

## PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup>. March 2008 following the Annual Parish Meeting

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

**1. Apologies** were received from Cllr. Britnell (illness) and Cllr. Mrs. Russell (holiday)

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

There were none.

**3. The Minutes** as previously circulated of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup>. February were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

Ex- public toilets in Parsons Street

Following a question from Cllr. Mrs. Palmer, the Clerk confirmed that ENP had disclosed that there had been errors made in the Conditions attached to the application, and that they are in discussion with the owners of the property over the details of a revised application.

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

All matters of interest to the public had been discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

Cllr. John Edwards (SCC/ENP) confirmed that a report on Villes Lane has been put back for one month owing to staffing difficulties, but confirmed that Highways are very aware of the date governing the Wessex Water funding for an access route to the sewage treatment works.

Cllr. Edwards reported that the administration of the West Area Board has now changed and that the £15,000 allotted to each Councillor, a sum which had previously been collectively administered by the Board, will now be kept within each Councillor's Division.

Cllr. Mrs. Palmer (WSC) and Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC) reported that talks are still underway to find a means of saving the Aquasplash pool from closure. Cllr. Freeman confirmed that it will only be possible for Aquasplash to re-open if the process involves no expenditure on the part of WSC. Discussions are on-going between the Cabinet and other groups to find a means of providing a public swimming facility for Minehead, but in reality there will probably be a two year period when no facility is available.

Cllr. Freeman confirmed that, although no decision has as yet been made on the sale of the Vulcan Road site, it seems likely that it will inevitably be sold as a site for a supermarket, since this will bring in the greatest revenue to the District Council.

Cllr. Freeman briefly reported on the Porlock Power Group which is looking into means of providing alternative sources of green energy and is working towards transition town status for Porlock. Cllr. Freeman explained that West Somerset has a bigger carbon footprint than neighbouring areas because there is no gas supply. ENP is also looking to encourage a carbon neutral village within the Park area.

## **7. Planning**

7.2 The following applications were considered:-

**6/27/08/104      Extensions and alterations to house including roof alterations, dormer windows and balconies and demolition of garage**  
Hill Gate, Parsons Hill, Porlock

Although a 30% enlargement of the property it is not visible within the landscape. Fully support.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval.

### **Natural England Energy Crop Scheme Consultation**

Bossington Farm, Porlock SS891473

Felling Licence External Consultation 003

### **Planting of 3.73ha of mixed short rotation coppice (hazel, ash, sweet chestnut and lime)**

It was **RESOLVED** by 5 votes to 3 to recommend that this application be refused on the grounds that a field of densely planted trees in this location would be out of character with the surrounding landscape and environment.

### **Tree Conservation TCA 08/02**

#### **Restorative pruning to orchard**

The Orchard, Redway, Porlock

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

## 7.2 Post Office Network Change Programme for Brisol & Somerset – Report to the ENP Planning Committee

There was general discussion on the implications of the Post Office proposals for the area. On a proposal from Cllr. Mrs. Rowe seconded by Cllr. McCoy it was **RESOLVED** to support the ENP on whatever action they felt necessary to keep Post Offices on Exmoor open.

## 7.3 ENPA Consultation – The Local List of Validation Requirements for Planning Applications

A consultation document on proposed changes to the planning process was received. The intention is to introduce a standard form based on the national list of minimum requirements, and to set a benchmark for the submission of applications. The document will be passed to Cllr. Mrs. Russell, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, to consider and report back to the Council.

## **9. Matters Arising**

### 9.1 Bridleway – Parsons Street to Parsons Hill – update on site visit

Following discussions with ENP it had been agreed to postpone the site visit until May to enable Cllr. Britnell to attend.

### 9.2 Sparkhayes Lane – remedial work on surfacing

A reply to the Council's complaint on the poor standard of the re-surfacing work had been received from County Highways. Confirmation was given that remedial work would be carried out by the contractor under the terms of the guarantee.

### 9.3 Youth Projects – Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership grant

Confirmation received that the grant for £500 had been approved.

### 9.4 Parish Plan – Grant award from the Community Budget

Confirmation was received that the grant of £500 towards the printing costs of the Parish Plan questionnaire had been approved. Cllr. Edwards (SCC/ENP) was thanked for supporting and recommending the grant.

### 9.5 Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr Edward reported that although he had expressed an interest in this scheme at the last Meeting, he did not feel that the scheme would be viable in Porlock due to the layout of the village. It was agreed that advice would need to be given by the police.

## **10. Casual Vacancies**

Three applications had been received to fill the two vacancies. A ballot was held with the following result:-

Mr. Partington	2 votes
Mr. Roake	9 votes
Mr. Short	7 votes

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr. Roake and Mr. Short be duly co-opted as Members of the Council.

The Chairman asked that the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Alan Wright, be formally elected as Chairman following his, the Chairman's, retirement from the Council and this received unanimous support.

