

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 9th. February 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 present: Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP)
Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP)
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk

1. Apologies The Full Council was in attendance.

2. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Katherine Williams to the meeting. PCSO Williams introduced herself as the new member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and explained that there has recently been a re-organisation of personnel within the Team. Porlock and Dunster will now be dealt with jointly by herself and PCSO Sue Hurley which should allow for much better coverage of the area.

PCSO Williams reported that there had been 38 calls within the past month but that a good proportion of these had been hoax calls. There had been 8 recorded crimes which had been mainly shed break-ins where items such as strimmers and chainsaws had been taken. It is hoped shortly to be able to include villages in the Rural Watch scheme and to assist householders to mark their machinery.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Williams for attending and updating the Council on policing matters.

With the permission of the Council the Chairman moved Public Participation up the Agenda and the meeting was adjourned.

3. Public Participation

Jim Horrobin, current owner of the forge in Doverhay, had attended the meeting to explain to the Council his plans for the building now that he has been offered a re-location opportunity for workspace at a new forge in Timberscombe. Proposals to divide the Doverhay forge into two units will now be submitted to ENP for planning permission.

The meeting was re-convened.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jacobs – Item 8 – Planning App.No 6/27/11/103 – Dwelling at Sparkhayes Camp Site
Declared a personal and prejudicial interest on grounds of friendship and left the meeting

Cllr. Latham- Item 8 – Planning application 6/27/11/103 As above
Declared a personal and prejudicial interest as owner of an adjoining property.

Cllr. Britnell, Cllr.Mrs. Russell & Cllr.Mrs.Rowe - Item 8 – Planning App. 6/27/11/101
Ramp for the disabled, St. Dubricius School
Declared a prejudicial interest as Governors/Staff of the School and left the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Gable – Item 8 – Planning App. No. 6/27/11/129 – Huish’s Workshop
Declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the grounds of friendship and left the meeting.

5. The Minutes as previously circulated of the meeting held on 12th. January were unanimously confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6. Matters for Report not on the Agenda

Cllr. Edward confirmed that the pot hole outside the Village Hall has been reported.

7. Somerset County Council and District Councillors’ Reports

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) explained the current situation with regard to the Library closure programme. A Working Party of Members and Officers has been formed to consider the various options. Cllr. Nicholson advised that if the Parish Council wished to make further representations on the closure of Porlock Library it would need to make the best possible argument and take everything unnecessary out of the costs. The Chairman felt that the County Council had been wrong to reduce funding to rural libraries by 100%, and that if funding could have been reduced more evenly across the board then some libraries at present under threat of closure may have been able to function as community libraries. Porlock, in particular, has been hit twice, firstly by the withdrawal of funding and secondly by the loss of rent at the Old School Centre which will make it more difficult to operate the other facilities housed there.

Cllr. Nicholson confirmed that the open market housing land which will help fund the new Access Road has now been put on the market and tenders will need to be in by 25th. February. Each plot should work out to under £50,000 and it was felt that at this price developers should find them an attractive proposition.

Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP) updated the Council on the plans for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) and confirmed that the system is already being implemented in Devon, once again without consultation. The programme is costing £500,000 p.a. and can only be funded by the use of parking meters and residents’ parking schemes. Cllr. Freeman confirmed his belief that CPE is not a scheme for rural areas and will only be successful in more urban communities.

8. Planning

The following applications were considered:-

6/27/11/102 **Proposed dwelling with integral campsite office**
Sparkhayes Camp Site, Sparkhayes Lane, Porlock

It was unanimously agreed to **RECOMMEND** approval with the following caveats:

(i) Although there is no objection to the siting of the dwelling it is far too high for a flat field site and will impact the immediate surroundings

(ii) It is essential that the house is tied to the business

6/27/11/104 **Proposed installation of a wood pellet boiler together with a new timber enclosure housing a pellet store**
The Visitor Centre, West End, Porlock

It was unanimously agreed to fully support the application and **RECOMMEND** approval

6/27/11/103 **Proposed new conservatory, sliding patio door, balcony modification and new garage**
2 Hawkcombe View, Hawkcombe

It was unanimously agreed to support the application and **RECOMMEND** approval

6/27/11/101 **Proposed installation of disabled access ramp to rear playing area**
St. Dubricius School

It was unanimously agreed to support the application and **RECOMMEND** approval

6/27/10/129 **Proposed alterations to include: replacement roofs, changes in fenestration, additional balconys, external staircase, footbridge and change of use of part of first floor to form an apartment, the removal of the existing garage doors and the widening of the entrance gates. As per amended plans of 1/2/11**
Huish's Workshops, Parsons Street

It was unanimously agreed to support the application and **RECOMMEND** approval

FLA **Forestry Commission Consultation, Holnicote Estate, Doverhay**
018/297/1011 Plantation

Felling of 1ha of Japanese larch to reduce risk of phytophthora. To be replanted with mixed broadleaves.

No objections – support application

9. Finance

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

Konica Minolta, photocopier lease 14/2/11 – 13/5/11 333.86

Konica Minolta, photocopies 15/11/10 – 14/2/11	244.42
EDF Energy, unmetered supply to V.Hall Car Park	52.66
EDF Energy, electricity bill for Parish Room and Visitor Centre	812.89
Mr. B. Hammett, caretaker's wages	60.66
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	820.20
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's expenses & postage/internet	31.27
HMRC, tax & NIC due	275.35
Cladco-LJT ltd, goods for refurbishment of Rec Pavilion store shed	1921.61
Vincent Timber – goods for refurbishment as above	2755.44
Rec.Ground Management Cttee.- Balance of agreed grant towards refurbishment of Pavilion storage shed	4102.46
Total:	11,410.82

Bank Balances At 31st. January 2011

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	60,658.00
Total:	60,758.00

Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	1,558.70
Reserve Account	7,134.59
Total:	8,693.29

Standard Life Account	20,406.60
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10. Matters Arising

10.1 New Heating Systems at the Old School Centre

The Clerk confirmed that the photo voltaic cells are now operational and producing electricity. The work on the wood pellet boiler is underway and should be completed towards the latter part of February.

