

THE PUMP & POUND

South Perrott and Chedington Newsletter

Issue 58

April/May 2021

Spring is in the air and a roadmap out of lockdown has been published. The vaccination programme is progressing well, infection rates appear to be falling and it is hoped that some form of normality will return in the summer. In the meantime, please stay safe, be kind and look out for your neighbours. *The Editors*

A Big Thank You

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and caring I have been receiving recently from so many people in our community. Your support and good wishes have raised my spirits as I continue to recover from my accident. Thank you. *Sue*

South Perrott Flood Storage Reservoir - Improvement and maintenance works

The Environment Agency (EA) under the Reservoirs Act 1975 is legally obliged to ensure that necessary improvements and maintenance requirements are undertaken. As a result of a recent inspection, the following works are due to commence in May of this year until Sep/Oct 2021. These will include:

- Resolving groundwater issues on the spillway area, which will mean laying a land-drain parallel to the hedge at the Millennium Green (on the Millennium Green side) with a headwall to allow water to exit into the existing watercourse (River Parrett);
- Levelling spillway crest area using a concrete kerb;
- Localised topping up of areas of the existing embankments;
- Protection of the top area of the spillway by laying open concrete erosion protection blocks.
- Footsteps on either side of the embankment at the top of the spillway;
- Extra nesting/bat boxes in wooded area;
- Planting of trees/hedges to mitigate any losses and to offset carbon – some of this planting may be off site in appropriate reserves etc.

Access to the site will be along the 'Engineer's Road', then across the field at the end and over the river on a temporary bridge. Temporary bridleway and footpath diversions will be in operation for the minimum possible period, with no weekend working proposed.

The EA will be liaising on the developments with the Parish Council and Martyn Gillingham, Flood Warden and Millennium Green representative.

Chedington Open Gardens & Studios

We are pleased to announce that the popular Chedington Open Gardens & Studios is planned to go ahead this year on **Saturday 5th June**. A wonderful selection of gardens will be open to explore including the fabulous Chedington Court Gardens, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Guy. Alongside this will be a number of open studios featuring artisan food producers, craft workers and artists as well as plant stalls and light lunches served al fresco. Be sure to put the date in your diary.



South Perrott Flower and Produce Show

Covid permitting, it is hoped that this year's Flower & Produce Show will take place on **Saturday 4th September** in the Village Hall. Please make a note in your diaries. There are currently vacancies on the committee so, if you are interested in helping to organise this enjoyable annual village event, please contact me for further details. *Dominie de la Poer* 891601 ddelapoer@gmail.com

Chedington Village Hall

We are busy renovating the Chedington Telephone Box. This village landmark has become rather dilapidated in recent years and requires a complete overhaul. We have a willing band of volunteers to sand down, repair and paint but are raising funds towards the cost of materials. All donations would be most welcome either by cheque to Chedington Village Hall or at www.gofundme.com/f/chedington-telephone-box-renovation. Finally, we are delighted to have a new Village Hall noticeboard thanks in part to a generous donation. Our thanks also go to Ian for putting the noticeboard in place. If you have any notices that you would like displayed please contact sammackenziegreen@btinternet.com

South Perrott Village Hall

There have been some changes to the management committee. Barry and Jonathan have left while Jill and David will be leaving in May. I would like to record my thanks to them for their sterling contribution over the years. It does mean that there are now some vacancies on the committee. In particular, by the beginning of May we need a new treasurer and someone to manage hall bookings. Please contact me if you would like to offer your service. *Dave McSkelly*, 891891 davemcskelly@gmail.com

Chedington Village Meeting

Chris will be convening a Village Meeting as soon as it is safe to do so in order that a new Chair can be elected and a decision made as to what form Chedington's Village Meetings should take in the future. People should keep an eye on the Village Notice Board for date/time.

Local Footpaths

As many of you already know, following an accident last month, I have not been able to get out and about to assess and comment upon the state of our local footpaths. However, whilst I have been hobbling around the village on my crutches, I have been receiving updates from the villagers who regularly walk the local bridleways and footpaths. The feedback has been very positive and, apart from the mud, no problems have been reported. I am also pleased to report that there have been no recent complaints of dog fouling and everyone I've met has been armed with the necessary equipment for dealing with their dog's deposits.

In January I was advised that branches and foliage, cuttings from a field boundary, were blocking the upper part of Langmoor Lane. This has been cleared but further hedge cutting has been reported along another stretch of the Lane. If it continues to be a problem action will be taken.

The Environment Agency is planning to undertake improvement works at South Perrott Reservoir, starting in May and likely to last until September/October this year. During this time temporary bridleway and footpath diversions will be in operation. I will be seeking further clarification.