Cllr. Wright proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Mick Jones for his dedicated work as Chairman, and for his continuous support of the Council and the community during his career as a Councillor. This received unanimous approval from all those present.

## **11. Cemetery Shed/Cemetery Site Meeting**

Cllr. McCoy informed the Council that the shed roof was in need of extensive repairs. An estimate to make the roof water tight had been received for the sum of £195 + VAT, but at the time of inspection no key had been available to assess the internal condition of the shed structure. It was agreed to make no decision on repairs until the full condition was known. Agenda for Cemetery Committee meeting.

Cllr. McCoy requested that a Cemetery Committee meeting be arranged for May and asked all members of the Committee to look at the Cemetery, Churchyard, War Memorial and Hawkcombe Playground before the meeting took place.

Cllr. McCoy also reported on the need to discuss the removal of excess soil following burials. Mr. Binding had complained that stones had caused extensive damage to his mower. At present excess soil is placed along the boundary hedge, but is being pulled back into the Cemetery by animals. Mr. Rush was of the opinion that his grave digger would not remove excess soil because he did not have a Landfill Licence. This matter will also be discussed by the Committee and options will be put to the Council for consideration.

The ivy on the yew tree in the Churchyard is beginning to grow again and Cllr. McCoy confirmed that he will personally remove this to prevent any damage to the regenerating tissue.

## **12. Porlock Weir Road – pedestrian safety**

A request had been received from Mark Blathwayt, Porlock Manor Estate, for consideration to be given to the provision of "virtual" pavement markings on the Porlock Weir road, to encourage pedestrians to walk on the least dangerous side of the road when visibility is restricted on the sharp bends. The Council were in support of this suggestion and the letter will be forwarded to County Highways.

### **13. Correspondence**

#### SALC – Items of Interest to Councillors & Clerks

Information was received on fraudulent conversion of cheques and Fidelity Guarantee claims. Both items will be considered by the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

#### WSC – Local Assessment & Changes to the Standards Framework

Notification of changes received.

#### ENP – Annual Monitoring Report 2006-2007

Report to be passed to Cllr. Britnell for information and report back if necessary.

#### Bus Stop on Redway

Letter received from Mr. Jefford, who is working with SCC Transport section to assess the availability and condition of local bus stops. Mr. Jefford would like to recommend the possible siting of a new bus stop on Redway to give residents the option of using the 300 bus. The Council was in agreement that an official bus stop might be useful and will support the recommendation when approached by the County Council.

#### SCC – HGV Pinch Point Consultation

Feedback on the above consultation had been received. The data will be used through the SW Regional Freight Forum, working in conjunction with Ordnance Survey, to allow the development of satellite navigation systems tailored to the needs of HGV's.

#### Betta Somerset Stages Rally – 26<sup>th</sup>. April

Notification of the route received.

#### WSC – New Residential Development

A request received to inform the District Council of any new residential developments within the parish.

### **14. Reports from Outside Bodies**

#### Village Hall

Nothing to report.

#### Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

## Doverly Manor

Nothing to report.

## School Governors

Cllr. Mrs. Rowe reported that the new locks have now been ordered and asked whether grants would be available towards a new climbing frame at the school. Enquiries will be made.

## Highways

Cllr. Edward reported that there will be changes in the County Council's responsibilities as from 1<sup>st</sup>. April – no details are known as yet.

## **8. Finance**

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

BT, Internet services bill	105.71
Rec.Ground Committee, WSC Amenity Brant	1138.00
Cllr. McCoy, re-imburement – Cemetery shed keys & PP postage	6.30
Wessex Water, water rates for Cemetery	32.15
Wessex Water, water rates for Old School	130.92
Veolia Env.Services, refuse collection at Cemetery - bin hire	5.79
W.Som Scouts, grant for St.George's Day Parade	50.00
Mr. B. Hammett, Caretaker's wages	60.66
JMF Property Services, repair to slates on Old School roof	36.43
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	661.33
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, postage/internet & phone expenses Dec-March	102.86
HM Revenue & Customs, tax & NIC due	239.27
Cllr. M. Edward, cost of posts for sign at V.Hall Car Park	19.01
Mr. A. Binding, winter maintenance & grass cutting at Cemetery	390.00
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, postage for Parish Plan (PP) Questionnaire	13.92
Porlock Hardware, goods for maintenance	21.84
Blue Sky Alchemy, printing of PP Q'naire/envelopes/letter/labels	978.17
Minehead Hankut-my-do, self-defence classes from C & D grant	20.00
ALCA, Cemetry training seminar fee – Cllr MCCoy	35.00
Total:	<b>4047.36</b>

### **Bank Balances**

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	37,516.21
Total:	<b>37,616.21</b>

### **Allotment Trust Account**

Current Account	2516.92
Reserve Account	5336.05
Total:	<b>7852.97</b>

Car Park Account	5647.57
Standard Life Account	16,992.18

**14. Items for Report**

There were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.39pm