

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Andy Syddell, Cllr Bavalant Barber

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 7 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	<p>Public discussion of items on agenda</p> <p>a. A member of the public reported that he had done some further research into the rollout of Digital Voice. BT had informed him that when the programme is rolled out, anybody without a BT router can request that their property is not included in the migration and can continue to use their existing phone lines. Surprise was expressed at this due to the phasing out of the copper wire network. The Chairman offered to investigate further. It was agreed that a village team of Digital Champions would be established to help when the roll out commences.</p> <p>b. The Village Hall has received a letter from BT informing that 3G was due to be retired in January 2024. Mobile phones which do not have 4G may no longer work. Concern was expressed about a variety of other devices which may rely on a 3G signal, for example Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) equipment. People who have these items are advised to contact their suppliers to discuss the potential problems.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p>2023/060</p>	<p>Apologies / Declarations of Interest / Grant of Dispensations</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Gill Denny, Cllr Rebecca Knox and PCSO Alex Bishop.</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest or Grants of Dispensations.</p> <p>Katie Armstrong, who will become the Clerk on 1 December 2023, was welcomed to the meeting.</p>	

2023/061	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2023 The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Syddell and seconded by Cllr Barber.	
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Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2023

a. Pipplepen Solar Farm

Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) who have taken over the Pipplepen Solar Farm Project from Elgin Energy had recently visited the village to brief the Councillors. Key information included:

- **Construction is due to start in Q2 2025 and will take approximately 9 months**
- **Export of energy is due to start in Q2 2026. The aim is to export 32MW which is sufficient for 10,000 homes**
- **Construction traffic will arrive from the SE along the A37 and A356 and access the site along a specially constructed track. No construction traffic will go through the village.**
- **During the construction phase the footpath through the middle of the site may be affected. No final decision has been made.**
- **The operation will cease in 2066 and the land will be reinstated in 2067.**
- **South Perrott and North Perrott will each receive a Community Benefit Fund when operation commences. The use of this will be carefully regulated.**
- **SPR are producing a newsletter which will be sent to every household in the next few weeks.**

b. Wall in Manor Close

Weather and working party availability have meant the work has still not been possible. It was suggested that the work should now wait until the Spring.

c. Priority Services Register

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Scott-Malden for producing a leaflet highlighting the benefits of the Priority Services Register which had been

**Cllr
Scott-Malden/C
llr Syddell**

2023/062

	<p>distributed (via the P&P) to all households in South Perrott and Chedington.</p> <p>d. Christmas</p> <p>A discussion took place about the position of the Village Christmas Tree which has been ordered and is due for delivery at the beginning of December. It was agreed that a few meeting attendees would look at sites and make a decision.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p>2023/063</p>	<p>Millennium Green (MG)</p> <p>Martyn Gillingham reported that following the decision at the last meeting he had written to the solicitors acting for Natural England and received a response (20 October 2023) stating that Natural England were happy for the Parish Council to become the sole trustee of the MG. Documentation to accept the resignation of the existing trustees and confirm the PC as the sole trustee is now awaited. Once this has been completed and returned the transfer will be complete. It is hoped this will be in the next couple of months.</p> <p>The MG AGM will be held on 30 November 2023. This will be the final one under the current arrangements.</p> <p>Work is underway to form a steering committee for the MG. The members of this committee will become responsible for future decisions which will need approval from the PC. In addition to the steering group volunteers will be needed to form occasional working parties. If anybody is interested in becoming involved please contact Martyn Gillingham.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the PC insurance company had confirmed that there would be no additional charge for taking on responsibility for the MG. Discussions about banking arrangements are ongoing.</p>	<p>Martyn Gillingham/Clerk</p>

	<p>No MG apple juice would be available this year due to a poor apple crop.</p>	
<p>2023/064</p>	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>a. Applications handled since last meeting None</p> <p>b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting None</p> <p>c. New applications to be considered None</p> <p>d. Tree applications since last meeting None</p> <p>e. Other Planning Matters</p> <p>i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses The appeal against the enforcement order has still not yet been heard and no date has been set for the hearing. The Clerk will continue to monitor and chase.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Reports from Dorset Councillor, PCSO, River Warden and Footpaths Officer

a. Dorset Councillor

No report received

b. PCSO

Fortunately there is nothing specific to report for South Perrott but please be aware of a couple matters to be vigilant about. In October, a farmer in Mosterton reported vehicle tyre marks throughout a field and the body of a deer being found. It is possible this was linked to poaching, however, due to the types of marks and the deer being untouched, I believe this was young people using the field for racing around and doing “doughnuts”.

There were also a couple of incidents near Bridport last month where unknown offenders attempted entry into an outbuilding of one farm. However, there was someone staying in the building, who reacted to the offenders’ gaining entry, before they ran off. There was also another incident just outside Bridport, where unknown offenders broke into an outbuilding, disturbing the owners who reacted. Unfortunately they managed to get away with a chainsaw, but made off quickly once the owner was disturbed. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us. You can either call 101 or report online at www.dorset.police.uk. If you believe a crime is in

services to those properties for three days. (And when DIGITAL VOICE arrives in the village, this will mean no phone service either!)

Needless to say, I have been out clearing gullies in the village which have been blocked by the Autumn leaf fall. Excessive run off in Lecher Lane on 25th October, caused flooding of the lane at the bridge, which required work to widen the verge entrance to the drainage culvert, where the water then flows into Lecher Brook.

Storm Ciaran on 2nd November had a yellow warning for wind and rain, and an amber warning for very strong winds on the South Coast. It created flooding problems in the village, at the dip in the A356 outside the village on the way to Crewkerne, and outside "Sarum". I erected the "Road Flooded" signs here, as the water was nearly across the whole road width, but removed them about an hour later after I had cleared the blocked gullies, and the water level had then subsided. Luckily, we were spared the predicted high winds that caused damage elsewhere on the South Coast and Channel Islands.

The surface water run-off in Picket Lane deposits large quantities of aggregate and debris on the lane just before the bridge in times of heavy rainfall, when the highway drains become overloaded, but at least the water finds its way into the already swollen river!

Also, following another thunder and lightning storm last week, a property in Pipplepen Lane suffered an internet outage, which also took down the phone service, as the transfer to Digital Voice had already taken place!

Finally, the Environment Agency has issued its Ground Water Update as follows:-

'A very wet Spring pushed water levels back up through May and early June, and the rather miserable summer has led to the water table being several meters higher than we would normally expect in early October across West Dorset. This is likely to result in Groundwater Flood Alerts in West Dorset by Mid-November.'

Martyn Gillingham
River/Flood Warden

Tel: 01935 891931 Email:

mvcgillingham@btinternet.com

d. Footpaths Officer

We are experiencing a period of constant rainfall interspersed with 'named' storms bringing high winds and intensive downpours. The land which is already saturated from a wet summer, is now waterlogged in places and the water-table (the point below which the porous rocks are saturated), is rising. Excess run off from the land is causing increased erosion and as a consequence this has a detrimental effect on footpaths and bridleways. This includes Langmoor Lane, where the banks have been severely eroded for a while and which I have regularly reported to Dorset Council (DC). At last I am pleased to report that progress has been made and I am waiting for quotes from Dorset Council's Rangers to repair the damage to Langmoor Lane. Once the quotes have been received the parish council will consider payment options with DC to carry out the work. Unfortunately many of the footpaths and bridleways are extremely muddy and in parts waterlogged. Please take care whilst out walking and wear suitable footwear for the current conditions, and never impede the flow of water including run-off, by erecting temporary barriers. Any obstruction to the natural flow will cause further problems and it is illegal to create an artificial 'trip hazard', which can potentially lead to prosecution. Bearing these points in mind please continue to enjoy walking in our beautiful countryside.

