

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT
CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM

- Present:** Cllrs C Byrom, D Walsh, C Hampton, G Waters
- Chair:** Cllr A Taylor
- Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker
- Also present:** 5 members of the public and Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes

Public participation

Michael Bullen, of Northfield Farm, reported that he has submitted a planning application to Dorset Council. The application seeks to change the use of land to mixed use of woodland and camping for stationing four shepherd's huts to provide holiday accommodation, along with a communal forest shelter. At this time, the application has not been received by the Parish Council. Mr Bullen explained that he has a strong connection with the village and the farm and has been considering a number of options. He has planted over 10,000 trees over the last six years and aims to maintain the food production of the farm, whilst maintaining and enhancing conservation. They have a site near the farm buildings that was planted with trees three or four years ago, under sown with wildflowers, and it lends itself to glamping. The intention is to target the top end of the market, aiming at eco-tourists from London. The project will be phased over two years – two huts in the first year, increasing to four by year three.

Concerns were raised by several members of the public about the possibility of banning dogs on the play area. Having read the Play Group's article in a recent edition of the Village News, residents felt that there was a bias towards children and against dogs. It was stated that the play area is a useful facility for the whole village.

1. To receive apologies

23.66 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Nicky Searle, Roger Sewill and PCSO Alison Donnison.

2. To receive declarations of interest

23.67 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting held 4th September 2023

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

4. Matters arising for report only

23.69 One Drive is now up and running and initial teething problems have now been resolved. Thanks were given Cllr Walsh and the Clerk, Amanda Crocker, for their work in setting up OneDrive.

Cllr Hampton reported that he had contacted Neil Le Maire, Dorset Council's Planning

Enforcement Officer, regarding the Brook Green footpath. It was noted that Mr Le Maire is away from the office until the end of November. Cllr Haynes offered to write to Anna Lee who is Head of Planning for this area, asking her to look at this as it has been going on for over a year.

Double yellow lines outside the school – This was raised as a possibility by Cllr Bryan at the Annual Parish Meeting, but no further communication has been received from him despite several ‘chasers’ being sent. Cllr Haynes will raise this directly with Cllr Bryan when she next meets with him.

Cllr Taylor has spoken to the South Dorset Hunt following the issues which arose in the village on the 1st September. They have said that they contact the landowners over whose land they will be hunting in advance and have a list of people who may be affected, and they try to contact them. They do not have a ‘blanket communication’ procedure and they are unwilling to change this approach. Cllr Taylor has informed them that, if they come through the village again, they need to be mindful of the impact of the noise and any disruption they may have on the village. Any resident who is affected should contact the Police and inform the Parish Council so we can get back in touch with the Hunt.

The grit bins have now been installed and will be filled when the existing ones are topped up.

5. Dorset Council Councillor’s report

23.70 Copies of Cllr Haynes’ reports are forwarded to members each month and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Haynes gave a brief update on the change to landlines in 2024. Open Reach can no longer repair the old copper lines and will be upgrading them to fibre. From 2024, all landlines will have to be provided with a router which will require a socket. There is no national advertising campaign being provided by Open Reach to explain this. There will be further details issued in advance of the changes.

6. To consider the Police Report

23.71 A copy of the latest report had been issued with the agenda.

7. Parish Councillors’ reports

23.72 Cllr Byrom – The book exchange in the bus shelter has been reopened and the system is being managed by volunteers. PlusBus started to run in September and the first two trips proved to be very popular. The verge alongside the bus shelter has been cleared, sown with a wildflower seed mix and a porous sheet has been put over the bank, thanks to the grant from Wessex Water. It was not possible to completely remove all the brambles and there are a lot of roots left so it may be necessary to do some careful spot weed killing in the spring. The bank has been covered to protect the seeds from pigeons and to keep the ground warm. The sheet will be removed in April and the area reseeded.

Cllr Waters – Storm Ciaran caused strong winds and heavy rain, causing the river levels to rise. For the most part, the stream remained within its banks but there were two breaches, one by the village hall, into the school playing field. and one by West Farm House. There was no danger to property or people in either case. The yellow warning for flooding was lifted but the Environment Agency subsequently issued a warning for ground water flooding on Friday 3rd November. On the night of Saturday 4th November,

there was further heavy rain and the same two areas breached again. There remains a concern for Wednesday 8th November as more rain is forecast on already saturated ground.

The owners of Campion Cottage have expressed concern about the lack of maintenance to the stream bed which may result in flooding of the property. Cllr Waters has raised this with Dorset Council but has yet to receive a reply, despite several follow-up calls.

