

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council held on 09th September 2021 at Godmanstone Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Bolt, S. Beresford, M. Keating, G. Bishop, C. Crosbie, L. Prowse, L. Exton, F. Horsington, C. Paul and R. Wilkin

In the absence of Cllr Crouch, Cllr Bolt chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr's Crouch, and Haynes (DC) sent apologies.

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Beresford declared an interest in agenda item 8g – 5 Abbots Meadow.

Cllr Horsington declared an interest in any matters relating to the allotments field.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2021

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters that were not on the agenda.

5. Update from the Chair

There were no matters from the Chair.

6. Public Discussion Period

There were no public present.

7. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

A report had been received and distributed. Members wished to the following to be brought to the attention of the ward Councillor.

- a. Concerns were raised as to why the school children were back on a public bus after a very successful designated transport scheme during the pandemic had been used. The children were again leaving much earlier and arriving back home much latter.

8. To receive committee reports and to agree action(s) in response to proposals and repairs

a. Allotments

Cllr Keating updated the Council on the following matters

- a. It was confirmed that all 65 plots were let.

b. Burial Ground

Cllr Beresford updated the Council on the following matters:

- a. That the rendering on wall at the entrance was almost complete.
- b. The work on the retaining wall had been completed.
- c. Work on 5 holes around the wall was underway see item 23.

c. Car Park

The Clerk confirmed that that the Car Park was still closed.

An invoice for £ 750.00 had been sent to EA for loss of donations.

The Clerk asked members to think what all the income should be used for in the future.

d. Children’s Play Park

Cllr Keating updated the Council on the following matters:

a. Remedial repairs were being conducted on a broken chain on the multi-play equipment. This included replacing the retaining eye hooks and the associated rubber mulch.

e. Footpaths and Environment

Cllr Bolt was looking into a complaint about an overgrown bridleway in Godmanstone.

Cllr Crosbie had reported a broken drain lid on Acreman Street which was sitting up and deemed a hazard.

It was also requested if Dorset Council could be obligated to cutting the grass cutting around the Giants View Car Park and on the verge to Rose Cottage as this area was looking extremely scruffy.

f. National Trust

Cllr Wilkin has facilitated with the NT regarding a complaint from a member of the public about the state of the Giant.

The NT had confirmed that sheep had grazed the area and they would look at the condition of the Giant with a view to tidy up soon.

g. Planning

P/FUL/2021/01679 Support	11 Long Street	Change of use
P/LBC/2021/01680 Deferred to the Listed Building Officer	11 Long Street	Change of use
P/HOU/2021/01750 Support	The Old Orchard, Duck Street	Erect single-story extension
P/FUL/2021/03000 Objection	Cerne Abbas Care Centre	Extension to provide an additional 20 extra care accommodation units
P/LBC/2021/03001 Objection	Cerne Abbas Care Centre	Extension to provide an additional 20 extra care accommodation units
P/FUL/2021/02079 Support	5 Abbots Meadow	Erect single story rear extension
P/HOU/2021/02192 Support	3 Back Lane	Install of timber cladding on first Floor and sheet lead above door
P/HOU/2021/02578 Support	Dingle Dell, Godmanstone	Erection of double car port

P/HOU/2021/02840

11 Wills Lane
door and upgrade conservatory

Form opening for side entrance

Support

It was also requested if the contractors to the Trim development could be contacted with a view to tidying up the frontage.

9. Financial update and payments for authorisation

12 payments amounting to **£ 3289.64** (PV 42-54) were authorised and approved for payment.

Half year updates

Income	£ 14697.79
Expenditure	£ 30146.66
Budget spend	50.59% at APC – target is 50%
Cash Flow	£ 44773.60
General Reserve	£ 11815.95

10. Grant funding window

It was unanimously agreed to set the window for the following dates:

01st October – 30th November

This will be advertised via the Parish Mag, website, and village Facebook.

11. ‘Not the bus shelter’ refurbishments

5 contractors were asked of which 2 supplied quotes.

The RFO was content that procurements regulations had been satisfied.

It was unanimously agreed that Wessex Carpentry and Building Limited were awarded the contract at a cost of **£ 1020.00**. The cost met from F&E reserves.

Cllr Crosbie would contact the company and oversee the works.

12. Duck street posts – purchase and refurbishments

A quote of £485 from Dorset Home and Garden Services had been received to paint the posts and railing. This was unanimously agreed. Cost to be met from F&E reserves.

Cllr Keating would oversee the works.

A quote of £160 had been received from Mr Philip Downton for 3 new posts.

This was unanimously agreed. Cost to be met from F&E reserves.

Cllr Keating would oversee the works.

The Clerk would contact DC Highways for installation.

13. Dave Fox memorial

No further correspondence had been received and this matter was now considered closed.

