

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 13th. February 2008

Members Present: Cllr. M. Jones, Chairman
Cllr. A. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Edward, Cllr. Jacobs, Cllr. Latham,
Cllr. Mrs. Palmer, Cllr. Mrs. Russell,
and Cllr. Sage,

1. Apologies were received from Cllr. McCoy (holiday) and Cllr. Mrs. Rowe (illness). Also from Cllr. John Edwards (SCC/ENP) and Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC).

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 7 – Planning Application No 6/27/08/103LB

An en bloc personal declaration was made, with the exception of Cllr. Jacobs, on the grounds of the applicant's recent past position as a Member of the Parish Council.

3. The Minutes as previously circulated of the meeting held on 19th. January 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record with a minor amendment as follows:-
Finance – Accounts to be passed for payment – HM Revenue & Customs
Amount amended to £238.27.

4. Items for Report not on the Agenda

Ex Public Toilets in Parsons Street

Cllr. Mrs. Palmer asked whether an update on the progress of the enforcement action had been received. The Clerk will request this from ENPA.

West Somerset Area Working Board

Cllr. Jacobs reported on the meeting of the Board that he had attended on 31st. January

The Board had given grants to 17 projects and had only £6,000 left to award from its budget. Applications are graded on a points system and almost all funding goes to youth projects. Three projects had received a grant of £1,500 and three received grants of £500. There is no further budget left for this year and there will be a meeting on 20th. February to decide the format for next year. It was felt that the Recreation Ground Committee may benefit from submitting an application next year.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Participation.

5. Public Participation

Mrs. Elizabeth Pinnington gave further background details to the Youth Achievement Award scheme recently approved by the Council.

Cllr. Wright had provided each Councillor with written details of how it is proposed that the scheme will operate. The intention is for the scheme to be sponsored by the Parish Council, but managed by Mrs. Pinnington and a group consisting of representatives from the local police, youth service and schools. The Award will be open to nominations for all young people, not necessarily just those belonging to a recognised group or organisation.

PCSO Anne Stoneham was also in attendance and explained that a grant of £500 to extend the work of last year's successful Summer Fun Club, run in conjunction with the Rural Youth Project, could be obtained from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.

PCSO Stoneham also referred to the Community Speed Watch project. To set up a Speed Watch scheme in a parish requires 6 people who are willing to undertake monthly speed checks within their parish. Cllr. Edward expressed an interest and the matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Mrs. Pinnington and PCSO Anne Stoneham were both thanked for attending the meeting and for their efforts on behalf of the community.

The meeting was re-convened.

6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. John Edwards (SCC/ENP) was not present but had provided a report via the Clerk.

Cllr. Edwards confirmed that he had discussed with Rights of Way (RoW) the matter of the bridlepath from Parsons Street to Parsons Hill. RoW had agreed that the angle of the bridge over the stream made the route impassable for horses and felt that the solution would be to re-designate this section as a footpath and to take the bridlepath up Mill Lane to join the bridleway further up. The Council were opposed to this suggestion for two reasons:-

1. the fact that it is not possible to easily ride a horse down Mill Lane because of the surfacing
2. this bridleway is possibly the oldest in Porlock and from an historic point of view should not be lost.

Cllr. Edwards had also reported that RoW felt it may be possible to upgrade Vivian's Way and to re-designate as a bridleway. The Council were of the opinion that a single path for both pedestrians and horses would not be wise from a safety point of view, but felt that a double track separated by a wire fence would answer the problem. The Clerk was asked to request a site meeting with Cllr. Edwards and RoW to discuss both Vivian's Way and the Parsons Street bridleway.

Cllr. Edwards had confirmed that the application for the £500 from the Community Budget towards the Parish Plan had been submitted.
There is nothing further to report on the progress of Villes Lane.

Cllr. Mrs. Angela Palmer (WSC) reported that the District Council is undertaking enquiries in the hope of retaining and operating Aquasplash on a partnership basis.
Cllr. Mrs. Palmer informed the Council that the Somerset Community Foundation Fund (www.somersetcf.org.uk) can assist groups looking for Parish Plan funding.
Cllr. Wright will make enquiries.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered:-

6/27/08/103LB **Listed Building consent for the removal of 1No set of double doors and wide lights to be replaced as existing using original leaded lights.**

The Hunting Lodge, Hawkcombe

It was **RESOLVED** to fully support and recommend approval.
(NB see Item 2 – Declarations of Interest)

6/27/08/101 **Proposed amendments to approved landscaping scheme (6/27/04/114 and 6/27/06/115) to accommodate proposed timber garden shed**

Keepers (Plot 3) Bossington Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to fully support and recommend approval

6/27/08/102 **Demolition of existing structures and erection of replacement garage and ancillary accommodation**

Halsecombe House, Parsons Hill, Porlock

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval with the following proviso:-

That the additional accommodation should be tied to the ownership of the main dwelling i.e. not able to be sold or rented separately.

8. Finance

8.1 It was **RESOLVED** to request a grant of £500 from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership for use on youth and community activities within the parish.

