

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 9th. March 2011 following the Annual Parish Meeting

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 and Cllr. Sage
Also in attendance: Cllr. Jon Freeman (WSC/ENP)
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs. Russell and Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Cllr. Latham asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be corrected to make it clear that he had left the meeting during discussion on the Planning item for which he had declared a prejudicial interest.

3. **The Minutes** as previously circulated of the meeting held on 9th. February 2011 were unanimously confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment to the Declaration of Interest previously mentioned. Cllr. Edward requested an amendment under Item 6 – Matters for Report not on the Agenda – the word “reported” should have read “repaired”.

4. Matters for Report not on the Agenda

Cllr. Edward reported that the damaged grating over the culvert in Doverhay has now been replaced by a new grating.

It was reported that “A” boards are once again appearing outside The Countryman. The Vice-Chairman offered to visit jointly with the Tourist Association Chairman.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors’ Reports

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (SCC/ENP) had sent apologies for absence.
Cllr. Angela Palmer (WSC) confirmed that the discretionary rate relief for charities and non-profit making organisations will remain in place for the coming year, but that the reductions will now take place in the following year 2012/13. Several grants,

including those for the Moped Loan scheme, Artlife, Active Exmoor and C.L.O.W.N.S are all due to be discontinued.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered:

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

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

6/27/11/106 Proposed re-location of oil tank
Porlock Fire Station

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

6/27/11/107 Proposed extension to dwelling
Merryfield, Bossington Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to support and recommend approval, but with the proviso that the chimney is not demolished as this will give the building an unbalanced appearance

8. Finance

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

Mr. A. Binding, winter maintenance and grass cutting contract	430.00
Porlock Vale Newsletter, copy paper and other consumables	103.81
BT, internet for Parish Room	107.96
Wessex Water, water rates for Old School 14/8/10-8/2/11	81.42
Wessex Water, water rates for the Cemetery 1/4/11 -31/3/12	37.21
Mr. B. Hammett, caretaker's wages	60.66
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	820.20
HMRC, tax & NIC due	275.35
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's expenses – postage/phone/internet	27.90
Total:	1944.51

Bank Balances

At 28th. February 2011

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	47,034.62
Total:	47,134.62

Allotment Trust Account

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

Standard Life Account	20,406.60
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9. Matters Arising

9.1 Emergency Planning

The Clerk confirmed that the sub-committee will be meeting with the EA and the appointed Flood Wardens on Thursday, 24th. March at 9.30am.

9.2 Defra Consultation on the Governance Arrangements for National Parks

ENP had sent a copy of its response to the consultation. Cllr. Britnell will read and report back if necessary.

9.3 Cemetery Path

Cllr. McCoy reported that following his inspection of the path he would recommend asking C.J.Lynch for an estimate for digging out and re-surfacing the path. The damage has been caused by the mini diggers used for grave digging breaking up the tarmac surface. Cllr. McCoy had considered the risk implications posed by the poor surface and felt that the steps were still a low risk, and therefore adequately covered by the existing notices. However, now that the surface of the pathway is covered with loose material it poses a greater risk and Cllr. McCoy recommended that the Council upgrade its management of this area.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that an estimate for re-surfacing be obtained from C.J.Lynch towards the end of the year.

9.4 Land at High Bank

The Clerk confirmed that under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss 57 & 63, and the Local Government Act 1972 s.124, the cheque for the purchase price of £2,250 had been paid to Thorne Segar.

The solicitors had heard back from the Fire Service concerning the covenants. The service had requested confirmation that, in the interests of security, the Parish Council would replace and maintain the fencing. Also that no surface would be installed that would impede surface water run-off. The Clerk had confirmed that both of these issues had been considered and addressed and the solicitors will reply accordingly.

9.5 Access Road

Confirmation had been received from SCC that construction work on the road will begin in April.

The question of the safety of the bench seat at present on the footpath between Villes Lane and The Meadows had been mentioned by a resident and it was agreed that it will probably need to be moved. Cllr. Edward and Cllr. McCoy offered to look into this.

9.6 Parish Elections

The Clerk confirmed the timetable for the election process and had given each Councillor a Nomination paper – nominations need to be returned to WSC by 4th April.

10. Library Closure

The Chairman reported the results of the consultation questionnaire and a copy of the data had been given to each Councillor.

Following the Chairman's letter to Cllr. Maddock, Leader of SCC, expressing concern at the impact that the Library closure would have on other village amenities, Cllr. Christine Lawrence and Cllr. Frances Nicholson had arranged to meet the Chairman and Clerk on 24th March to discuss this matter.

11. Correspondence

WSC – Street Trading Consent – 2 Minute Pizza

This item had been discussed earlier when it had been agreed that there should be an objection on the grounds that it could adversely affect existing trade in the village.

ENP – Hawkcombe Coppicing

Information had been received on work being carried out as part of the ongoing management of the woodland as a National Nature Reserve.

SALC – ENPA Election of Parish Members

Notification had been received of the timetable for nominations which will need to be received by SALC by noon on 25th May.

SALC – West Area Meeting

The minutes and agenda for the meeting to be held on 10th March had been received.

Exmoor Panel Meeting

The minutes and agenda for the meeting to be held on 10th March had been received.

SCC – Bus Timetables

Notification had been received of a website to view proposed changes to services as a result of the budget cuts.

12. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Haynes reported on her first meeting as Parish Council representative. The Committee is very grateful for the Parish Council's support

The Pantomime Society has recently purchased an apron for the front of the stage and the Committee would like to know if all users of the Hall would find this useful if it was left permanently in place. The Council were generally of the opinion that most users would find it useful.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Gable reported that because there has recently been a duplication of events for the same date, an evening meeting has been organised at the Lorna Doone for organisations to exchange details.

The Committee felt that they owed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Jacobs for his leadership and organisation of the Committee during a very difficult time.

Doverly Manor

Cllr. Latham confirmed that the AGM will be on 22nd. March.

School Governors

Cllr. Mrs. Rowe reported that the Oak Wing is now open and that the Grand Opening ceremony on 7th. March had been very successful.

Highways

Cllr. Edward confirmed that trees on the route of the new Access Road have now been removed. The culvert at the top of Doverhay has a new grating and the culvert overflowing above Doverhay Knap has now been cleared out.

Wessex Water has now finished the water main replacement work. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent acknowledging the Council's appreciation of the way in which the project had been undertaken. Communication had been very good and the operatives on site had always been helpful and co-operative.

Cllr. McCoy mentioned that there was a build-up of mud and debris by the river wall in Parsons Street which he felt should be removed as pedestrians were walking further out into the roadway to avoid it.

Porlock Weir

Cllr. Jacobs confirmed that he had attended the last Traders' meeting. The Committee has asked for a bulk supply of salt for next winter, but Cllr. Edward did not feel that this would be possible as Highways have indicated that salt provision may not be available at all.

Cllr. Mrs. Gable asked for an update on the new road signs and it was confirmed that the first of the signs is due to go up this Spring

13. Items for Report

There were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.25pm