

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MAY 2023 AT CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM

Present: Cllrs C Hampton, C Byrom, R Sewill, G Waters, D Walsh, N Searle

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: No members of the public

1. Declaration of Interest

23.01 No interests were declared at this stage and no dispensation requests had been received.

2. Apologies

23.02 Apologies had been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Donnison.

3. Election of Chairman

23.03 Cllr Hampton proposed Cllr Taylor for the role. This was seconded by Cllr Searle and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the meeting.

4. Election of the Vice Chairman

23.04 Cllr Hampton proposed Cllr Waters for the role. This was seconded by Cllr Walsh and agreed unanimously. The Vice Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the meeting.

5. Confirmation of the following Councillor roles

23.05 The Highways role is to be split into Dorset Council Highways Liaison and Road Safety.

- (a) Highways – Cllr Taylor
- (b) Road Safety – Cllr Searle
- (c) Planning – Cllrs Walsh and Hampton
- (d) DAPTC Representative – Cllr Sewill
- (d) Flood Warden – Cllr Waters
- (e) Community Speed Watch – Cllr Searle
- (f) Police Liaison – Cllr Searle
- (g) Environment – Cllr Byrom
- (h) Play Park Liaison – Cllr Byrom offered to act as liaison but would like to extend the role and devote time to the project and lead it forward. This agreed unanimously.
- (i) Emergency Planning and Community Resilience – Cllrs Searle, Hampton and Waters

6. Approve minutes of meeting held on 6th March 2023

23.06 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Waters proposed them to be a true representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Hampton and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

7. Matters arising for report only

23.07 Reprofiting of road in front of the bus shelter – Cllr Taylor advised that he had been told that Dorset Council will not be undertaking this work as they do not see it as an issue. However, if the area does flood during the next heavy rainfall, he will take some photographs and submit them to Dorset Council with a view to them changing their mind.

20mph speed limit through the village – The application has been submitted to Dorset Council but no response has been received to date.

Footpath alongside the Village Hall – Cllr Hampton has spoken to Neil Le-Maire, Planning Enforcement Officer at Dorset Council, who has said the matter is still with the Council’s Legal Department. The solicitor dealing with the matter is away until the 22nd May. Cllr Sewill agreed to speak to Mr Le Maire and report back to Cllr Hampton.

ACTION: CLLR SEWILL

Planning Application P/FUL/2022/07771 – A revised plan has been posted on the Dorset Council website regarding the relocation of the barn at Hayes Cottage, but it was agreed that the plans are not clear. Cllr Sewill agreed to speak to the applicant and report back to Cllr Hampton.

ACTION: CLLR SEWILL

8. Parish Councillor’s reports

23.08 Dorset Councillor’s Report

Cllr Haynes’ latest report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made.

23.09 Police Report

A copy of the latest report had been issued prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made.

23.10 Parish Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Byrom reported that she had contacted FWAG about the flood prevention measures adopted by the landowner at Chebbard and the consequent likelihood of mud and debris being channelled directly from the road into the Cheselbourne Stream. FWAG had already been alerted to this problem by one of their team who lives in the village and they are working with the landowner on flood mitigation measures.

The Climate Action Group is continuing to look at what can be done with the verge between the bus shelter and Brook Green. Derek Eastment had been contacted about this and he had explained the main problem is the disposal of the green waste. As soon as he is able to find somewhere to dispose of it, he will contact Cllr Byrom. In the meantime, Cllr Byrom is applying for funding from Wessex Water in the sum of £1,000 to help fund the work on the verge. If the application is successful, it is likely that the Parish Council will have to match fund the grant in the region of £950. The recycling bins at the village hall continue to be well used. There will be a village event in June on ‘Birds, Butterflies and Bees in Our Village’ with speakers covering each species. The Plant Action Group had written to Dorset Council expressing concern about the widespread installation of LED lighting and the potential harmful effect it will have on the wildlife. A generic response has been received from Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council.

Cllr Waters noted that there is not much to report as the recent rain has been interspersed with dry spells and any standing water has drained away quite quickly. The gullies are regularly reported to Dorset Council as some silt up quite quickly. Cllr Taylor raised the issue of the quantity of Giant

Signed:

Hogweed in the stream. He tries to take as much out of the stream at Brook Green as he can but it is a highly invasive plant and more could be done. Cllr Waters will undertake some research on the species and draft something and liaise with Cllrs Taylor and Byrom before putting anything out on social media.