The Council was very appreciative of the work and effort which had been put into the projects by Tony Pinnington and his team and asked that the Clerk convey the Council's thanks to Mr. Pinnington.

10.2 Water Main Replacement in the High Street

The Clerk reported that the work appeared to be going well and that there had been very good communication from Wessex Water at every stage.

11. Emergency Planning

The minutes of the Emergency Planning sub-committee meeting held on 26th. January had been circulated and were approved as a correct record. Cllr Jacobs reported briefly on the various outcomes from the meeting. He expressed concern that there did not appear to be anyone at Porlock Weir willing to take responsibility for the Emergency Plan for the Weir

which had been drafted as part of the Pathfinder Project. The Pathfinder Project Manager had made it clear that there could be funding available under the scheme towards the refurbishment of Porlock Weir Hut, as this could then be used as an evacuation centre in the event of a flood. However, although a group of volunteers appears to be undertaking repairs it is not known who actually owns the building. The Clerk was asked to establish ownership and to let Cllr. Frances Nicholson know.

12. ZigZag Path

Cllr. Latham reported on a site visit which had taken place with Tim Parish, ENP Ranger. It has now been confirmed that ENP would be willing to take on the work of regrading the path, with certain provisos.

- An agreement would need to be entered into that the path would be open as a permitted path for a period of 10 years with a six month notice period on either side
- The path would extend into the top field at the Recreation Ground and across to Swiss Lodge Lane and into Hawkcombe.
- The land would be cleared of all undergrowth but the Parish Council/Rec Committee would be responsible for the maintenance of any trees on the path.

Cllr. Jacobs did not feel that the Recreation Ground Management Committee would wish to commit future Trustees to a ten year period, and it was suggested that a five year commitment with a one month notice period be negotiated if possible.

13. Library Closure

The Chairman reported on the meeting which had taken place between the Library sub-committee and Tom Mayberry from the Library Service. It had been made clear at the meeting that there was no actual funding available, but that operationally the Library Service would do all it could to assist the Parish Council in setting up a community led Library. SCC will be making its final decision on the level of cuts on 16th. February.

14. ENP – Defra Consultation on the Governance Arrangements for National Parks

The Vice-Chairman had attended the consultation at Lynton which had been very positive, but which had been mainly concerned with the Devon side of the Park. The consensus of the meeting had been that there should be more Parish Councillors on the Committee and that Dulverton, Lynton and Porlock should have a representative by right and other parishes by election.

The Chairman had attended the meeting at Winsford where the feeling had also been for more Parish Members and a reduction in Secretary of State appointments.

15. Correspondence

John Edwards OBE

Mr. Edwards had responded to the Council's congratulations on his award with a letter saying how much he had enjoyed his time as County Councillor over the years, and in particular working with the Parish Council.

The Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee

Confirmation had been received from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport that there will be a special four day Jubilee Weekend from 2nd. to 5th. June 2012. The letter gave details of various initiatives being planned by the government and hoped that communities would be celebrating in their own way. Cllr. Jacobs confirmed that the Recreation Ground Management Committee have flagged up the date as the Rec. will be the most likely venue for any celebrations within the village.

WSC – Non-Domestic Rates – Discretionary Rate Relief – Doverly Manor

Notification had been received that for 2011/2012 the 20% discretionary rate relief for charities and community organisations will be reduced by 75%. Registered Charities will still receive the mandatory 80% rate relief from the government. It was noted that this will affect other organisations within the parish notably the Village Hall, Recreation Ground and Visitor Centre.

ENP – Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum

Notification received of the next meeting which will be held on 24th. February at 7pm

16. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr.Mrs. Haynes confirmed that there has been no meeting.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mrs. Gable reported that the big storage cupboard is now complete and that the lighting is done.

The Kitchen has also been finished with the exception of the cooker and flooring.

The Committee intends to host an evening for the village to “show off” the improvements.

The Executive Committee will be looking into the level of hire charges to ensure they are consistent for all users. Any changes recommended will be discussed by the full Committee and the changes implemented at the end of the year.

Doverly Manor

Cllr.Latham reported that the Committee has a credit balance of £6195.92

The AGM will be on 22nd March and an invitation was extended to the Chairman.

School Governors

Cllr. Mrs. Rowe reported that the handover of the new building is due to take place at the end of next week and that the official opening will be on 7th. March.

The Hazel trees which had been obscuring the light in the Drang have now been permanently dealt with.

Highways

Cllr. Edward confirmed that the culvert in Doverhay which had been reported as overflowing is blocked. Highways are checking whose responsibility it is to keep it clear. Cllr.

Nicholson reported that a meeting has been set up between Highways and the EA to discuss the responsibility for maintenance of culverts.

The grating over the culvert in Orchard Rise is rotting and Highways have placed portable barriers around until it is repaired.

A few extra bags of salt have been provided by Highways for use in the event of further bad weather. Cllr. Edward confirmed that he had been informed that there may not be any salt provision next year.

17. Items for Report

Cemetery Path

It was reported that the path has become very slippery due to loose chippings and also that the gate is not working properly. Cllr. McCoy offered to look into these matters and report back at the next meeting.

Works at Anatta, Doverhay

The Clerk was asked to obtain from the enforcement officer an update on the work being carried out.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.26pm