**Sue Coutanche
Footpaths Officer**

Finance

a. Financial Status

Payments made since 12th September 2023

Clerking Work (Sep, Oct 23)	392.96
Payroll Administrator Salary (Sep, Oct 23)	12.28
Grass Cutting Donation to St Mary's PCC	500.00
External Audit – BDO LLP	252.00
Paint for Village Gateposts	46.00
Rubbish Bin Emptying	80.78
Remembrance Flag	19.78
Clerk's Back Pay	112.00
Payroll Administrator's Back Pay	3.50
Total	£1419.50

2023/066

Income since 12th September 2023

Precept Part 2	
Total	£3000.00

Bank balance as at 14th November 2023

	<p>New/expected payments for consideration – Insurance Renewal £238.62</p> <p>b. Insurance Renewal Following discussion it was agreed to renew the PC Insurance Policy with Community First at an annual premium of £238.62. Proposed Cllr Syddell, seconded Cllr Barber, unanimously approved.</p> <p>c. Budget/Precept The Chairman reported that a first draft of the budget/precept for 2024/5 had been produced by himself, Cllr Scott-Malden and the Clerk. Expected increased costs include salaries, clerk’s expenses, electoral costs (possible) and training for Clerk and new Councillors. The aim is to request a precept of £6000 from Dorset Council – the same amount requested for 2023/4. A final decision will be made at the meeting in January 2024 once the Dorset Council base rate has been received. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Clerk on request.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>2023/067</p>	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman The Chairman reported that Dorset Council are running a Community Tree Project which includes a Tree Fund to provide trees for communities and the appointment of volunteer Tree Wardens who will be provided with training and support. It was agreed that no more trees were needed for South Perrott but a Tree Warden would be a good idea. If anybody is interested please contact the Clerk for further details.</p> <p>b. Clerk Dates for the 2024 PC meetings are: 9 January, 12 March, 14 May, 9 July, 10 September, 12 November</p> <p>c. Members Nothing to report</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

2023/068	<p>Dates of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.05pm</p>	
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas</p> <p>a. A resident thanked the PC for purchasing a Remembrance Day Flag for the top of the Church Tower. It had received favourable comment from a number of residents. Further discussion took place about purchasing ‘A Tommy’, large poppies to attach to posts and a more robust flag which would last for several years.</p> <p>b. A question was raised about the cost of the Flood Relief Scheme work which had been done by the Environment Agency. Martyn Gillingham offered to investigate.</p>	Clerk/Chairman

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Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Gill Denny, Cllr Bavalant Barber

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	<p>Public discussion of items on agenda</p> <p>a. Concern was expressed about a road diversion sign sited at the end of Picket Lane. It was considered a dangerous location and it was requested that the sign be moved to a safer place.</p>	Clerk
2023/049	<p>Apologies / Declarations of Interest / Grant of Dispensations Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Andy Syddell and PCSO Alex Bishop.</p>	
2023/050	<p>Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 4th July 2023 The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were</p>	

	<p>signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Denny.</p>	
<p>2023/051</p>	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 4th July 2023</p> <p>a. 30mph signs at entrances to village The vegetation around these signs has been cut back. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Scott-Malden and his brother-in-law and also to Hilary and Richard Footitt for carrying out this work.</p> <p>b. Dog Waste on Footpath W42/1 (yellow brick road) Cllr Scott Malden reported that he would be putting up a sign reminding people to pick up any dog waste immediately after the meeting. (<i>This work has now been done.</i>)</p> <p>c. Wall in Manor Close Two attempts had been made to assemble a working party to do this work but both times bad weather meant it had not been possible to do the work. Another date will be set in the coming weeks.</p> <p>d. Pipplepen Solar Farm The Clerk reported that she had recently received an email from Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) who acquired the consented development of Pipplepen Solar Farm from Elgin Energy in June 2023. Since completing the acquisition, they have submitted material for the discharge of pre-commencement planning Condition 4 attached to the Somerset Council consent, a deconstruction and restoration plan. This is currently under determination. More details are available on Somerset Council’s public access website under reference 23/01878/DOC1. SPR have also met with the Distribution Network Operator and the land owner. Construction timetables are now being reviewed to ensure a realistic connection date to the National Grid. In the coming months SPR intend to send a newsletter to South Perrott residents to provide an update on the project and also hope to meet the Parish Council to discuss the project including timescales around construction and to revisit previous discussions between the Parish Council and Elgin Energy.</p>	<p>Cllr Syddell/Cllr Scott-Malden</p> <p>Clerk</p>

2023/0
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Millennium Green (MG) The Chairman reported that a questionnaire and letter about the future of the Millennium Green had been delivered to all households in South Perrott and Chedington (approximately 150) and a total of 72 responses had been received. The results to the three questions were as follows:

1. As a household, are you in favour of the Trusteeship of the Millennium Green passing to the South Perrott Parish Council?

56 in favour, 16 against

2. Would you be interested in joining a group of residents to help the Parish Council with the running of the Green?

13 offers of help, 59 did not offer

3. As a household, have you visited the Millennium Green in the last 12 months?

50 yes, 22 no

The Chairman said that the results showed very clearly (approximately 80% of returns) that residents wanted the Parish Council to become the sole trustee of the Millennium Green.

A discussion took place followed by a vote by Councillors. All those present (Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Gill Genny and Cllr Bee Barber) unanimously voted for South Perrott Parish Council to become the sole trustee of the Millennium Green.

Martyn Gillingham, Secretary to the Millennium Green, thanked the Councillors for their work organising and collating the survey and for their decision. He went on to outline the next steps which would include the legal process of transferring the trusteeship to the Parish Council (estimated to take two or three months) and the subsequent deed of release for the current trustees.

During this period a committee responsible for planning the way forward for the Millennium Green would be set up. It was agreed that a Councillor would need to be on the Millennium Green Committee to act as the link and that the Clerk would investigate insurance cover for when the Parish Council becomes the sole trustee.

Martyn
Gillingham/Clerk

<p>2023/0 53</p>	<p>High Speed Boadband</p> <p>Martyn Gillingham reported that he had done some investigation into the availability of ultrafast broadband (ideal for home working) in South Perrott. Using a central South Perrott postcode, he had contacted three companies (Wessex Internet, Jurassic Fibre and BT Openreach) all of whom reported that ultrafast broadband was not currently available in this area. He opined that the Parish Council should take this up with the relevant companies on behalf of the village.</p> <p>A follow up discussion about the Priority Services Register took place. This nationwide service provides extra help and support during a power cut for the elderly, very ill or disabled people or those reliant of power for medical equipment. It was suggested that residents are made aware of this useful facility and Cllr Scott- Malden offered to produce a leaflet to be distributed with the next issue of the Pump and Pound highlighting the benefits and how to register. (There is also a Priority Servies Register for water companies who offer similar support for customers in vulnerable situations.)</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Cllr Scott-Malden</p>
<p>2023/0 54</p>	<p>Digital Voice</p> <p>The analogue network that most home phones work on will be switched off by 2025. The new home phone service will be run on the broadband network with current home phones being plugged into the back of the broadband hub. BT Openreach will contact customers when it is time to switch over and provide simple instructions about how to do the switch. Envisaged problems include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What happens if there is a power cut? BT suggest that a mobile is used instead but this comes with problems if there is no mobile coverage. Mention has been made of providing a battery back-up pack for the hub for customers but no final details are available. 2. What happens if a customer doesn't have broadband? BT do not have an answer for this! <p>It was suggested that when the roll out takes place a team of Digital Champions is established in South Perrott to help those who request assistance with switching. The possibility of holding information/training sessions in the Village Hall and also a leaflet with guidance were briefly discussed.</p>	