Hopefully it won't be too many months (latest estimate mid-May) before I'll be joining you again on our local highways and byways. In the meantime, continue to follow the Countryside Code, leaving gates as you find them, taking the necessary precautions around livestock, taking litter home with you and generally being considerate to others and the environment. Please continue to report any issues to me and I will deal with them accordingly. *Sue Coutanche, SP Footpath Officer*

Millennium Green Rejuvenation Project Update

With spring just around the corner, the Millennium Green (MG) is coming to life again. Little splashes of colour have popped up around the coppiced area and most of the Primroses (planted last year) have come back up, buds have appeared on the trees and there are signs of Bluebells sprouting. In the pond, all seems quiet at the moment. There doesn't appear to be any sign of frog or toad spawn so far, but there's still time, so fingers crossed. This year we're hoping for the three Buddleias to flower, along with the Scabious, Foxgloves and meadow flower seeds around the pond.

Earlier in the year, the Trustees took a Dog Rose bush from the South Perrott Tree Planting Scheme and this has been planted in the top third of the Green (Chedington end) between two of the benches. The Dog Rose has sweet scented pink and white flowers and is a great plant for wildlife, offering a protective habitat and food supply for birds. It provides nectar for bees and is a food plant for several varieties of moth and butterfly. Mint and Chamomile will be going in at the pond end while some Sunflowers have been donated.

The MG grass will be cut soon, but it has to fit around Tim Bartlett's work schedule, so please bear with us. We're hoping that with a few days' notice (and some good weather) we can gather our volunteers to rake up the grass before the chemicals from the cuttings are released into the ground. If you're able to help out and can be available at short notice, please do get in touch

Jo Caughlin j.caughlin76@gmail.com.

Cluckingham Palace is now back laying lovely fresh eggs and if you are isolating etc. I can deliver them. They will also be available on our lovely table at the end of Hunter's Hatch where Anne Studley puts lots of items to raise funds for our local church. *Marion Morris pipplepen@gmail.com*

Please be Considerate to Your Neighbours

As the weather improves bonfires are being lit to burn garden waste and other rubbish. Please be considerate to your neighbours by noting the wind direction and time of day to avoid being a nuisance.

South Perrott Parish Council Meeting – 10th March 2021

Four Parish Councillors (five after co-option), were in attendance at this meeting (by Zoom). An outline of the main topics covered can be found below - full details are available in the draft Minutes which are posted on the Parish Council Noticeboard in The Pound and on the website www.southperrottparishcouncil.org. Apologies were received from PCSO Alex Bishop.

- ❖ **Co-Option onto Parish Council to fill a Casual Vacancy:** Only one application had been received, which was from Mrs Gill Denny. Gill has recently moved to the village from Northumberland and explained her aspirations to become a Councillor. She was unanimously voted onto the Parish Council.
- ❖ **Pipplepen Solar Farm Project:** Elgin Energy has now submitted its Planning Application to South Somerset District Council and Dorset Council. Details can be found on www.pipplepensolarpvproject.com/consultation-drawings.
- ❖ **Waste (Dog) Bins:** Two have been purchased and will be installed in the village in the coming weeks.

❖ **Parish Council Noticeboard:**

Following the decision to replace the PC noticeboard in The Pound, a discussion ensued regarding the header. A decision will be made after further research and opinions have been sought.

❖ **Highways:** The following was agreed;

- **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – Progress has been made and a representative from Dorset Highways was scheduled to make a site visit on 19th March 2021 to finalise the two positions for the SID on the eastern side of the village.
- **Picket Lane/A356 Junction** – extra markings have been requested but work has been delayed due to the winter weather and a backlog of work for Dorset Council.
- **Picket Lane** – Blair Turner, Community Safety Officer, has been approached about the heavy farm traffic in Picket Lane which is causing damage to the road, hedgerows and possibly the small bridge over the River Parrett. Mr Turner will make a site visit to inspect and undertake repairs involving top soil and seeding where required. He confirmed that the farmers are entitled to exercise their highway rights and that the bridge was able to carry heavy farm traffic.

❖ **Lengthsman Scheme:** - Following up the comments at the Public Discussion and from the previous meeting it was decided to try to involve more volunteers from within the community to do some of the smaller jobs. Dorset Council or contractors will be approached for more significant work. It was suggested that a flyer is distributed to every household asking for volunteers to join a 'working party' list and to seek an organiser to co-ordinate the work. *A flyer with further details is enclosed with this issue.*

❖ **Tree Planting Scheme:** Jill Turner reported that 200 trees and shrubs were delivered on 6th February and have now been planted, mainly on private land. Three have been planted in Pipplepen Lane and three have been reserved for the Village Hall carpark. Once lockdown finishes, a small planting ceremony is planned to be held there. Due to the generosity of Beaminster Area Eco Group, the cost of this project, £186.50, was substantially lower than the proposed budget of £500 and thanks were expressed to Mike Dower, the Beaminster Eco Group and particularly Jill Turner for all her work overseeing the project.

❖ **The Chairman** reported that he would be moving house and therefore resigning from the Council before the next meeting. He gave a brief resume of what the Council had achieved since its inception in November 2019 and wished the Council well for the future.

