merely mean the loss of a considerable sum in legal fees.

7. Planning

The following application was considered:

6/27/11/122 Proposed double and single storey side extensions
Japanica Cottage, Hawkcombe, Porlock

On a proposal from Cllr. Britnell seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Palmer it was **RESOLVED**, with one abstention from Cllr. Edward, that this application be refused on the following grounds:-

The Council is aware that improvements must be made but this plan is aesthetically wrong. The cottage is a classic example of an Exmoor Cottage, and its setting within the Hawkcombe Conservation Area is unique – the extensions have given an overdeveloped and unbalanced appearance to the dwelling.

The Council is also concerned that the choice of materials needs to be consistent with the original i.e. stonework and not brickwork as mentioned on the plans.

The following applications had been considered at a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27th. July 2011.

6/27/11/120 Proposed residential development of 7no.dwellings together with associated parking facilities

Land between Villes Lane and Sparkhayes Lane, Porlock

It had been unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the application and recommend approval.

There had been only one area of concern – that a resident may at some time consider painting the natural stone or brickwork, and it was felt that a covenant should be imposed on the properties to prevent this.

6/27/11/121LB Listed Building consent for the replacement of 3no.windows (Retrospective)

The Gables, Doverhay, Porlock.

There had been no change in appearance or materials and it had been unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the application and recommend approval.

Planning consent has been granted for the following applications:-

- 6/27/11/103 New conservatory, sliding patio door, balcony modifications and a new garage – 2 Hawkcombe View
- 6/27/11/104 Installation of wood pellet boiler together with timber enclosure for pellet store, Visitor Centre, West End, Porlock
- 6/27/11/105 Renewal of planning permission 6/27/07/135 Conversion of barn to holiday unit annex and erection of shed, The Eaves, Doverhay
- 6/27/11/106 Re-location of oil tank, Porlock Fire Station
- 6/27/11/107 Extension to dwelling, Merryfield, Bossington Lane
- 6/27/11/108 Replacement of single storey extension with a 2 storey extension Brimley Cottage, Bossington Lane.

- 6/27/11/109 Change of Use of 2no.holiday apartments together with alterations to form 1no. 2 bedroom open market dwelling. The Old Coach House and Stables, Doverhay Place
- 6/27/11/110 Division of workshop and stores to form 2 units together with change of use of unit 2 from metal store/workroom to a wood and textile store/workroom. Doverhay Forge Studios
- 6/27/11/113 Installation of a cider press and associated protective shelter, Visitor Centre, Porlock
- 6/27/11/115 Extension of a barn to accommodate a bunded oil tank, water storage and filtration plant with associated works, Pitt Farmhouse
- 6/27/11/116 Removal or rear conservatory, construction of a single storey extension together with the removal of a covered area on front elevation, and construction of a single storey in fill extension, Rowberrow, Furzeland Road, Porlock

The following applications had been withdrawn:-

- 6/27/11/102 Proposed dwelling with integral campsite office
Sparkhayes Campsite, Sparkhayes Lane, Porlock
- 6/27/11/114 Proposed installation of 10no. photovoltaic panels
The Eaves, Doverhay

Notification received of Tree Works granted:

WTPO 11/01 Crown lift on Blue Atlas Cedar, Exmoor House, Minehead Road.

8. Finance

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

Spatial Tech(UK)Ltd, annual fee for Parish Online map service	24.00
EDF, energy charge, unmetered supply to Village Hall Car Park	53.22
Konica Minolta, photocopier lease 14/8/11-13/11/11 (*£278.32)	333.86
Mr. A. Binding, grass cutting contract	870.00
Mr. B. Hammett, caretaker's wages	60.66
Brightside Cleaning (S.Oldfield) window cleaning at Old School	9.00
WSC, uncontested election fee	80.00
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	858.05
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's expenses-postage/telephone/internet	31.32
HMRC, tax & NIC due	227.40
EDF energy bill for Parish Room/Visitor Centre	36.51
DDebit, TalkTalk Business, telephone bill for Parish Room	25.70

Total: **2609.72**

*Amount to be refunded

Bank Balances

At 30th. July 2011

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	52,825.56
Total:	52,925.56

Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	1,203.33
Reserve Account	7,746.49
Total:	8,949.82

Standard Life Account **21,505.33**

8.2 Weed Clearance – Parsons Street/Hawkcombe

An estimate had been received for the sum of £180 to weed spray and clear the earth/debris from beside the river wall – the area to be covered would be between Japonica Cottage and Mill Bridge.

9. Matters Arising

9.1 Wrought Iron Gate in Churchyard

Cllr. Mrs. Russell reported that the Parochial Church Council had discussed the matter and agreed in principle that the gate could be removed and temporarily re-located at the front of the building as part of a fund raising exercise. The Parish Council will need to liaise with the Church Wardens.