<p>2023/0 55</p>	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>a. Applications handled since last meeting None</p> <p>b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting None</p> <p>c. New applications to be considered None</p> <p>d. Tree applications since last meeting None</p> <p>e. Other Planning Matters</p> <p>i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses The appeal against the enforcement order has still not yet been heard and no date has been set for the hearing. The Clerk will continue to monitor and chase.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>2023/0 56</p>	<p>Reports from Dorset Councillor, Police Officer, River Warden and Footpaths Officer</p> <p>a. Dorset Councillor No report received</p> <p>b. River Warden Following the warmest June on record, July proved to be the sixth wettest month since records began in 1836, and August weather has proved to be unsettled, and a disappointing end to the summer. The A356 outside Sarum has flooded on occasions, although not the whole road width, so has still been passable. During one of my occasional riverbank inspections, I noticed a colony of Himalayan Balsam thriving on the riverbank at the rear of one of the properties. Riparian owners are responsible for maintaining the riverbank alongside their property, which includes the removal of this invasive plant. To alert all riparian owners, I included an article in the August/September edition of Pump and Pound, and also called at the property in question. I was assured that the plants would be removed. Martyn Gillingham River/Flood Warden Tel: 01935 891931 Email: mcvgillingham@btinternet.com</p> <p>c. Footpaths Officer I'm pleased to report that since the last meeting one of Dorset's Rangers has repaired the stile on the Parrett Trail that is adjacent to the eastern side of the Millennium Green across which this footpath traverses. The Ranger has also cut back the overgrowth along the Baileys Lane bridleway/footpath, as well as the overgrowth along Langmoor Lane, although the riverbank in this Lane is still awaiting repair and I will follow this up again. Dorset Council, on behalf of the Environment Agency has raised a closure order for the bridleway that crosses the spillway. This is a continuation order from the closure order that has been in place since 2021. It is unlikely that this bridleway will open before late November 2024. Recently I have not received any reports of issues that need</p>	

	<p>addressing; however please continue to keep me informed of any problems encountered on our local rights of way. Sue Coutanche SP Footpath Officer</p> <p>d. PCSO Nothing to report. Next attendance at the South Perrott Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 7th October. PCSO Alex Bishop</p>															
2023/057	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Financial Status Payments made since 4th July 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Clerking Work (Jul, Aug 23)</td> <td>392.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payroll Administrator Salary (Jul, Aug, Jun 23)</td> <td>12.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cement for Wall in Manor Close</td> <td>45.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rubbish Bin Emptying</td> <td>80.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£531.38</td> </tr> </table> <p>Income since 4th July 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bank balance as at 12th September 2023 £6052.48</p> <p>b. Donation to St Mary's PCC to assist with Grass Cutting A donation of £500 to St Mary's PCC to assist with grass cutting (as agreed when the 2023-24 budget was set) was approved. Proposed Cllr Scott Malden, seconded Cllr Denny, approved unanimously.</p> <p>c. Paint Cllr Scott-Malden requested a budget of £50 for paint and other materials to refurbish the gateposts at either end of the village. Proposed Cllr Scott-Malden, seconded Cllr Barber, approved unanimously.</p>	Clerking Work (Jul, Aug 23)	392.96	Payroll Administrator Salary (Jul, Aug, Jun 23)	12.28	Cement for Wall in Manor Close	45.36	Rubbish Bin Emptying	80.78	Total	£531.38	None	£0.00	Total	£0.00	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Scott-Malden</p>
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2023/058	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman Nothing to report b. Clerk Nothing to report c. Members Nothing to report</p>															
2023/059	<p>Dates of Future Meetings Tuesday 14th November at 6.30pm in the Village Hall The meeting closed at 7.45pm</p>															
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas It was requested that at the next meeting the topic of Christmas in South Perrott was on the agenda.</p>															

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Andy Syddell, Cllr Gill Denny, Cllr Bavalant Barber

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	<p>Public discussion of items on agenda</p> <p>a. Recently there have been a greatly increased number of farm vehicles travelling between Shepherds Farm and Picket Farm. The need is recognised but they wondered if advance notice could be given if a particularly busy time is known about.</p> <p>b. It was reported that the 30mph signs at the entrances to the village on the A356 were obscured by vegetation.</p> <p>c. A road diversion sign at the junction of Picket Lane and the A356 was in a bad position and would be better on the other side of the junction.</p> <p>d. There is an increase in the amount of dog waste on footpath W42/1 (the yellow brick road). Additional signs reminding people of their responsibility to collect waste are to be erected.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2023/038	<p>Apologies / Declarations of interest / grant of dispensations</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from PCSO Alex Bishop.</p>	
2023/039	<p>Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 9th May 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Scott-Malden and seconded by Cllr Syddell.</p>	

<p>2023/040</p>	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 9th May 2023</p> <p>a. Pipplepen Solar Farm</p> <p>No further information on when the project will start has been received to date. The Clerk will continue to monitor</p> <p>b. Wall in Manor Close</p> <p>Cllr Syddell reported that a group of residents had met at the wall and decided on the best way forward. This involves reducing a section of the wall to ground level and making safe the walls on either side. A maximum of 6 bags of lime mortar would be required. Approval was given for expenditure of £50 to cover costs. Proposed by Cllr Scott-Malden, seconded by Cllr Barber.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Scott-Malden</p>
<p>2023/041</p>	<p>Millennium Green</p> <p>The Chairman reported that following the Millennium Green meeting on 16th June, a group of residents had drawn up a draft questionnaire and letter which was to be delivered to all households in South Perrott and Chedington. This had only recently been received by the Parish Council who planned to review and make any amendments before it was distributed. Thanks were expressed to all those who had worked on the documents.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>

2023/0
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Planning Matters

a. Applications handled since last meeting

None

b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting

None

c. New applications to be considered

i. P/LBC/2023/03069 Location: Maple Cottage

Proposal: Retain removal of Inglenook and cement screed over flagstone floor. Replace windows and doors. Remove internal wooden panelling.

After discussion it was decided that as this involved a listed building and some very technical changes to windows, doors and fireplaces, the Councillors did not feel qualified to comment on the planning application. It was suggested that advice was sought from DAPTC.

Following discussions with DAPTC on 5 July 2023 the following comment was submitted:

Council is minded to support the planning application. Because of the specialist and technical nature of the changes; council would ask that the case officer and planning authority take steps to ensure the application meets the requirements for a property that is listed. Furthermore, that it consults with any specialists in this area and ensures national policy guidance is not compromised. Should the application be amended or changed in any way we would wish to be re-consulted.

d. Tree applications since last meeting

None

e. Other Planning Matters

i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses

Chairman

	<p>The appeal against the enforcement order has not yet been heard and no date has been set for the hearing. The Clerk will continue to monitor and chase.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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2023/0
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Reports from Dorset Councillor, Police Officer, River Warden and Footpaths Officer

a. Dorset Councillor

No report received

b. River Warden

No issues to report have arisen during the prolonged period of dry weather.

I have, however, sought clarification from the Environment Agency on the status of the reinstatement works at South Perrott Reservoir. The two year period for grass reinstatement will expire in November 2024, and after this date, access across the reservoir area will be permitted, as before.

Martyn Gillingham

River/Flood Warden

Tel: 01935 891931 Email: mcvgillingham@btinternet.com

c. Footpaths Officer

There are a number of issues that need addressing including the collapsed bank in Langmoor Lane, which is still awaiting repair and the river section of Bailey's Lane, which is very overgrown and needs an industrial strimmer to cut back the foliage. Of greater concern is the stile at the end of the Millennium Green. This has eroded and as a result of its reduced weighing bearing capacity there may be an accident. This stile is used regularly by walkers/runners using the Parrett Trail. Dorset Council (DC) was notified of the issue on 26/06/23 and not only have I received an incident number (MNT60438), but also a phone call from the Senior Ranger to say that he hoped that Stuart, who is one of his team, would be coming here to inspect within the next week. In the next 10 days I will check to see if a repair has been made.