❖ **Planning:**

- **New Applications – Dairy Cottage, Pipplepen Lane (P/FUL/2021/00505)** to erect four shepherds huts – the Parish Council raised no objections; **Rowan Tree Cottage (WD/D/21/000064)** to erect replacement single storey extension – no objections were raised by the Parish Council
- **Applications handled - Coach & Horses Inn (WD/D/20/001708)** Change of use from Hotel (Use Class C1) to two dwellings (Use Class C3). Reduce hotel in size, erection of two dwellings. External and internal alterations. Extension of existing drive to the rear to create access & parking for one dwelling-Riverview Cottage (Retrospective) - The Chairman gave a detailed report on progress since the last meeting.
- **Other Planning Matters** - Development alongside A356 at western end of village. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the owner of the field after comments had been received from several residents expressing concern about ongoing work in the field. The owner had explained that he was using the area for restoring old tractors and that the skeleton building was to be used as a storage area, with a new roadway to improve access. He was mindful of the residents' concerns and would try to keep noise to a minimum. Advice will be sought from Dorset Council to check that the proposed building complies with agricultural building regulations.

Full details of all applications plus public comments can be viewed at:
www.planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/

❖ **Reports** (*full versions are appended to the Minutes*)

- **River Warden:** Martyn Gillingham reported on the major works on the Flood Storage Reservoir, which the environment Agency will be starting in May 2021. *See separate item for full details.*
- **Footpaths Officer:** Sue Coutanche tabled a report on the footpaths within the parish. *See separate item for further information.*

❖ **Police Report:** Recently there has been a theft of a tractor from an isolated barn in Mosterton. Anyone with plant/machinery, especially if left in isolated areas, should review their security and contact PCSO Alex Bishop if they would like any advice. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity on 101, or 999 if you believe a crime is in progress. *Subsequent to the meeting, Rob Holt had his yard in South Perrott broken into and a number of items stolen including chainsaws, a yellow Loadall and other equipment. We are pleased report that due to the vigilance of local residents the Loadall has been returned to its owner.*

❖ **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7.30pm**

South Perrott Parish Councillors

Councillor	Telephone No.	e-mail Address
David Lines (<i>Chairman</i>)	01935 891291	cllrdauidlines@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Jonathan Baker (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)	01935 891049	cllrjonathanbaker@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Yvonne Harris	01935 891270	cllryvonneharris@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Balavant (Bee) Barber	01935 892323	cllrbalavantbarber@southperrottparishcouncil.org
Gill Denny	07825 839087	cllrgilldenny@southperrottparishcouncil.org

Clerk to the Parish Council

Jane Thicknesse	clerk@southperrottparishcouncil.org
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Dorset Councillor for Beaminster Electoral Division

Rebecca Knox	01308 863365 or 07831168173	cllrrebecca.knox@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
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Editors – Pump and Pound

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Sue Coutanche	01935 891019	sue.coutanche@btinternet.com

The Pump & Pound Issue 59, covering June and July, will be published at the end of May. Contributions should be sent to Sue or Dave by **Friday 21st May 2021 at the latest.**

Events

As I write this, the village halls will be able to open for activities complying with the “rule of six” on or around May 17th while unrestricted opening is likely to be from June 21st. Contacts for our regular activities are shown below.

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Every Monday	19:30	Short Mat Bowls	SP Village Hall	Doreen - 891431
Every Tuesday	09:45	Mosterton and District Over 50s Computer Club	The Admiral Hood, Mosterton	Ella - 01308 868834 Barbara - 01308 867891 Martyn - 891931
			SP Village Hall	Doreen - 891431
	18:30	Line Dancing	SP Village Hall	Louise - 891600
Every Wednesday	14:00	Tai Chi	SP Village Hall	Monica - 01460 74193
	18:30	South Perrott Guitar club	SP Village Hall	Peter - 891536
Every Thursday	09:30	Yoga	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224
	18:00	Steel Drums Session	SP Village Hall	Mike - 07762 260582

To keep up to date with village events view:

Facebook Pages (“like” and “share”): South Perrott Chedington	www.facebook.com/SouthPerrott www.facebook.com/ChedingtonVillage
South Perrott Parish website	www.southperrottparishcouncil.org

Local Contacts:

Chedington Village Hall:

Chairman Sam Mackenzie-Green 01935 891567
Bookings Carole Birtwistle 01935 891437
Email chedingtonvh@gmail.com

Wynyard’s Gap Toby/Michelle 01935 891244

St Mary’s Church:

Church Warden Vacant
Treasurer Jane Baker 01935 891049

South Perrott Footpaths Officer

Sue Coutanche 07971 979155/01935 891019

South Perrott Village Hall:

Chairman Dave McSkelly 01935 891891
Secretary Angela Gillingham 01935 891931
Bookings SouthPerrottVillageHall@gmail.com

Coach & Horses James/Yvonne 01935 891355

Millennium Green

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931

NORDCAT Dial the Bus Service 01258 73154