8.2 It was **RESOLVED** to replace a slate on the Old School roof at a cost of £30 plus VAT and materials.

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

BT, telephone bill for the Parish Room	97.01
Veolia Env.Services, refuse collection at Cemetery	12.38
Blue Sky Alchemy Ltd., design & production of Parish Plan Q'aire	470.00
Active Signs, V.Hall Car Pk sign & Old School Centre signs	139.92
Zurich Municipal, premium to cover War Memorial	33.01
Porlock Tourist Association, photocopies	140.42
Brightside Cleaning, window cleaning at Old School	27.00
Mr. B. Hammett, caretaker's wages	60.66
Cllr. D. Britnell, travel expenses to Black Pitts site meeting	12.80
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	660.33
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, expenses and stationery	132.31
HM Revenue & Customs, tax and NIC due	240.74
Total:	2026.58

Bank Balances

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	37556.13
Total:	37656.13

Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	2516.92
Reserve Account	5336.05
Total:	7852.97

Car Park Account	5556.84
Standard Life Account	16181.18

9.Matters Arising

9.1 Future Funding for Rural Schools on Exmoor

A reply to the Council's letter of concern had been received from SCC and a copy given to each Councillor. The problem facing the County is that of falling rolls combined with a shortage of national funding. It was agreed that funding for Education and other services is noticeably being squeezed in rural areas.

9.2 Culver Sands – dredging application

A copy of the letter sent to the applicant had been received from the Marine & Fisheries Agency. The applicant is being required to give greater detail on the monitoring of beaches and archaeology.

10. Policing in Porlock

Replies had been received from Chief Superintendent Padgett in response to the Council's letter of concern at the lack of manpower and length of response time in

rural areas, with particular emphasis on the events which had taken place over the New Year period. The letter confirmed that a PubWatch scheme has now been set up to cover all pubs in the village, and Councillors were in general agreement that police presence has improved.

11. Youth Achievement Award/Summer Youth Activities in Porlock

Following the presentation given by Mrs. Pinnington and PCSO Anne Stoneham during Public Participation, it was duly **RESOLVED** on a proposal from Cllr. Wright to support the Youth Achievement Award Scheme. It was further **RESOLVED** to apply for a £500 grant from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership to fund youth activities organised by PCSO Anne Stoneham.

12. Correspondence

SCC – Parish Flood Fair 21st/22nd February

An invitation to attend the Fair was received. Cllr. Edward felt that he may possibly be able to attend and will inform the Clerk if so.

SALC – Items of Interest January/February

A copy was given to each Councillor for information.

SALC – Minutes of the Area Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th. December were received. There will be no further meeting set until consultation documents have been received relating to pending legislation.

West Somerset Scouts Executive Council – St. George's Day Parade – Dunster

A letter was received requesting a donation towards the Centenary Parade at Dunster on 27th. April. On a proposal from Cllr. Sage it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £50 under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 s137.

Audit Commission

A letter was received confirming the appointment of Moore Stephens as External Auditors commencing 2007/08 for a period of 5 years.

SCC – Notification of Change in Library Opening Hours

As from 31st. March 2008 the revised opening hours will be as follows:-

Monday 10am-12.30pm
Tuesday 10am-12.30 2-5.30pm
Friday 10am-12.30pm 2-5.30pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

Somerset Local Access Forum

Cllr. Latham agreed to liaise with the Forum on behalf of the Council as part of his remit as Parish Paths Liaison Officer.

Visitor Centre – External Door

A letter had been received notifying the Council that new locks were required and that the Centre had been advised that, for security reasons, the door itself was inadequate. It was agreed that the door should be replaced and the Clerk was asked to obtain estimates.

Porlock Recreation Ground Management Committee – Parish Plan Questionnaire

A letter had been received from Mr. Lacey, Chairman of the Committee, objecting to the inclusion of the question on whether dogs should be allowed in recreation grounds. This question is a generalisation to cover open recreational spaces throughout both parishes and the Clerk will reply accordingly.

13. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr. Jones reported that the new washbasins have now been installed and the partition is in place but still requires tiling.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Jacobs reported that maintenance work will commence next Monday, and that the fence between the Recreation Ground and the dog walking field will be erected next week.

Doverly Manor

Cllr. Mrs. Russell reported that Sweetlands will be returning to the site after Easter. A new heating system is under consideration and the Architect is to obtain the services of an independent heating engineer to give an opinion on the system proposed. Owing to the level of work to be done it is may not be possible for the Museum to open this season.

School Governors

Nothing to report except that safety handles are to be fitted to all doors, and that the oil tank will need to be replaced.

Highways

Mr. Hammett had reported that he is still awaiting a site meeting with the Area Supervisor. The Council felt that a letter of complaint should be sent to Highways

concerning the poor standard of work carried out on the re-surfacing of Sparkhayes Lane. The Clerk was asked to request a site visit.
Cllr. Mrs. Palmer also considered that the temporary tarmac surface put down outside the Old School following the repair of the burst water main was too uneven for pedestrian safety.

Parish Plan

Cllr. Wright confirmed that the household questionnaire has now been sent for printing. Distribution to every household is due to start on 10th. March and questionnaires will need to be returned by 5th. April

14. Items for Report

There were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.10pm