Cllr Searle informed the meeting that there was nothing to report from Police liaison. The Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner has issued a letter setting out the Police priorities including anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. Cllr Searle proposed that the Commissioner is invited to a Community Speed Watch (CSW) session. It was noted that the CSW signs are quite old and are not official ones. Cllr Searle will investigate the sourcing of new signs and bring this matter back to the July meeting with some prices. Cllr Taylor agreed to clear some of the vegetation which is starting to grow over the 30mph signs near the Rivers Arms.

ACTION: CLLRS SEARLE & TAYLOR

Cllr Hampton reported that the Hillside Cottage hedge needs cutting back. He has tried to contact the owners without success. Cllr Taylor agreed to speak to the owners.

ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR

Cllr Sewill advised that he had attended a recent planning and climate change meeting hosted by Dorset Council. It is the Council's intention to bring in a discretionary check list for all applications so the applicant will then set out whether they are meeting the Dorset Council guidelines. This is in discussion only at the moment. Listed buildings were discussed and a consultation is out until the 8th June. Cllr Sewill will look at the consultation document and circulate a suggested response.

ACTION: CLLR SEWILL

9. Finance

23.11 To approve the payments for May 2023

The following payments had been requested:

DAPTC	Annual subscription 2023	BACS001	137.24
Cheselbourne School	Parking Buddies sign	BACS002	207.95
A Crocker	March/April salary	BACS003	275.00
HMRC	March/April PAYE	BACS004	60.00

The total amount requested is £680.19.

Cllr Byrom proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Hampton and agreed unanimously.

23.12 To receive the annual accounts for financial year 2022-23

The full set of spreadsheets for the year's accounts were forwarded to members following the meeting.

10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23

23.13 To review and approve the external audit Certificate of Exemption

The proposed Exemption Certificate had been issued to members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Hampton proposed this is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously. The Certificate was signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

23.14 To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23

A copy of the Statement had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Each of the assertions was considered and accepted. Cllr Hampton proposed the Statement is signed. This was seconded by Cllr Searle. The Chair and Clerk signed the Statement in the presence of the meeting.

23.15 To review and approve the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2023

A copy of the Accounting Statement had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Waters proposed the Statement is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Hampton and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the Statement in the presence of the meeting.

11. To review and confirm the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

23.16 A copy of both reports had been re-issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Byrom proposed the Financial Regulations are accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Hampton.

It was noted that a new model Standing Orders had been issued in 2022. Cllr Hampton proposed the existing Orders are accepted with a view to considering the amended model later in the year. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

12. To review and confirm the Risk Assessment and Asset Register

23.17 A copy of both reports had been issued prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Hampton proposed they were both accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Byrom and agreed unanimously.

13. To review and approve renewal of the council's insurance policy

23.18 Cllr Hampton reported that he, Cllr Byrom and the Clerk reviewed the form the insurance brokers had forwarded to the Clerk. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should consider looking to change our insurers, if not this year, then next.

14. To review and confirm the proposed meeting dates for 2023-24

23.19 A list of the proposed dates had been issued prior to the start of the meeting. It was agreed that we will see how holding the Annual Parish Meeting on a Saturday goes this year. If it proves successful, it may be held separately again next year.

15. To consider the grass cutting contract

23.20 Thanks are extended to Cllrs Hampton and Sewill for the time and effort that has gone into sorting this out. The first cut has been carried out by Dorset Council and the area is now ready for the next cut. Cllr Hampton proposed that we accept the quotation from Moses Smith at £90 a cut for the play park, village green and bus shelter verge on a monthly basis. The triangle of land at the bottom of Drakes Lane will need cutting once a year and this will be charged separately. Cllr Hampton further proposed that we contract for one cut a month between May and October, weather permitting. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously. Cllr Hampton will contact the contractor and confirm.

ACTION: CLLR HAMPTON

16. To agree membership of the DAPTC

23.21 Cllr Taylor proposed to continue with membership of the DAPTC. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously.

17. To confirm the location of the proposed grit bins

23.22 Cllrs Sewill and Taylor will look at this before the July meeting.

ACTION: CLLRS SEWILL & TAYLOR

18. To consider electric car charging points

23.23 Cllr Byrom reported that she had attended the electric vehicle infra structure event. Dorset Council is offering to install and maintain electric charging points in suitable locations. To take advantage of this, the Parish Council will first need to express an interest and suggest a suitable location. Dorset Council will then undertake a feasibility study. After some discussion, it was agreed that the only suitable location could be the car park at the Rivers Arms. Cllr Searle will speak to the owners to determine if they would be interested in having an electric car charging point(s). This will be brought back to the July meeting.

