

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.00 am**.

Present: Cllr Vanessa McAra, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Coates and Cllr Peacock.

In attendance: The Clerk and 3 members of the public.

2653 Apologies.

Cllr Anna Dunn had informed the Clerk that she would be late.

Cllr Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor, had informed the Clerk that he hoped to attend towards the end of the meeting.

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

2654 Grants of Dispensations.

2655 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

Cllr Downes had completed a request for a Grant of Dispensation to allow him to take part in debate and decisions regarding the Budget and Precept. This was granted by the Clerk.

Cllr Anna Dunn had completed a request for a Grant of Dispensation to allow her to take part in debate and decisions regarding the Friends of Clapp's Mead and Clapp's Mead Playing Field. This was granted by the Clerk..

2656 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 26 October 2021.

Proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Peacock, carried unanimously by those who had attended the meeting.

2657 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) Police Report. PCSO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows:-

"Fortunately over the last month, there is nothing to feedback in Chideock. But elsewhere on the patch we had a couple of thefts of power tools from trade vans over this weekend. I would advise that if anyone in the village has a trade vehicle with such items inside, best advice is to remove any valuable items. Though I appreciate this is not always easy to do, it appears as though entry into at least one of the vans was not forced, meaning that the offender may have had use of a cloned key, meaning that even if the van is locked and has an immobiliser/alarm, this can be bypassed. Other advice is to reverse the van up to a wall or something else, so that offenders cannot easily get into the rear/side doors.

Regards to all and if I do not see you before, have a very good Christmas."

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2658 Democratic Period.

Mr Richard Benjamin, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, spoke of the committee's disappointment that the Parish Council had agreed, at the last Parish Council meeting, to not budget for a grant to the Village Hall for 2022/2023. He pointed out that the Parish Council needs the Village Hall. The Village Hall committee members feel that they are being penalised for their success in raising funds to improve the hall.

He asked that the working of Agenda Item 9 Motions With Notice be changed from "Following the complaint from the Village Hall Chairman, consider whether Cllr Hunt should continue as the Parish Council Village Hall Representative and **RESOLVE** accordingly.

to

"Following the complaint from the Village Hall Committee, consider whether Cllr Hunt should continue as the Parish Council Village Hall Representative and **RESOLVE** accordingly.

He also stated that his wife, as the "chair" of the Friends of St Giles, says that the Friends would not accept a grant from the Parish Council as she does not think it appropriate.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2659 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 11 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 3A - BLAP Parish Liaison Meeting. Cllr Peacock said that having read the minutes of the meeting and view the slides from the Resilience presentation, he suggests that Chideock Parish Council should formulate a Resilience Plan for the parish. The Clerk said that she will ensure that this on the agenda early in 2022. **CC**

2660 A35 Matters.

Items 12 to 20 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 13 – 30 mph speed limit Traffic Regulation Order. The Clerk will chase for a response. **CC**

Cllr McAra gave a brief update on progress with Bristol University's air quality study. Some preliminary findings are available, and further sampling will be done in mid-December. Stakeholders will be informed of the preliminary findings and next steps.

2661 Motions Received with Notice.

After discussion, Cllr Hunt said he was willing to continue as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

RESOLVED that Cllr Hunt will continue as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Peacock, seconded by Cllr George Dunn, carried unanimously.

Cllr McAra said she will draft a letter to the Village Hall Committee. **VM**

2662 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

None.

b) Determinations.

P/HOU/2021/03710 Seahill House Pettycrate Lane To Sea Hill Lane - Erection of garden studio. **GRANTED**

P/LBC/2021/02514 Laneside Cottage Main Street - Retrospective approval of eradication of dry rot in bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom. Alterations to first floor bathroom. Ventilation installed and insertion of steel wall ties. **GRANTED.**

c) Appeals.

None.

d) Other Planning Matters.

i. AONB, Lighting / Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.
Nothing to report.

ii. Enforcement, Retrospective Planning Applications.

Item 21 on the Actions and Information List - 16 Acre Field was **NOTED.**

iii. Other.

Item 23 on the Actions and Information List – Foundry Lea Working Group.
The Clerk will thank Will Austin, Bridport Town Clerk, for his response. **CC**

Item 23A on the Actions and Information List – Update from Dorset Council on the Planning Convergence and Transformation project and Dorset Council Local Plan. **NOTED.**

As Dorset Council no longer sends planning notifications to neighbouring properties the Clerk will post details of planning applications received on the Parish Council Noticeboard, the website, and the Facebook page. **CC**

2663 Finances.

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for November	£267.00
ii. Village Hall Hire – 30 November	£14.00
iii. DAPTC Planning Training (2nd & 3rd of 3) – Cllr Peacock	£78.00
iv. Friends of Clapps Mead – grant for Christmas Party Entertainer	£125.00
v. Clerk's net salary + office allowance for December	£252.30
vi. HMRC – PAYE for October, November & December	£184.40

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Anna Dunn, carried unanimously.