The Environment Agency (EA) Flood Relief Scheme land adjacent to the Millennium Green (MG) remains closed to all users. We have now been advised by the EA that it will remain closed until November 2024. In the meantime the EA will continue to cut the MG and access will remain either through the

Baileys Lane bridleway (wellies are required), or via Ian Neal's permissive path.

The Senior Ranger (Russell Goff) is also responsible for all verges, and DC owned green spaces in West Dorset. Recently one of his team cut the grass on the corner of Manor Close where both a bench and litter bin is situated. I advised the Ranger and the operative of our appreciation especially by those who live in Manor Close.

Please continue to keep me informed of any issues encountered on our local rights of way. Thank you.

Sue Coutanche

SP Footpath Officer

d. PCSO

We had a report of a possible dwelling burglary in South Perrott, believed to have occurred at sometime between May and June. Luckily the items believed stolen, were located on the premises in a different location that thought to be.

Fortunately, there is nothing else to feed back for the Village at this time, but further afield, there was a theft of approximately 40 lambs from an isolated field in the Blackdown area. This is quite rare for this area, but worth bearing in mind, should you see any suspicious activity around livestock fields. Any concerns about suspicious activity, call us at the time on 101, or call 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.

PCSO Alex Bishop

<p>2023/0 44</p>	<p>Report from DAPTC Western Area Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Denny reported that she had recently attended the DAPTC Western area meeting. The three main topics were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Climate Change Emergency – Bridport and Lyme Regis Town Councils have strategies in place, including Energy Champions. ■ Broadband/Mobile Connectivity – work is being done to improve all types of connectivity (mobile coverage as well as internet), but in “pockets” within West Dorset. DAPTC is arranging a webinar with Dorset Council and Jurassic Fibre (the contractors), to discuss the roll out and the experience from other local authorities. ■ Recruitment of Councillors – it was acknowledged by both town and parish councils that there is often difficulty in recruiting new and retaining existing councillors. There is also a very high turnover of Clerks. 	
<p>2023/0 45</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p>A brief discussion took place about a 20mph limit throughout the village. The Chairman reported that it was very difficult to get this imposed but if there was enough demand from the residents the Parish Council would investigate.</p>	

2023/0
46

Finance

a. Financial Status

Payments made since 9th May 2023

Clerking Work (May, Jun 23)	392.96
Payroll Administrator Salary (May, Jun 23)	21.14
Total	£405.24

Income since 9th May 2023

None	
Total	£0.00

New cheques/payments for consideration

Manor Close Wall Project	50.00
Total	£50.00

Bank balance as at 4th July 2023 £6583.86

2023/0 47	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>b. Clerk</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>c. Members</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
2023/0 48	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 12th September at 6.30pm in the Village Hall</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.37pm</p>	
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas</p> <p>It was requested that at the next meeting the topics of High Speed Broadband in West Dorset and the implications of the introduction of Digital Voice in South Perrott are on the agenda.</p>	

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 6.30pm the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Andy Syddell, Cllr Gill Denny Scott-Malden

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 4 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	<p>Public discussion of items on agenda</p> <p>A resident asked if Dorset Council would cut the verge at the junction of Lecher Lane and the A3066 as visibility is very difficult.</p>	Clerk

2023/02 8	<p>Apologies / Declarations of interest / grant of dispensations</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bee Barber, Martyn Gillingham (River Warden) and PCSO Bishop.</p>	
2023/02 9	<p>Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 14th March 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Scott-Malden and seconded by Cllr Syddell.</p>	
2023/03 0	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 14th March 2023</p> <p>a. Pipplepen Solar Farm</p> <p>No further information on when the project will start has been received to date. The Clerk will continue to monitor</p> <p>b. Wall in Manor Close</p> <p>A group of volunteers will meet to discuss the way forward during the week of 15th May.</p> <p>c. Millennium Green</p> <p>The meeting to discuss the future of the Millennium Green will be held on Friday 16th June at 6pm in the Village Hall. The meeting will be advertised in the Pump and Pound, on the PC website and on the village noticeboard. All residents are encouraged to attend to hear possible options and to give their views. This will be followed up by a survey (paper and online) which will be available to all households.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>2023/03 1</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>a. Annual Village Meeting The Annual Village Meeting was held on Friday 21st April 2023. It was well attended by residents. Chris Loder MP was in attendance for the meeting and following a short presentation he answered questions from residents. A copy of the minutes of the meeting can be found on the noticeboard and PC website (www.southperrottparishcouncil.org)</p> <p>b. Coronation Tea Party Cllr Scott-Malden reported that the Coronation Tea Party held on Sunday 7th May from 3-5pm had been a big success with over 70 attendees. Thanks were expressed to John and Jane Baker (and their helpers) for providing a fantastic buffet which people enjoyed outside in the sunshine in the Village Hall Car Park which had been decorated for the occasion. Thanks were also expressed to the people who had helped with the set up and to Caroline Deakin (Clipper teas) for providing the tea. Customised aluminium water flasks were distributed to the children of the village to mark the Coronation, with the remainder being quickly sold to residents.</p> <p>c. Millennium Green The meeting to discuss the future of the Millennium Green will be held on Friday 16th June at 6pm in the Village Hall. The meeting will be advertised in the Pump and Pound, on the PC website and on the village noticeboard. All residents are encouraged to attend to hear possible options and to give their views. This will be followed up by a survey (paper and online) which will be available to all households.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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<p>2023/03 2</p>	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>a. Applications handled since last meeting</p> <p>None</p> <p>b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting</p> <p>None</p> <p>c. New applications to be considered</p> <p>None</p> <p>d. Tree applications since last meeting</p> <p>None</p> <p>e. Other Planning Matters</p> <p>i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the owners of the Coach and Horses (Parrett Hotel) had lodged an appeal against the enforcement notice which they had been served on 17th March 2023. This means that the case will be assigned to a Planning Inspector in Bristol who will liaise with the owners to decide how the appeal will be heard. The three options are written evidence, public hearing or public enquiry. The Clerk was asked to continue to monitor and chase.</p> <p><i>***NB. On 11th May 2023 a letter was received from Dorset Council informing that the appeal had been assigned and that the case would be decided by written evidence. The closing date for representations to be submitted is 8th June 2023. A date for when the appeal is decided is unknown.</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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Reports from Dorset Councillor, Police Officer, River Warden and Footpaths Officer

a. Dorset Councillor

No report received

b. River Warden

Despite the wettest March for 40 years, there have been no instances of flooding in the village.

However, I had to clear the gulleys on the A356 at Lecher Bridge on the way to Crewkerne on 18 March as the road had become almost impassable to cars. Unless the gulleys are kept clear of leaves and other roadside debris, this frequently happens in times of heavy rainfall when water pours down the tarmac road surface and settles in the dip in the road.

Luckily, the village suffered no adverse affects from Storm Noa on 12 April.

2023/03
3

Martyn Gillingham

River/Flood Warden

Tel: 01935 891931 Email: mcvgillingham@btinternet.com

c. Footpaths Officer

As I write I am still awaiting contact and hopefully a visit from West Dorset's Senior Ranger, to address some of the outstanding issues that were identified in the last update. These include the erosion to the bank in Langmoor Lane and the sign post in Chedington Lane. Added to this is now the overgrown state of Bailey's Lane especially the river section where as well as a proliferation of foliage there are also some large overhanging branches.

