

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 11th. May 2011 at 7.30pm

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

1.Election of Chairman

On a proposal from Cllr. Britnall Cllr. Alan Wright was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr. Sage (holiday), Cllr. Jon Freeman(WSC/ENP) and Cllr. Frances Nicholson(SCC/ENP).

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

On a proposal from Cllr. Wright seconded by Cllr. Britnell, Cllr. Keith Jacobs was duly re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors to a new term of office. Congratulations had been sent to Cllr. Jon Freeman on his re-election to the District Council and also to newly elected Cllr. Karen Mills, unfortunately neither Councillor had been able to be present.

4. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting PC Bruce Strachan who reported on a burglary which had recently occurred at a business in Porlock, and to a minor incident of theft at the Visitor Centre where a collection box had been stolen. PC Strachan informed the Council that the biggest problem for the police on Exmoor at present is the theft of quad bikes, four of which had been stolen over the previous weekend. Although the Rural Watch project has assisted farmers with the marking of equipment, the police still need help from the public in reporting anything suspicious, however insignificant they think it may be.

The Chairman thanked PC Strachan for attending the meeting to bring this matter to the Council's attention.

5. Appointment of Committees and Representatives

It was unanimously agreed to re-elect all Council Committees and Representatives to outside bodies en-bloc. A new list will be issued with the next agenda.

Porlock Traders had requested the appointment of a liaison Councillor and Cllr. Mrs. Haynes agreed to take on this position.

6 . Declarations of Interest

All Councillors – Item 11 – Planning application No. 6/27/11/116 Rowberrow, Furzeland Road

As this application was for Cllr. Sage all Councillors declared a personal interest. Cllr. Sage was not present at the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Haynes- Item 11 as above. Declared a prejudicial interest as a near neighbour and left the meeting during the discussion and vote.

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

8. Matters for Report not on the Agenda

There were none.

9. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

10. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' Reports

There were no Councillors present.

11. Planning

The following applications were considered:-

6/27/11/114 Proposed installation of 10 photovoltaic panels
The Eaves, Doverhay

The entire coverage of the roof by panels was felt to be excessive, especially in a Conservation Area, and the Council were reluctant to support the application. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Russell should attend the Planning Surgery on Monday to ask for guidance on ENP rules covering photovoltaic panels.

6/27/11/116 Proposed removal of rear conservatory and construction of single storey extension, with removal of a covered area on front elevation and construction of a single storey infill extension.
Rowberrow, Furzeland Road

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

Planning consent has been granted for the following applications:-

- 6/27/10/124 Proposed installation of 20no.photovoltaic panels, Old School building
- 6/27/10/130 Proposed installation of gabion baskets to stabilise the footpath adjacent to stream – footpath between Hawkcombe stream and Cemetery.

12. Finance

The following accounts were approved and passed for payment:-

Recreation Ground Committee, hire of Pavilion, Flood Wardens meeting	25.00
EDF Energy, unmetered supply to Village Hall Car Park	51.83
Konica Minolta, lease of photocopier 14/5/11-13/8/11	333.86
Mr. A. Binding, grass cutting contract	870.00
Mr. B. Hammett, caretaker's wages	60.66
Porlock V.Hall Man. Cttee – first half of annual grant	500.00
Doverly Manor Committee - " " " " "	750.00
Porlock Tourist Assoc.Vis.Centre " " " "	2000.00
" " " –Lovelace Centre " " "	250.00
Rec,Ground Management Committee " " "	1500.00
Porlock Carnival Committee, grant (from fish van rent)	300.00
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's salary less tax	858.05
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, Clerk's expenses – postage/telephone & internet	32.94
Mrs. C. Fitzgerald, re-imburement of stationery costs	74.84
HMRC, tax & NIC due	227.40
Mr. A.J. Bullen, internal audit fee	266.19
Mr. A.J. Bullen, closedown a/c's 2010/11,set up a/c's for 2011/12	114.17
West Som.Free Press, ad. For Extraordinary P.Council meeting	24.00
EDF Energy, electricity bill for Parish Room/Visitor Centre	368.32
Total:	£ 8607.26

Allotment Trust

Grant to C.L.O.W.N.S. for Summer Play scheme in Porlock £150.00

Bank Balances

At 31st. March 2011

Current Account	100.00
Reserve Account	45,805.42
Total:	45,905.42

Allotment Trust Account

Current Account	747.70
Reserve Account	7,135.45
Total:	7,883.15

Standard Life Account

21,505.33

13. Matters Arising

13.1 Access Road – Start Date

The Clerk reported on the delay to the start date – this has been caused by the re-location of wildlife. Work cannot start until there has been no evidence of wildlife in the traps for five consecutive days, once this has happened the topsoil will have to be carefully removed under the supervision of an ecologist before building work can commence.