ACTION: CLLR SEARLE

19. To receive an update on PlusBus

23.24 Cllr Byrom gave a report on the PlusBus initiative, being arranged by Dorset Council. The full report can be found in Appendix A attached to these minutes. Our thanks are extended to Cllr Byrom for the time she has put into this.

20. To review parking outside the school

23.25 Cllr Searle reported that she had spoken to Chris Perry, the head teacher, to discuss the on-going parking issues outside the village school at pick up and drop off times. Various options were raised by Cllr Searle with Mr Perry, including the installation of double yellow lines around the junction of Drakes Lane. Mr Perry was broadly supportive of the suggestions and further discussions will take place with a view to making a proposal for councillors’ consideration at the July meeting.

21. To receive an update on the Photographic Project

23.26 Cllr Sewill reported the photographic project was very successful and, on behalf of the Parish Council, gave thanks to everyone who had been involved with it. It was agreed that the event had far exceeded everyone’s expectations. Thanks were given to Lucy Sewill for all her work and to Cllr Walsh for the way in which he organised the event. It was agreed that the working group have a ‘de-brief’.

Thanks were also given to the Village Hall Committee for sponsoring the event. It was noted that the total costs were in the region of £,1000 but donations continue to be received.

It was agreed that the project acted as a catalyst and brought villagers together and has encouraged further village events to be set up in the future.

22. To review an update of the Resilience Plan

23.27 It was noted that the Community Resilience Plan has been updated recently and a copy is on the Parish Council’s website.

24. Date of next meeting

23.28 The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd July 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting ended 21.05hrs.

Signed:

Appendix A

Plus Bus Service

Some of us will remember the 32 seater bus that used to service our villages. It would run with only one or two passengers. And so it's unsurprising that the service was withdrawn. The villages of Dewlish, Cheselbourne, Melcombe Bingham, Ansty and Hilton have not had a bus service for about 5 years. This isn't a problem for most of us who own cars. And even those who don't own cars in Cheselbourne have managed to achieve the mobility they need by using the car service run by Sara Timlin. And in Milton Abbas villagers make good use of their Neighbourcar service. And all of us are happy to give lifts to those without transport. Having said this, there will be some unmet need for transport.

The Parish Councils of Hilton, Ansty, Melcombe Bingham, Melcombe Horsey, Milton Abbas, Dewlish and Cheselbourne have jointly been considering the launch of a PlusBus service. Unlike a regular bus service, PlusBus provides transport for people who are unable to easily access public transport, including those with mobility difficulties. Where possible PlusBus offers a door-to-door service and can accommodate passengers with pushchairs, shopping trolleys (and wheelchairs by prior arrangement). The fixed return fare is £7 but National Bus Passes are accepted. Half price fare for under 19s.

If we decide to go ahead with a trial of a Plusbus service participating PCs would need to submit an application to Dorset Council for grant funding of £5k. All PCs are currently discussing the project internally with a view to bringing their decisions on engagement to the next PlusBus Meeting to be held on June 22nd

The format for the service could be a fortnightly bus to travel to Dorchester on a Wednesday (market day), and on alternate weeks a fortnightly bus to travel to Blandford on a Thursday (market day).

The PlusBus service is provided by Dorset Community Transport, a charity which currently provides transport for school children up to 9.30 and then is dormant until they collect the children at the end of the school day. It is the dormant period in the middle of the day, between 9.30 and 2.30 that Plus Bus can offer their service. DCT provides services similar to the service we are considering from villages to the east, west and south of Dorchester into Dorchester, and from all points of the compass into Blandford.

The service can run with as few as 3 or 4 passengers because the shortfall in passenger revenue is made up from the grant from Dorset Council and the revenue from the School Transport contracts.

Tim Christian, from Dorset Community Transport, will be meeting with Andrew and myself and any other interested PCs on Friday 16th June at 1.00pm. At the meeting we will discuss the service, the funding of the service and decide and answer any remaining queries before we decide if we wish to take part in a trial of the project. We hope that as many PCs as possible will be able to join us.

It is worth noting that Dorset Council has an ongoing Bus Service Improvement Plan, which is modelled on a hub and spoke format and could see a small bus running from these same villages into Puddletown/MSA to link up with services to Poole, Bournemouth, Dorchester, Weymouth, Bridport and Blandford. Cllr Ray Bryan may be able to further inform us about the progress of DC's BSIP when he speaks at our Annual Meeting on Saturday.