Bailey's Lane is both a bridleway and footpath which forms part of the Parrett Trail. Currently the bridleway is closed and will remain so for the foreseeable future. When it eventually is reopened it will follow the spillway which is part of the Flood Relief Scheme. The Millennium Green, as always, can continue to be accessed via the permissive path across Ian Neal's field. The Environment Agency no longer permits access onto the Flood Relief Scheme and the gates remain locked. (This has

	<p>always been a privilege and not a right) The restrictions are clearly shown in the signage at the top of the Engineers Road, which is now a dead end.</p> <p>Although we have outstanding scenery o our doorstep, we are also surrounded by beautiful coast and countryside which is within easy reach. There are some lovely walks that you may like to tnry. These can be downloaded at www.livewelldorset.co.uk/get-active/walk-this-may.</p> <p>Happy walking and do remember to wear the appropriate footwear as many of the paths are very muddy!</p> <p>Sue Coutanche</p> <p>SP Footpath Officer</p> <p>d. PCSO</p> <p>No report received due to PCSO Bishop being unwell. He will be attending South Perrott Café on the following Saturdays – 3rd June, 1st July and 29th July from approximately 0930 – 1030.</p> <p>PCSO Alex Bishop</p>	
<p>2022/03 4</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

<p>2022/02 0</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Financial Status</p> <p>Payments made since 14th March 2023</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 434 1155 902"> <tr> <td>Clerking Work (Mar, Apr 23)</td> <td>392.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rubbish Bin Emptying</td> <td>69.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coronation Event Flyer</td> <td>20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payroll Administrator Salary</td> <td>21.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SID Replacement Battery</td> <td>54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DAPTC Annual Subscription</td> <td>92.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Training</td> <td>54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£703.58</td> </tr> </table> <p>Income since 14th March 2023</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 981 1066 1095"> <tr> <td>Precept Part 1</td> <td>£3000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£3000.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>New cheques/payments for consideration</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1173 987 1328"> <tr> <td>Manor Close Wall Project</td> <td>300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£300.00</td> </tr> </table>	Clerking Work (Mar, Apr 23)	392.96	Rubbish Bin Emptying	69.24	Coronation Event Flyer	20.00	Payroll Administrator Salary	21.14	SID Replacement Battery	54.00	DAPTC Annual Subscription	92.24	Councillor Training	54.00	Total	£703.58	Precept Part 1	£3000.00	Total	£3000.00	Manor Close Wall Project	300.00	Total	£300.00	
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<p>2023/02 1</p>	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>b. Clerk</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>c. Members</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>																									

<p>2023/02 2</p>	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 4th July at 6.30pm in the Village Hall</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.32pm</p>	
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

In Attendance

Jonathan Baker, Chairman SPPC

1 SP Parish Councillor

36 members of the public

Clerk, SPPC

Jonathan Baker, Chairman of South Perrott Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the attendees that, despite him chairing the meeting, this was not a Parish Council meeting but an opportunity to discuss issues, improvements or ideas that could benefit the village.

1. Reservoir Update

Two members of the public reported that they had seen workmen from Perrys (the contractors) at the reservoir and had learnt that the sluices were not working correctly and that some of the remedial work would need re-doing. Martyn Gillingham, River Warden, responded that he had spoken to the Environment Agency about this and they were unaware of any further work being required and the next inspection would take place in two year's time.

There was also a question about the bridleway across the spillway still being closed. Sue Coutanche, Footpaths Officer, explained that the bridleway would re-open once the new grass had established itself.

Following the meeting Martyn Gillingham spoke to the Environment Agency again and reports:

I have spoken again to the Environment Agency, but to a different person, and I have now been given a different story. Apparently, there is a problem with the construction of one of the monitoring manholes, near to the entrance to the Millennium Green, which needs resolving, but it is a simple job that would take no more than a couple of days, at most, to

fix. Access would be obtained from within the reservoir site, within the area currently fenced off.

2. Pipplepen Solar Farm

The Chairman reported that both South Somerset District Council and Dorset Council had approved the planning application for Pipplepen Solar Farm. The date for work to start is unknown but should be promulgated shortly.

3. Coronation Event

Tom Scott-Malden (Cllr) reported that plans for the Coronation Tea Party on Sunday 7th May from 3-5pm were well underway and requested that anybody who had not yet responded to the invitation should do so asap. Insulated double skinned water bottles are due to be given to the children of the village to mark the event. Thanks were expressed to Jane and Jonathan Baker for offering to provide the food for the occasion.

4. Chris Loder MP

Chris Loder was welcomed to the meeting and gave a short presentation. Topics included:

- **Immigration.** Mr Loder pointed out the need to distinguish between genuine refugees and economic migrants. The former would receive help from the UK but the numbers of the latter were overwhelming and needed to be managed which was why legislation was currently going through Parliament. He also spoke about the barge which is due to be moored in Portland Harbour to accommodate 500 young single men from June 2023. Various questions were asked about how this scheme was going to be managed and whether full attention had been paid to the affect this would have on the local area
- **The Environment.** Mr Loder explained why he had recently voted against a bill to immediately ban the discharge of all sewage into water courses. His reasoning was that an immediate ban would be exorbitantly expensive (over £600 billion) which would mean household water bills would rise. He considered it much better to bring in measures over a longer period but in the meantime to ensure water companies were scrutinised closely and fined for any breaches resulting in shareholders dividends being affected.
- **Energy prices.** Mr Loder spoke about his campaign to tackle the differences in fuel costs in different towns. For example, at one time fuel at Morrisons in Bridport was 20p a litre more expensive than in Yeovil. Things were improving but still not perfect. He also mentioned his failure to understand why energy companies who provide renewable energy had increased their prices so much.

Following this he answered questions from the public. Topics included off-grid homes and the unfairness between urban and rural communities and the local NHS with particular reference to appointments. Mr Loder encouraged anybody who wished to take these (or other topics) further to get in touch with him at hello@chrisloder.co.uk

5. Other Items

a. Village Fair

Michelle Hayes, co-ordinator, reported that the fair was beginning to take shape and that she was receiving help and useful information from various people. She stressed that this was an event for the village, encouraging people to come forward and get involved – the more the merrier.

b. Millennium Green

A specific meeting to discuss the future of the Millennium Green is to held in June 2023.

c. Phone Mast

A new phone mast to improve mobile coverage with in the village was promised some years ago but this is not going to happen. EE were awarded the government contract to improve coverage but so far have failed to deliver. It is hoped that the EE signal will improve in due course, possibly by increasing the heights of the existing masts in Chedington and Huish.

d. Phone Kiosk

It was reported that the door to the phone kiosk in The Pound is currently jammed.

e. Manor Close Wall

Following a discussion it was agreed to re-visit the options for fixing the wall in Manor Close. A site visit will be arranged in due course.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

SOUTH PERROTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 6.30pm the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Bee Bavalant, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 7 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	Public discussion of items on agenda	

	<p>A resident requested that thanks to the Dorset Street Cleaning team were recorded for the thorough work they had done during a recent visit.</p>	
2023/011	<p>Apologies / Declarations of interest / grant of dispensations</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gill Denny and PCSO Bishop.</p>	
2023/012	<p>Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Scott-Malden and seconded by Cllr Barber.</p>	
2023/013	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2023</p> <p>a. Pipplepen Solar Farm</p> <p>Planning was approved by SSDC during their determination meeting in January. A start date for the project is not yet known. Clerk will continue to monitor</p> <p>b. Wall in Manor Close</p> <p>To date no volunteers have stepped forward to help with this project. The Chairman mentioned that he had spoken to a builder who thought it would cost approximately £3000 to rebuild the wall. It was agreed that the PC do not currently have the finance for this and therefore the planned work by volunteers would be pursued. It was suggested that a date is selected and then another request for help is circulated on the website, noticeboard and Pump and Pound.</p> <p>c. New Payroll Administrator</p> <p>Vicky Reed has accepted the position of Payroll Administrator. A contract has been drawn up for 30 minutes a month. The contract starts on 1 April 2023.</p> <p>d. Visit by Chris Loder to Annual Village Meeting on Friday 21st April 2023 at 6pm</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Chairman/Vice Chairman</p>