13.2 Somerset Waste Partnership Project - Meeting

The Chairman reported on the meeting which had been an initial information gathering exercise and had been largely concerned with the way in which the community operated and interacted.

14. Part-Night Street Lighting Scheme

Cllr. Britnell felt that the information given to the sub-committee at the meeting with SCC representatives had been misleading on the matter of electricity saving. He felt that when speaking of the savings in output by power stations the word “production” should be replaced by “capacity”.

It was agreed that the electorate attending the EGM on 18th. May should be consulted on whether they would support the introduction of this scheme in Porlock.

15. Telephone Box – Hawkcombe

A letter had been received from the Porlock Preservation Trust asking for permission to assume responsibility in perpetuity for the maintenance and management of the telephone box in Hawkcombe. The Clerk had ascertained from BT that this would be in order under the terms of their contract and details of this will be given to the Trust.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that all responsibility for the telephone box be passed to the Porlock Preservation Trust.

16. Trading from Old School Car Park

16.1 Fish & Chip Van

It was agreed that the 3 month trial had proved successful and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the trader be allowed to continue.

16.2 Pizza Van

Despite the Parish Council’s recommendation that the application for a Street Trader’s licence for Porlock be refused, WSC had granted the application and the van was already operating in the village. The trader had made a request to operate from the Old School Car Park and it was felt that, in the interests of road safety, it would be better for the sales area to be inside the Car Park rather than beside the road in High Bank. It was **RESOLVED** that a trial period of 3 months be put in operation with a donation of £10 being made to the Visitor Centre for each visit.

17. Exmoor National Park Authority – Election of a Parish Member

Nomination forms had been received and on a proposal from Cllr. Britnell seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Russell it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to nominate the Chairman, Cllr. Alan Wright.

18. Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting (EGM) – 18th. May

The Chairman updated the Council on the format of the meeting to consult the community on the various options available to deal with the funding required for additional services such as the Library and public toilets i.e. whether support for existing bodies such as the Village Hall, Visitor Centre and Recreation Ground etc. should be cut or whether additional funds should be precepted for.

18. Correspondence

SCC Highways – Surface Dressing Programme 2011

Details received as follows:-

B3224 Sminhayes Corner to Gupworthy Turn – approximately June
A39 Porlock Hill Cattle Grid to County Gate – approximately June

SALC – West Area Meeting

Agenda for 9th. June received. No Councillor available to attend.

National Citizen Service

Newsletter and poster received from Somerset Rural Youth Project.

19. Reports from Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Haynes reported that the Chairman of the Committee is very keen to attend the EGM on 18th. May if at all possible.

Unless a new director is found there may be no pantomime this year.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mrs. Gable reported that the Festival of Youth Football was a great success and paid tribute to the hard work put in by all concerned, in particular the Porlock Ladies who had been in charge of Cakes & Teas and who had raised over £650 in 2 days. It had been disappointing that there had been no offer of help from young volunteers.

Doverly Manor

There has been no meeting.

School Governors

The next meeting is on 26th. May.

There had been a very successful event at the School to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

Highways

Cllr. Edward confirmed that verge cutting will commence on 31st. May – “A” roads will be cut first.

It is not yet known how the SCC cuts will affect Highways but they hope to have sufficient funds to re-surface the western half of the High Street and part of Dunster Steep later this year.

Weed spraying will almost certainly be discontinued as part of the funding cuts.

Cllr. Edward felt that Highways were to be commended on the speed with which they had carried out repairs to the damaged manhole outside “The Castle”.

Porlock Weir

Cllr. Jacobs reported that traders are still requesting a supply of salt for next winter. It was confirmed that the situation regarding this is still not known.

The Agent for the Estate is still looking into the progress of the village signs.

There is still a problem with dog fouling – the traders would like another bin by the shop. Owing to the funding problems it was agreed that at present this could not be supplied.

The Beer Festival will be held on 1st – 3rd. July.

20. Items for Report

Porlock Football Club

It was confirmed that the Football Club had ended the season at the top of the League. The Clerk was asked to write to the team with the Council’s congratulations.

Rooks

Cllr. Mrs. Haynes reported that the rook colony in Villes Lane has grown considerably and is causing problems in gardens and by harassing small birds.

The Clerk was asked to establish what the regulations are concerning culling.

Gate in Churchyard

Cllr. Mrs. Russell reported that the hinges on the wrought iron gate leading from the rear of the Churchyard are in need of repair. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the repairs to be done.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.20pm