14. Relocation of waste bin in Godmanstone

A query from a member of the public to re-site the public litter bin by the telephone to a more suitable location by the Parish Council noticeboard was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would contact DWP to facilitate this motion.

15. Relocation of waste bin at Giants View Car Park

A query from a member of the public to re-site the public litter bin at the far end of the Car Park to a more suitable location by the entrance was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would contact DWP to facilitate this motion.

16. EA works at Kettlebridge Car Park

Cllr's Keating and Prowse met with representatives from the EA. The following update was provided:

The works are 2 weeks behind schedule

The old stone is being stored by the Up Cerne estate

No agreement had been yet made to install a track with this stone

Thoughts were made about extending the Car Park

New replacement fencing would be installed around the site

Signage around the dam explaining what it does and what nature was around was discussed

Members liked the progress and thoughts, but suggested consideration be made to the overall signage in the area.

17. Community Governance Review

Councillors had received numerous correspondence on the CGR.

The Clerk outlined the make up of the Cerne Valley Parish Council in the fact that it is made up of 12 members of which 7 represent Cerne Abbas, 3 for Godmanstone and 1 each for Up Cerne and Nether Cerne.

The reality was that all but 2 members were from Cerne Abbas (via co-option) with Godmanstone (1) and Up Cerne (0) not having a full quota.

It was suggested that the Cerne Valley Parish Council move to a system of 12 members for the Parish Council and not the current system of members for each parish.

This unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would facilitate this to the review.

18. Bus back better

There were no comments on this motion.

19. Initial Precept discussion

The initial draft showed a potential reduction of the Precept.

However, a note to the account included the potential addition of £10K for the cleaning and maintenance of the public toilets if the Parish Council wished to take them on.

20. 6-month VAT return

The RFO noted that the VAT paid for the current financial period was already over £3K. It was recommended that a half year was applied for. The current system was for an annual claim.

This was unanimously agreed by Council.

21. Chalkstream consultation

Charminster PC had forwarded a consultation regarding the above. Members wished to thank Charminster for the report and requested that CVPC are kept informed of any further reports or consultations.

22. Discussion on future correspondence with Parishioners

The Clerk suggested that the use of social media should be used more for outbound communication but not to get involved in debates.

Members thought this a good idea in principal but wished to defer any resolution to the next meeting.

23. Works to Burial Ground wall

During the recent restoration of the internal wall, the contractor noted some further deterioration of the wall with 3 large holes.

CVPC received a quote for £499, which was for labour only (materials were for free).

This was unanimously agreed by Council.

Cllr Beresford later meet the contractor on site and a further 2 areas were identified for repair.

CVPC received a quote for £290, which was for labour only (materials were for free).

This was agreed under the Clerk's health and safety power.

This was unanimously ratified by Council.

Both sums to come from the Burial Ground reserve.

24. Wages back pay remuneration for old Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk said that although he had no contractual claim for unpaid salary, he thought he should be entitled to it because it had been orally agreed that he would be employed for 10 hours a week rather than 40 hours a month, work which over a period of time had been done. A spreadsheet was produced showing that over the period he had been Clerk, an additional amount of £1986 was owed than had actually been paid, based on working 10 hours a week. He said he accepted that his written contract of employment specified 40 hours per month, not 10 hours per week. Cllr Bishop asked him if there were any other documents relating to his contention that it was orally agreed he should work 10 hours a week and he said there were not.

The Parish Clerk said that he felt that the request for £1986 was justified and that back pay could be authorised due to the hours having been worked. Cllr Bishop expressed the view that as the Parish Clerk accepted there was no contractual claim to the money the PC could not properly pay it to him as back pay; if it did the Auditor would question it.

After the Parish Clerk absented himself from the discussion, it was suggested that a payment could be properly made to as an honorarium if the PC considered that he had done more work than he was contractually obliged to do. The PC indicated that they agreed the Parish Clerk had done much extra work beyond his contractual obligations and that an honorarium could possibly be paid.

Cllr Bolt would speak to the internal auditor on DAPTC on this matter.

25. Recruitment of the New Parish Clerk

Members were disappointed that this had not progressed since the last meeting.

The working group, with Cllr Bolt replacing Cllr Crouch agreed to meet the following week to discuss the job evaluation, hours of work and recruitment policy.

26. Items for the next meeting

Discussion on future correspondence with Parishioners

Wages back pay remuneration for old Parish Clerk

Recruitment of the New Parish Clerk

Speeding on Old Sherborne Road

Further discussion on the bollards at the Saddlers on Long Street / Duck Street junction

Discussion on a village defibrillator

27. Date(s) of next meeting(s)

**Full Council 14th October 2021
Cerne Abbas Village Hall @ 7.30pm**

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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2203 hours.

Jill Crouch

Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council