	<p>A new date for this meeting has been arranged. All residents welcome to come and meet their MP.</p>	
2023/014	<p>Co-option of New Councillor</p> <p>Andy Syddell and Richard Footitt spoke to the meeting, giving a little background about themselves and their reasons for wishing to be a South Perrott Parish Councillor. After discussion and thanks to both for their interest, the Councillors voted and Andy Syddell was co-opted as the new Councillor.</p>	Clerk
2023/015	<p>Millennium Green</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Councillors had met after the last PC meeting to have a discussion about the future of the Millennium Green Trust (MGT). It was decided that the way ahead was to hold a public meeting in June to give residents the chance to come and ask questions of the MGT Trustees and the Parish Council. This would be followed up by a survey (paper and online) to all households. After these events have taken place the Parish Council will make a decision whether to take on responsibility for the Millennium Green.</p> <p>Martyn Gillingham, Secretary to the MGT, reported that following the resignation of David Lines in January there was currently only one Trustee, Peter Simmons. Jonathan Baker and Gill Denny had both offered to become Trustees as an interim measure but this had not yet been pursued because it requires the drawing up of a legal document by Natural England and it was thought it would be better to wait for this to be done when the future of the Trust has been decided.</p>	Clerk/ Chairman/ MGT
2023/016	<p>Coronation Event</p> <p>Councillor Scott-Malden reported that plans for the village Coronation Event were coming together well. It is to take the form of a Tea Party which will be held on Sunday 7th May from 3 – 5pm in the Village Hall. In addition to refreshments there will be competitions for the Best Decorated Cupcake (16 years and under) and the Best Decorated Cake (adults). Children of the village will be presented with a commemorative aluminum flask. A flyer with all the information will be circulated with the next edition of the</p>	Cllr Scott-Malden

	Pump and Pound. RSVPs to Cllr Scott-Malden will be required by 1 May 2023 to help with planning.	
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2023/0
17

Planning Matters

a. Applications handled since last meeting

None

b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting

None

c. New applications to be considered

None

d. Tree applications since last meeting

i. P/TRC/2023/00803 – Hunters Hatch

e. Other Planning Matters

i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk continued to liaise with the Planning Enforcement Team at Dorset Council. The most recent update indicated that the officer assigned to the case had re-visited the property and would be sending a Planning Contravention Notice to the owner requesting further information. Once a response has been received the officer will have a clearer understanding of the way forward. How quickly any of this will happen is unclear, particularly as the officer only works part-time and has a high workload.

The Clerk was asked to continue to monitor and chase.

*****NB. On 17th March 2023 the following update was received from Dorset Council:**

For information:

The owners of the Coach and Horses Hotel (The Perrott Hotel) and the owners parents have this morning been served with an Enforcement Notice to reverse the unauthorised changes to the Hotel. The compliance period has been set at 12 months. As with all Enforcement Notices it comes with a right of Appeal which must be exercised

Clerk

within 28 days. If the right appeal is not exercised the notice comes into effect on 17th April 2023.

Grounds for appealing an enforcement notice can be found at [Appeal an enforcement notice: When you can appeal – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)***

2023/0
18

Reports from Dorset Councillor, Police Officer, River
Warden and Footpaths Officer

a. Dorset Councillor

No report received

b. River Warden

The River Warden reported that there was nothing to report.

Martyn Gillingham

River/Flood Warden

Tel: 01935 891931 Email: mcvgillingham@btinternet.com

c. Footpaths Officer

As spring approaches and I continue to recover from my accident, I'm looking to being out and about again on our local footpaths. In the meantime my reliable "foot soldiers" have continued to update me on the condition of the paths and any issues that need addressing. It would seem that there have been few recent issues although there are some outstanding ones. These are: Langmoor Lane – on the south (Mosterton) side of the 'Coffin' bridge, where the bank is badly eroded. As it is also a bridleway it is difficult for horses to traverse this section. Also the first gate on the right that leads into the other footpath to Mosterton is difficult to open due to a build-up of mud under the gate. This is the responsibility of the tenant farmer who last year planted his maize crop over part of the footpath.

Chedington Lane junction with Picket Lane. The silver arm of the footpath sign post in the direction of West Axnoller/Buckham Mills has broken off. Once again (latest on 10/03/23), I have emailed these issues to the Senior Ranger, West Dorset & Coast. He promised to make a site visit earlier this year and I'm still awaiting his response.

At this time of year everything is "springing" into life, with a profusion of daffodils and crocuses on the banks and borders in the village, and it won't be long until the woods have a carpet of bluebells too. A delight to the eye! It is also the time when all vegetation is growing in abundance, so if your property is next to a footpath or walkway, please

ensure that overhanging vegetation is cut back especially where it is a hazard to users.

As the weather improves and the days become longer keep fit and health whilst enjoying our local footpaths.

Sue Coutanche

SP Footpath Officer

d. PCSO

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies for the meeting but reported that he had attended the recent South Perrott Coffee Morning on 11 March.

PCSO Bishop stated that he had nothing to report specifically for the village but provided some advice on how to prevent being scammed. This included drawing attention to the following websites which have a lot of scam prevention advice: www.dorset.police.uk, or www.actionfraud.police.uk. He also advised screening all calls, either by using an answerphone to get any unexpected or unsolicited calls, or to speak to your phone provider about call screening services. Using these mean that you do not speak directly to the scammer and they do not have the chance to convince you of why they're calling. The other best practice is to hang up on any person calling on behalf of a company, whether they say they're from BT, your Bank, Microsoft, Amazon, etc, this is likely false. If you think a call may be genuine, hang up, wait until the line is clear (check for a dial tone) and call that company back directly (not using any number given by a caller). Remember to NEVER give out any personal or financial details (banks will never ask you to confirm any details if they call you) and never download anything a caller asks you too as this may allow them to download software to your device, or be able to control it and access information remotely.

He also mentioned that there have been many complaints across the patch of late, relating to issues with dogs. Where people have concerns for the behaviour of a dog, or the ownership of a dog, or if that dog has attacked another dog, please report these concerns or dog on dog attacks to the Dog Warden, through the Environmental Health team at Dorset Council. You can email them via this link, or call

	<p>them on 01305 221000 – www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dog-warden-service.</p> <p>If a dog is chasing livestock, or attacks a person, this is a criminal matter that can be reported to us on 101, or online at www.dorset.police.uk. If you are able to record any incidents, this will assist with any enquiry/investigation. For those who are dog owners/walkers, please bear in mind responsibilities you have to control the dog/s. If you are walking into a field to let them run, please be sure the field is clear of other animals before letting them loose. Any incident where a dog worries or attacks livestock or another dog or human, is the responsibility of the owner/walker.</p> <p>PCSO Alex Bishop</p>	
<p>2022/0 19</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p>a. A3066/Lecher Lane Junction</p> <p>The Chairman reported that there had been another accident at the LecherLane/A3066 junction which had involved attendance by the Air Ambulance. A Councillor also reported a further near miss. Following discussion about how dangerous this junction continues to be, it was requested that anybody who has a near miss or is told of a near miss reports the incident to the Clerk to log. In the meantime, Dorset Council and PCSO Bishop will both be approached to once again try and get some improvements to the junction to reduce the frequency of accidents and before there is a fatality.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

2022/0
20

Finance

a. Financial Status

Payments made since 10th January 2023

Clerking Work (Jan, Feb 23)	392.96
Rubbish Bin Emptying	79.16
Tree Work in The Pound	450.00
Total	£919.12

Income since 10th January 2023

Total	£0.00
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New cheques/payments for consideration

Manor Close Wall Project	300.00
Total	£300.00

Bank balance as at 14th March 2023 £4692.68

b. End of Year Position

The Clerk reported that the estimated end of year figures show an underspend of approximately £500 of the £5500 budget. It was agreed that this was an acceptable amount and showed that the 2022-23 budget had been set correctly.

