

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 09th June 2022

Held in Cerne Abbas Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm

Councillors present:

J. Crouch, F. Horsington, J. Bolt, M. Keating, S. Beresford, C. Crosbie, L. Prowse, G. Bishop, and H. Brown

Also present:

9 members of the public

1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

The Parish Council received a first nomination, Karen Burghart, who was proposed and seconded and duly co-opted as a member for Cerne Valley Parish Council.

The Parish Council received a second nomination, Gary Muskett, who was proposed and seconded and duly co-opted as a member for Cerne Valley Parish Council.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Paul sent apologies.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Horsington declared an interest in any matters regarding the allotment field or Cognatum.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2022

The minutes were certified as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with two minor amendments which were annotated on the minutes and initialled by the Clerk.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

It was confirmed that the Godmanstone Village Hall and Cerne Abbas Jubilee Street Party grants were received.

The Clerk had written to Cognatum and had received a reply. The letter was available at the meeting for anybody to read.

The tree, plaque, and guard for the Tree for the jubilee had all been ordered. The later two had both arrived. Cllr Keating would arrange for the oak to be delivered and planted.

The adventure trail had been ordered with delivery due in August.

The official Parish Council mailbox had been increased in capacity.

6. Update from the Chair

The Chair welcomed the new members and was very pleased that the Parish Council was up to a full compliment.

All Councillors were reminded of the wide variety of training that was available.

7. Public Discussion Period

Confirmation was requested on the current policy on dogs in the allotment.

Cllr Keating confirmed that the policy was NO dogs, but members agreed that dogs on leads or under control would be admissible and would look at the signage.

Delegates from Godmanstone spoke on the aspirations of road safety in the village. The Chair confirmed that this would be discussed at agenda item 15.

8. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

A report had been received and distributed.

Cllr Haynes spoke on the forthcoming surfacing work in the village and stated that any issues must be addressed either with the team on the ground or via the number on the signage.

She then briefed on her day and the variety of work and tasks that are carried out by ward members.

Questions were asked about Council Tax and Business Rates for second homes and holiday lets.

It was confirmed that second homes were billed full Council Tax and that Business Rates were set by the Valuation Office Agency.

It was also confirmed that the Local Plan was progressing.

9. Financial update and payments for authorisation

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **13 payments (PV 21-33)** totalling **£ 11144.21** that were approved and authorised for payment.

The Clerk confirmed that as of the end of AP3 (quarter 1), that the budget expenditure was 23.65% of Precept.

The Clerk asked if the budget line of Stationery could be renamed as Administration so that items such as VISA charges and bank charges could be accounted for.

This was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk also confirmed that the Unity Trust bank was working well, and that those nominated to be signatories could now do so.

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

a. Allotments

Cllr Keating mentioned that there was a waiting list of 2.

The dog issue was again noted.

b. Burial Ground

Cllr Beresford stated that an application for a memorial tree was turned down.

It was felt that a formal policy for memorial trees and planting should be drafted.

c. Car Park

Cllr Prowse noted that the bollards near to the picnic area had still not been replaced.

The picnic area itself was in a good condition and being well used.

The wildlife area was still a work in progress.

Cllr Prowse publicly thanked Castle Gardens for the donation of many plants for the area.

d. Children's Play Park

Cllr Keating reported no issues with the Play Park.

Members were aware of the proposed fencing on the playing field.

e. Footpaths and Environment

Cllr Bolt confirmed that various footpath issues had been reported.

Cllr Crosbie asked about an intruding hedge onto the road at Back Lane.

It was confirmed this needed to be reported to Dorset Council via the online portal.

Cllr Brown asked why the bridge by the swale in Godmanstone had been closed.

It was confirmed this had been reported as unsafe and Dorset Council had closed it.

f. Planning (JC)

i. P/FUL/2021/05730

Field Barn at Watcombe Farm Frys Lane Godmanstone DT2 7AG

Erect garage / plant room with home-office above; construct ground source heat pump. Realign previously approved driveway, create 2 No. parking spaces, and carry out associated landscaping.

The Parish Council objected to this application as it did not conform with Policy 4 of the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood in that the new build fell outside the Defined Development Boundary in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In addition, it did not conform with the Local Plan policy of new builds in the countryside.

ii. P/HOU/2022/03408

12 Acreman Close Cerne Abbas Dorset DT2 7JU

Replace a rear conservatory with a dual pitched extension.

The Parish Council supported this application.

11. Update from the task tracker

S1	Village gateways	This project taken on by Cllr's Muskett and Burghart.
S7	Car park pathway	Cllr Keating would speak to Richard Vickers
S8	Jubilee Tree	Completed
S16	Goose Green bench	Completed – Bench found in solid condition

12. Review of Clerk's hours

As part of the Clerk's job evaluation, a review of the hours worked was conducted.

A confidential paper was sent to all Councillors, which included hours to tasks, actual hours worked over the past 6 months and an option analysis paper.

The Chair recommended option 7, which was to increase the salaried hours to **52 per month**.

The item was opened to discussion of which it was requested that a weekly log of hours was maintained along with a review in November.

Resolution:

That the Clerk's hours be increased to 52 per month, with effect from 01st July 2022.

A log of weekly hours is to be maintained.

A review to be conducted at the Governance Committee in November.

The Chair thanked all members in their valuable time on this matter.

13. Purchase of the Burial Ground extension

A bid has been sent to the landowner, and despite numerous calls and emails no reply had been received.

Members agreed to leave it for now and await communications from the landowner.

14. Replacement bench for Frys Lane Godmanstone

Cllr Crouch noted that the current bench was in such a poor state of repairs that it needed removing. On discussions with parishioners that had been spoken to, all would like a new bench.

Members agreed this was an excellent idea and set a budget of £1K (inclusive of delivery and installation for this project, with the funds coming from CIL reserve.

It was also suggested to ask if the public wished to donate towards this.

15. To form a working group for road safety through Godmanstone

Members had previously heard from the public of the danger of walking along the main road in Godmanstone, due to the increased volume of traffic along with the speed and size.

It was unanimously agreed to form a Working Group to investigate this with Cllr's Brown and Crouch taking the lead.

16. Ownership of the Burial Ground wall adjacent to the Dell

Councillors had been distributed the correspondence from the landowner of the Dell, with a view to joint ownership of the wall.

It was agreed in principle subject to the agreement being seen.

17. New finger posts to public toilets

A quote had been received from a local contractor.

As this is a specialist area, members were content to waiver the procurement rules for this project.

The quote of £1035.00 was approved, with the funds met from CIL reserves.

18. New governance committee to replace finance committee

With the ever-increasing legislation, it was suggested that the current finance committee be expanded to include HR, policies, risk assessments, audit, finance, and other such matters.

It was agreed to set up this committee, for sitting in November.

Members asked for full details of the committee once the terms of reference had been drafted.

19. Tendering for bus shelter refurbishments

Although 3 estimates had been received, Councillors wish to see a full specification for the refurbishment and requested that a pitched roof and glass windows be include.

Cllr's Prowse and Muskett would work on this project.

20. Items for the next meeting

None at present

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

Full Council 14th July 2022

Cerne Abbas Village Hall @ 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2113 hours

Jill Crouch _____

Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council