N.B. The cheques for December payments were post-dated 29 December.

b) Second Draft of Budget for 2022 – 2023 (appended to these minutes).

AGREED to have a single budget item for grants and to invite village groups, for example, the Village Hall Committee, to apply for a grant in January 2023, if so desired. The Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau and similar groups will remain eligible for grants.

The Clerk has contacted Luke Bennett for a quote to clean the 2 bus shelters in the centre of the village. The budget amount for this has been increased from £100 to £200 but the actual cost should be available before the budget is formally resolved at the January meeting.

The Clerk is waiting to hear from Bridport Town Council regarding the cost of removing grass clippings from Clapp's Mad Playing Field. **CC**

c) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Item 28 on the Actions & Information List – Wessex Water Bore Hole at Foss Orchard Car Park- was **NOTED.**

Clerk to write to Wessex Water asking for details of the traffic management arrangements as the works will be taking place at the start of the holiday season. **CC**

2664 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve the quotation from Bridport Town Council for works to clear vegetation from the northern bank of Clapp's Mead Brook and to deepen the sump from the culvert under Mill Lane - £1,100 ex VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Peacock, carried unanimously.

The works have been completed.

The Clerk will arrange a further site visit with the Bridport Town Council Surveyor and Chideock councillors to consider what additional works are required following the vegetation clearance. **CC**

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Dorset Council for a Tree Inspection and the production of a Tree Report in schedule format using their Tree Management Database 'Ezytreev' at a fixed price of £225.00 + VAT. **CC**

Proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Coates, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to make a grant to the Friends of Clapp's Mead towards the costs of the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 4 June 2022. This will come from the Community Fund and the amount will be determined when application is made by the Friends of Clapp's Mead.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

2665 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Items 35 - 42 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 45 – Vegetation Issues Windyridge Seahill Lane. A group of residents from Ridwood have done some clearance of the road verge and the property owner is planning further works.

Item 39 – Duck Street Signage. **AGREED** to ask Dorset Highways to go ahead with this suggestion. **CC**

2666 Current Consultations.

Item 53- National Highways future road investment.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to submit the response drafted by Cllr Dunn.

Proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried with 5 votes for, 1 against, and 1 abstention. **CC**

2667 Correspondence.

There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors' notice.

2668 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 25 January 2022.

The meeting closed at **12.01 pm.**

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

I started writing this report on the evening of Saturday 27 November shortly after the Prime Minister has announced that details will be announced in the coming days, of a requirement to wear face masks in shops and on public transport. This is being driven by the new South African Covid variant

Our latest available Covid details as issued by Public Health Dorset are as follows:

	Most recent 7 day period		Last update (19 Nov)		7-day cases trend
	Cases	Case rate per 100,000	Cases	Case rate per 100,000	
BCP Council	2,354	593.0	2,283	575.1	↑
Dorset Council	2,231	587.4	1,994	525.0	↑

Public Health update on COVID-19 in Dorset

We have seen cases rise again over the past week across Dorset. Rates in both Dorset Council and BCP Council are higher than the average for the Southwest region and are significantly higher than England's average case rate. The number of people in hospital with COVID-19 across Dorset has also continued to rise.

Cases remain highest amongst school-aged children, which is why we have recommended additional measures for schools, but we are also seeing high rates among all ages. With the number of cases we are seeing locally, it's important to recognise that there is an increased risk from COVID-19 at the moment.

The new advice on [lateral flow tests](#) is to take one before periods of higher risk. That might be going to an event, gathering, or visiting someone who is more vulnerable to COVID-19. As we all start to socialise more during the festive period, it is also sensible to take a test before meeting family and friends.

Wearing a mask indoors or in crowded spaces and ensuring you have plenty of fresh air – either by meeting outdoors or keeping doors and windows open when indoors – remain key to [preventing the spread of the virus](#).

We continue to encourage anyone eligible to take up the offer of the [COVID-19 vaccine](#), including the booster, as this is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness caused by the virus.