9.2 Land at High Bank – Residents' Car Park

Cllr. Jacobs updated the Council on the revised costs of the work needed to bring the land up to the standard required for use as a Car Park.

The estimate from CJ Lynch for groundworks, concrete block walls to the side of the stream, concrete entrance and bases for a manually operated barrier, as well as erecting the barrier itself, amounted to £11,340 plus VAT – this sum included the cost of the barrier at £640.

On a proposal from the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Jacobs it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from CJ Lynch.

Cllr. Jacobs was asked to thank Joe Roake on behalf of the Council for his work on the site plans required for the planning permission application.

It was agreed that the site will now need to be actively marketed and a decision will need to be taken on how much to charge for the spaces.

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) and Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP) felt that it may be worthwhile putting in a bid to the ENP Partnership Fund for funding towards the set up costs of the Car Park, on the grounds of community and environmental benefit. It was agreed that this will be looked at in more depth.

10. Devolution and Delegation

The Chairman reported briefly on the recent meeting of the sub-group which had looked at all the services likely to be devolved or delegated, and had discussed various options which might be available. It had been confirmed by WSC that the Parish Council would receive the financial data relating to all the services before it meets with WSC on 14th. September.

11. Access Road and Affordable Housing

The Parish Council had been unofficially given to understand that work is likely to commence on the access road on 15th. August.

ENP had provided an update on the progress of the affordable housing bid by Hastoes, which was looking very promising. ENP will report further once the allocation of funding for the housing has been confirmed.

12. Library Closure

The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr. Mrs. Haynes had met with a Library representative to discuss the community Library plans, but since then notification had been received that the County Council had been served with an injunction pending a hearing for a Judicial Review, which will commence on 27th. September. As the County Council has already given notice on the lease of the Library it has been informally agreed to continue with a short term tenancy agreement, but this is subject to confirmation.

13. Arts Festival Committee – Request for Notice Board

Each Councillor had received a copy of the plan provided by the Committee. On a proposal from Cllr. Britnell seconded by the Chairman it was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to rescind the resolution made at the June meeting not to allow the Notice Board.

It was further **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to confirm the decision made at the July meeting to allow the Notice Board, subject to it being installed in landscape rather than portrait position.

ENP had confirmed that planning permission will be required and the Arts Festival Committee will be taking this forward.

14. County Divisions Review

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) briefly reported on the likely changes to be expected from the Review. It will probably mean a reduction in Divisions from 58 to 55 as population numbers are revised, but very little consideration has been given to sparsity issues in rural areas. Cllr. Nicholson's Exmoor Division is likely to gain several areas including, Skilgate, Upton and Brompton Ralph.

15. Correspondence

ENP – Open Meeting on the Work of the National Park

Notification posters were received. The meeting will be on 29th. September in the Village Hall.

ENP – Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum

Agenda and minutes of the meeting held on 7th. June received.

SCC – Traffic Speeds in Porlock

A copy of a letter about speeding in the High Street received by Highways had been forwarded to the Parish Council. Several attempts have been made in the past to monitor speed in the High Street without success. It was suggested that an electronic speed display might be useful and the Clerk will make enquiries.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

A letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant's Office giving details of the various events to be held over the celebration weekend.

16. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mrs. Gable reported that:

Plans for the Country Fair have been finalised but there is still a need for more volunteers. The re-build of the storage sheds is going well and is so far well within budget. The Committee's thanks go to Dave Urry and Mike Dyer for the work they have put in. Extra marquees have now been bought and these will be available for hiring out. Plans are now being considered for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Doverly Manor

Nothing to report.

School Governors

Nothing to report.

Highways

Cllr. Edward confirmed that re-surfacing of the western end of the High Street to the bottom of Parsons Street is definitely scheduled for next year.

Surface dressing of the roads from the cattle grid to County Gate and also Raleghs Cross to Taunton have taken place, although no advance warning of this was received.

The bridge at Porlockford has been damaged by a vehicle – the owner is aware of this.

Porlock Weir

Cllr. Jacobs reported that the Traders' meetings have ceased for the foreseeable future, but he confirmed that he has still offered his help with the road signs. It is hoped to revive the meetings before Christmas. The harbour wall is in a very bad state of repair.

17. Items for Report

Culbone Stables

The Clerk reported that ENP have confirmed that the recent building works are all in order.

Youth Group

Cllr. Mrs. Palmer asked if the Youth Group had taken advantage of the transport provided to groups to attend the EYE. It was confirmed that meetings have been discontinued until after September when the future of the club will be re-assessed, but that the group had been bused to the EYE on several occasions.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.20pm