The budget for 2023-24 had been set at £6000 (an increase of 9% or £5.37 per annum on a Band D property). The main reason for the increase is a £500 contribution towards grass cutting for the graveyard.

c. Purchase of Spare Battery for the SID

Prior to Christmas the SID became faulty due to the battery becoming flat. This resulted in the SID having to be returned to the manufacturer to be re-set. To avoid this happening again it was suggested that a spare battery could be purchased and kept on charge and swapped with the one in situ when the SID was moved. The cost of a new battery would be approximately £60. The other alternative would be to purchase a bigger solar panel for the SID but this would be considerably more expensive.

Clerk

	<p>After discussion it was decided to purchase a spare battery.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Scott-Malden Approved: Unanimous</p>	
2023/0 21	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>b. Clerk</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>c. Members</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
2023/0 22	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Annual Village Meeting – Friday 21st April 2023 at 6pm</p> <p>Annual General Meeting, followed by regular bi-monthly meeting – Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 6.30pm</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.32pm</p>	
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2023 at 6.30pm the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Jonathan Baker, Cllr Bee Bavalant, Cllr Tom Scott-Malden, Cllr Gill Denny

In Attendance: Jane Thicknesse, Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

Item No.	Action
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2023/001	Apologies / Declarations of interest / grant of dispensations Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Yvonne Harris, Cllr Rebecca Knox and PCSO Alex Bishop.	
2023/002	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2022 The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Scott- Malden	

<p>2023/003</p>	<p>Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2022</p> <p>a. Condition of various roads in South Perrott</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Pipplepen Lane was being re-assessed for re-surfacing by DC and that a repair had been carried out in Picket Lane</p> <p>b. Road Signs</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the road maintenance signs had been collected.</p> <p>c. Drain/Gully in Picket Lane</p> <p>Following a further inspection DC reported that the drain/gully was flowing freely and no further action was required.</p> <p>d. Pipplepen Solar Farm</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Case Officer for SSDC had finished her report and was recommending approval. The application will be decided by the SSDC Regulation Committee at a meeting on 17 January 2023.</p> <p>NB. Since the meeting the report has been published and can be found at</p> <p>21/00701/FUL Ground mounted solar farm with DNO substation, point of connection, ancillary infrastructure and associated works, landscape planting and access tracks. Land At Pipplepen Farm (Solar Park) Pipplepen Lane North Perrott Crewkerne Somerset (southsomerset.gov.uk)</p> <p>e. The Pound Project</p> <p>The Chairman reported that work on this project was now complete and again expressed his thanks to Michael Stevenette. Terence Wybrew will continue to maintain the area.</p> <p>f. Wall in Manor Close</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>No progress has been made on this project. The Chairman requested help with the work and it was suggested that a request for volunteers was put in the Pump and Pound.</p> <p>g. SID</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the SID had developed a fault (speed shown in KMH instead of MPH) but was still under warranty and was being replaced. The new SID should be operational at the end of the week commencing 16 January 2023.</p>	
<p>2023/004</p>	<p>Millennium Green</p> <p>Martyn Gillingham, Secretary to the Millennium Green Trust presented a paper about the future of the Millennium Green (MG) which had been prepared by Dr David Lines, Trustee to the MG. (Copy attached at Annex A). The conclusion of the paper was a proposal for the Parish Council to adopt the MG to ensure its future.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion (including management, costs, insurance) it was decided that the Councillors would meet on 16th January to discuss further. The Chairman stressed that this issue would take some time to resolve due to the long-term implications and the research that needed to be done to ensure the best outcome.</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>2023/005</p>	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>a. Applications handled since last meeting</p> <p>None</p> <p>b. Decisions notified by DC since last meeting</p> <p>i. P/LBC/2022/05144 – Bridge House – approved</p> <p>ii. ii. P/PAPA/2022/07488 – Picket Farm – addition of private farm tracks for farm use. Prior approval not required.</p> <p>c. New applications to be considered</p> <p>None</p> <p>d. Tree applications since last meeting</p> <p>None</p> <p>e. Other Planning Matters</p> <p>i. WD/D/20/001708 – Coach and Horses</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the appeal by the Coach and Horses had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. Following up on this decision the Clerk had contacted DC Enforcement Team for advice on what action would be taken to on the unauthorized development. A disappointing reply had been received so a further email has been sent requesting an agreed and realistic plan of action showing how the required remedial work would be done to ensure this matter is brought to a rapid conclusion.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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Reports from Dorset Councillor, Police Officer, River Warden and Footpaths Officer

a. Dorset Councillor

Cllr Knox sent a report which is available on SPPC website and on request from the Clerk.

b. River Warden

The start of the Winter season has been wet, apart from a prolonged dry cold spell in the first two weeks of December. Despite the persistent rainfall, there have been no instances of flooding in the village, other than the usual suspects!

I cleared the gulleys on the A356 at Lecher Bridge on the way to Crewkerne on 12 November, and was surprised to find Dorset Council workmen at the same location two days later. Apparently, they were only clearing vegetation around the bridge for the annual inspection by the Bridge Inspector!

2023/006

The River Warden also read out a report from Flood Wessex @the Environment Agency:

'Following one of the driest summers on record it could have been expected that the chances of groundwater flooding this winter would be very low. Recharge in the chalk aquifer is very limited during the summer months as vegetation takes up most of the rainfall.

However the first three months of the water year, which starts on the 1st of October, have been exceptionally wet. Rainfall during the period was well above the long-term average (October 150%, November 200% and December 175%). Consequently, groundwater levels have risen steeply in most areas.

In the first week of January 2023, the Environment Agency (EA) issued 19 groundwater flood warnings across Wessex. These were mainly in Dorset due to higher rainfall totals and more responsive geology. Across both counties, levels remain high and have become very responsive to each new band of rainfall. With more rain forecast, groundwater levels are expected to increase.'

Martyn Gillingham

	<p>River/Flood Warden</p> <p>Tel: 01935 891931 Email: mcvgillingham@btinternet.com</p> <p>c. Footpaths Officer</p> <p>The Footpaths Officer said that there was little to report. The bank along Langmoor Lane continues to disintegrate but the promised visit by Russell Gough, Senior Ranger (West and Coast), Dorset Council to investigate had still not taken place.</p> <p>Sue Coutanche</p> <p>SP Footpath Officer</p> <p>d. PCSO</p> <p>PCSO Bishop sent his apologies and reported that there was nothing to report on this occasion.</p> <p>His next planned attendances at the village coffee mornings are Saturdays 14th January, 11 February, 11 March and 8 April at 9.30.</p> <p>PCSO Alex Bishop</p>	<p>Officer/Clerk</p>
<p>2023/007</p>	<p>Review and Adoption of SPPC Policies</p> <p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated copies of the proposed South Perrott Parish Council Data Protection and Data Policy policies. Both were unanimously adopted.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Scott-Malden Seconded: Cllr Barber Approved: Unanimous</p> <p>Copies will be placed on the website and they and will be reviewed annually.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Finance

a. Financial Status

Payments made since 10th November 2022

Clerking Work (Nov, Dec 22 and Back Pay)	504.96
Insurance	192.81
Payroll Administration	15.00
Christmas Tree	99.95
Total	£812.72

2022/008

Income since 10th November 2022

Total	£0.00
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New cheques/payments for consideration

Total	£0.00
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Bank balance as at 10th January 2023 £5611.80

b. 2023-24 Budget/Precept

The Clerk reported that following receipt of the tax base from DC the proposed budget had been circulated to all Councillors. The main additional item to the 2022-23 budget was a proposed payment of £500 for grass cutting in the graveyard. This was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Denny Seconded: Cllr Scott Malden