Help for those suffering COVID-19 after-effects

A new service has been set up to help people across Dorset recover from lingering after-effects of COVID-19. Around one in ten people who contract the virus have persistent symptoms which can last for months (also known as 'Long COVID'), affecting their quality of life, relationships, and ability to work.

Dorset HealthCare has established a Post-COVID Syndrome (PCS) Service, which will support patients with self-management or direct them to specialist advice or treatment.

People who have had symptoms for 12 weeks or more, are being urged to contact their GP. If tests rule out other causes, and more help is required, GPs can refer patients to the PCS Service for specialist support and guidance.

Common PCS symptoms include:

- fatigue
- breathlessness
- headaches
- brain 'fog'
- pain in the joints or chest.

[Find out more from Dorset Healthcare](#)

Council is making progress on planning applications

Dorset Council has cleared the planning validation backlog. This means that planning applications are now validated within a few days of receipt. The council's planning transformation project has brought together planning data from five former district councils onto one planning database. This, combined with the introduction of more efficient processes, has enabled the team to clear a large validation backlog.

Nationally the construction industry has seen a huge surge during the pandemic. The housing market has also remained buoyant.

Validation is the first stage in the planning application process. It checks whether all the information required to process the application has been submitted.

If the application is considered valid then the application is placed on the planning register, allocated a planning case officer and given an application reference number. This is when the planning application is publicised, and people can make comments.

Following the consultation stage, planning officers will assess each application against Local and Neighbourhood Plans and National Planning Policy, considering any material considerations raised in submitted comments, to determine whether the planning permission should be granted or not. Most applications are determined by officers under an arrangement called delegated powers, while more complex or controversial applications may be presented to a committee of elected councillors for a decision.

Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Planning, said:

"Clearing the validation backlog has been a huge task and well done to all concerned. But this means that a large wave of applications must go through the planning process.

"Our planning officers now have the huge task of assessing all the applications, and there will still be some delays in issuing decisions. Please bear with us while our team works hard to assess these applications and issue decisions."

The transformation work continues, with a final phase of migration work due to be completed in the new year.

We will continue to develop our system and improve our online register. We will continue to reduce the processing time for planning applications and land searches with a view to providing the best possible service to our customers.

[Nation-wide pressures on the planning system:](#)

The past two years have seen increases in planning application numbers across the country. Many people had money to spend on their homes that they were not spending on holidays or entertainment. Creating extraroom for working at home or planning that extension that they had always wanted. Nationally in 2020 there was a 36 per cent increase in the number of applications, compared to 2019. And 2021 saw increases on top of that. More information can be found at the [Planning Portal](#). Alongside this was the stamp duty holiday. The housing market became buoyant and land charge searches increased as a result. The government has a target of a maximum of 10 working days within which these searches should be returned to applicants. This target date has not been achieved for the whole Dorset Council area since October 2020.

I receive e mails in connection with traffic and pollution matters.

I set out below by way of example, extracts from one particular e-mail of concern and personally will be pleased when Chris Loder MP (who writes in the press about the A35) will meet with you.

- **Illegal levels of traffic related NO2 and Particulate Matter air pollution**
- **Road safety / Severance issues including:**
 - **Areas where no pedestrian pavement exists**
 - **Areas of adverse pavement cambers (particularly dangerous for the increasing number of disabled users within the Village)**
 - **The severance of the village split into two halves north and south of Main Street (A35)**
- **Traffic noise / vibration within a few metres of all homes along Main Street (A35) of which over 35 are Grade II listed**
- **Adverse impact onto the local economy through unpredictable journey times if passing through Chideock**

David Sidwick the Police & Crime Commissioner has asked his PA Cathy Barfoot to liaise with me to arrange for him to visit other parish councils in the Marshwood Vale ward. I have suggested a joint meeting with CharValley Parish Council and Charmouth Parish Council i.e., most directly impacted by the A35 west of Bridport at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall. His diary is, I understand, very hectic for the next few months, with only small pockets of availability, and Cathy is meeting with him to look at the potential options for such meetings. Clearly as we contemplate Covid developments on a daily basis, we are cautious about numbers attending and I hope you will think my above suggestion appropriate. Such a meeting will allow for discussion of a number of highly important points not least of which are road fatalities on the Dorset side of the Devon/ Dorset border and all matters relating to Chideock, not least which are the existing speed cameras and indeed average speed cameras.

Getting too good

Children's Services celebrate 'Good' Ofsted rating

Children's Services at Dorset Council have been judged as 'Good' by Ofsted, following an inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) in September.

Councillor Simon Christopher
Dorset Councillor
Marshwood Vale
07798833715