2023/009	<p>Matters of report and items for the next meeting</p> <p>a. Chairman</p> <p>i. The Chairman reported that local MP Chris Loder had offered to attend a parish council or village meeting. This was met with enthusiasm and it was decided to invite him to the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 25th April.</p> <p>b. Clerk</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Annual Village Meeting – Tuesday 25th April 2023</p> <p>SPPC Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 9 May 2023 (preceding regular SPPC bi-monthly meeting)</p> <p>c. Members</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	Clerk
2023/010	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 14 March</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.07pm</p>	
	<p>Public Session to raise items for future agendas</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

Annex A to SPPC Minutes

THE MILLENNIUM GREEN, SOUTH PERROTT

1. Synopsis

The Millennium Green (MG) has provided an open space for activities, the enjoyment of nature and quiet reflection for nearly a quarter of a century. It was created as part of the Millennium celebrations and funded in the main by grants from the Countryside Commission’s Millennium Greens Fund as well as fund-raising by residents of the two villages: South Perrott and Chedington, who jointly manage the Green’s Trust. Over the twenty plus years of its existence, the MG’s form and function have evolved, though its organisational management and direction have not. It is the Trustees’

contention that it is time for a change to reflect current best practice and ensure a future for the Green into the next quarter century. That change is the adoption of the MG by the South Perrott Parish Council.

2. Introduction

- 1. The Millennium Green was established to provide an open space for the enjoyment of all, but primarily the residents of Chedington and South Perrott, and, more recently the focus has been to encourage a more diverse, sustainable habitat for flora and fauna. The MG Trust was registered in 1998 with the Charity Commission on a 999 year lease, currently from the Environment Agency (EA).**
- 2. It was established thanks to the sterling efforts of the residents of the two communities, who together raised an astonishing £6,000 towards the total cost of £40,000; the majority of which was funded by grants from the Millennium Greens Fund, the Countryside Agency and the Millennium Festival Awards for All Programme..**
- 3. The Green has over the years been the focus of a number of village activities. It has hosted the South Perrott annual village picnic and the Teddy Bear's picnic as well as the annual Tug-of-War between the two villages. Residents have used the BBQ facilities, the children's play area and willow tunnel. However, in recent times these activities have either diminished or disappeared altogether. Instead, given changes in local demography and an increasing interest in environmental matters, the focus has shifted towards encouraging the flora and fauna found in and around the Green. Bird boxes, 'animal highways' and a pond have been created to encourage wildlife..**
- 4. The aforementioned shift in focus has not been met with universal approval, and some called into question the very raison d'être of the Green. In response, in October 2018 the Trustees undertook a survey to canvas views on whether or not it should remain, or the lease handed back. In South Perrott 41% of survey forms were returned and 50% of these were in favour of retention; In Chedington, 68% were returned and 54% were in favour. Subsequently, at the South Perrott Annual Village Meeting held in May 2022, a proposal to hold a further survey on retention was defeated by 17 votes to 3 on the grounds that views had not shifted significantly from the original survey.**

3. Management and Financial Structure

- 1. The Charity Commission requires a minimum of two and Natural England a minimum of three Trustees to serve on the board of the Trust. Currently there are only two Trustees, one from Chedington and the other a former resident of South**

Perrott. It has proved difficult, if not impossible to find people willing to act in that capacity and with the impending resignation of one of the two current Trustees, matters have come to a head.

2. One reason for a reluctance on the part of community members to become Trustees is that the role carries some financial liability. Although the Green has insurance for Trustees' Liability, it is by definition limited, and although it is unlikely ever to be breached, that possibility does exist.
3. The Trustees and the Secretary have, over the years, done everything they can to reduce the costs of maintaining the Green. The children's play area, which had come to the end of its useful life, has been removed, obviating the need for annual ROSPA inspections and reducing insurance costs considerably, and the grass cutting regime has been altered. But both come with costs of other kinds: people have lamented the loss of the play area whilst others have complained that the grass is too long and it has taken many hours of labour on the part of volunteers to shift and collect the cuttings.
4. On the revenue side, the Green has relied entirely on voluntary donations and fund-raising activities. The Secretary has organised Strawberry Cream Teas and pressed and sold apple juice made from the trees on the Green. In addition, the proceeds from one of the 'Big Breakfasts' were in aid of the Green, and other residents have set up direct debits and made regular payments each month. Thanks to these contributions the Green is currently in a stable financial state (a balance of £4,212.89 at 31.10.22), although it has to be said it is only that way because of the efforts of the few, who might, with some justification, at some stage say 'enough is enough' and walk away.
5. The conclusion from the above is that the current position is unsustainable. The Trust is, or soon will be, in breach of its legal obligations; its financial position is currently stable but subject to unusual circumstances and there are no reserves; the Green relies on the efforts and commitment of a tiny minority to sustain a facility that exists for the benefit of all.
6. All of which might again call the Green's existence into question, but there is a fundamental point here, quite apart from the day-to-day issues dealt with under 3.3, and that is our obligation, not only to those who worked so hard to create and sustain the Green, but also to future generations. They will not thank us if we give up the village's only open communal space, over which they can exercise democratic control, and simply

give it away.

4. The role of the Parish Council

- 1. Were the Parish Council (PC) to take over the role of Trustee, there would be advantages and opportunities for both the PC and the MG. The MG would benefit from improved sustainability, financial stability and accountability; for the Council there would be an opportunity to exercise some influence beyond planning matters and the A356. In addition, since the majority of other Parish Councils count public spaces, such as play areas, allotments and so on as their responsibility, this change would bring South Perrott into line.**
- 2. The MG is a facility open to all and yet it is maintained by a few. The PC, in contrast, is sustained through the precept, paid by every household in the village. As a matter of basic equity, it surely makes sense for all to contribute to something which belongs to all. The next paragraph is an attempt to quantify the financial implications of the change.**
- 3. If it is assumed that some of the current income generation from fund-raising continues following a transfer, it would generate in the region of £250 per year (COVID has distorted recent income figures). The main cost to the Green is grass cutting (which over the last couple of years has been paid for by the EA while they have carried out work on the spillway). Dependent upon the frequency of mowing, it would be around £500 per annum. The insurance premium of £151.27 would be saved, less a small increase in PC insurance, say £50. The overall cost to the Parish Council would therefore be in the region of £300 (£550 minus £250) or an average of approximately £3 per year per household in the village.**
- 4. The PC answers directly to those who pay the precept. At its bi-monthly meetings parishioners have the opportunity to question councillors on their actions, or lack of them. At present villagers can only express a view on the MG through 'unofficial channels' or at the Annual General Meeting. Bringing more accountability into the running of the MG might encourage greater participation and set a direction for environmental sustainability into the future.**
- 5. The MG Trustees suggest that, were the PC to adopt the MG, a management committee be established that would report to the PC. It would have at least one councillor on it, but it would not require the detailed attention of other councillors or the clerk.**
- 6. As outlined above, the MG was created by and for the residents of Chedington as well as those living in South Perrott. Given that there is no parish authority in Chedington presently, it falls**

to the MG's Chedington Trustee to agree to the proposed structural change. Following a discussion regarding the relationship between Chedington and South Perrott, that Trustee gave his assent to the proposal at the Annual MG Meeting held on 15 November 2022.

5. Conclusion

The Millennium Green was established by enthusiastic locals to celebrate a thousand years of history and the start of a new century. It is a fair assumption that those who took part in that endeavour would have been confident that their efforts would last. They would have hoped that generation after generation of villagers would be able to enjoy an environmentally friendly space that belonged to everyone and one which was supported financially by everyone and could be changed, if desired, through a democratic process, driven by everyone. This proposal is a way of ensuring that optimism is sustained and nurtured. The Trustees commend it to you.

**Dr David Lines
Trustee
South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green Trust**