Cllr Taylor reported on behalf of Cllr Searle that there have been three Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions since the last meeting. The most notorious area for speeding is Drakes Lane. New CSW signs are being trialled in North Dorset and will be rolled out in due course. Litter picking – last undertaken in September and the next one will be on the 18th November. New litter picking sticks have been purchased. Electric vehicle charging points – several negative points were raised by Dorset Council and these have been addressed by Cllr Searle. As a result, the site is still on the list for consideration and additional information has been requested, including the number of electric vehicles in the village. A notice could be put in the Village News asking people to contact Cllr Searle. Cllr Taylor will liaise with Cllr Searle when she returns from holiday.

The Police attended with the CSW on the 1st November with their mobile unit.

8. To confirm the payment of accounts and bank reconciliation

23.73 The following payments have been requested:

Cheselbourne Cricket Club	Donation	BACS024	100.00
Information Commissioner	Annual fee	DDR	35.00
C Byrom	Reimburse verge costs	BACS025	175.36
Cheselbourne Village Hall	CAB meetings to 31.03.24	BACS026	30.00
Hugo Fox	Month website hosting Oct23	DDR	11.99
Hugo Fox	Website hosting Nove 23	DDR	11.99
Glasdon	2 x grit bins	BACS027	304.46
Dorset Tree & Garden Care	Village green cut 12.09.23	BACS028	90.00
JPL Gardens	Verge clearance	BACS029	1950.00
HMRC	Sept/Oct PAYE	BACS030	60.00
A Crocker	Sept/Oct salary + expenses	BACS031	338.87
RBL	Wreath	BACS031	22.25

A total of £3,156.92.

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

The bank reconciliation and position against budget were noted and accepted.

9. To review planning applications

23.74 There were no planning applications at the time of the meeting.

10. To receive an update on the play area

23.75 Confirmation that Magna Housing are happy for a farm gate to be installed

Magna have expressed little interest in whether the upper field in the play park is gated or

fenced. Their only concern is that they need to be able to get large vehicles and machinery to the sewage treatment plant. Mr Rob Price of Magna was contacted, and he specified that, if fenced, the track to the STP needed to be 3.5m as a minimum width.

23.76 To discuss whether dogs should be banned from the area

The results of the July survey indicated access to the play park is significantly affected by dogs out of control on the upper field. This led the Play Park Group to look at access and consider banning dogs from the area. Since then, several villagers have expressed concern about banning dogs. It was noted that more dogs than children use the play area at the moment. Whilst dogs have been seen as a major problem, the intervention of the PCSO and Dog Warden seems to have resolved the issue. There is no appetite within the Parish Council to ban dogs from the area and this will not be taken any further.

23.77 To acknowledge the receipt of the Lottery Fund grant and discuss spending options

A Dorset Council Grant of up to £4,000 (20% of the total cost of the Project) and a Lottery grant of £10,000 have been achieved. Cllr Byrom was thanked for her hard work in gaining the grants.

Play area repairs – The repainting of the swings and replacing the turf on top of the tunnel have not been done but are on the list of works to undertake.

As the play area is already fenced off and the issue of banning dogs is no longer a problem, the Play Park Steering Group may consider the grant money will be better spent on equipment, rather than fencing and that the area is used as it is at the moment with dogs and children enjoying the upper field.

It was suggested that the Play Park Committee set up as a charity but there are pros and cons. The chosen alternative is for the money to be held by the Parish Council and ring-fenced.

11. To agree the budget and precept setting process for 2024/25

23.78 The exercise to produce a draft budget for 2023/2024 was undertaken by Cllrs Taylor and Hampton with the Clerk. Cllrs Walsh and Waters expressed an interest in meeting to discuss the budget for 2024/2025 and a date will be fixed to do this for late November or early December. The draft budget will then be brought to the January Parish Council meeting.

12. To consider a course of action regarding the overgrown rights of way around the village

23.79 This had been brought to the Parish Council's attention at the September meeting. The landowner has since cleared the path from Streetway Lane to the back of Brook Green. The path known locally as Cardiac Hill still needs to be cleared. It was noted that blocked paths can be reported on the Dorset Council website. Cllr Taylor will speak to Cllr Searle and see if there is any interest in taking on clearing footpaths. It was further noted that this could only be done with the landowner's permission.

13. To receive the DAPTC resolutions and grant authority for the Parish Council representative to vote on members' behalf

23.80 A copy of the two motions to be discussed at the DAPTC Annual General Meeting on the

18th November had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Taylor is unable to attend the meeting and Cllr Walsh agreed to attend in his place. Members were happy for Cllr Walsh to vote in favour of both the motions.

15. To consider the 20mph scheme application and agree to undertake three traffic surveys at a cost of £675 + VAT in order to proceed with the application

23.81 Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that he had spoken to Tony Burden, Road Safety Manager at Dorset Council. He advised that, to assess the application, speed surveys would need to be undertaken in three locations in the village at a cost of £675 plus VAT. Mr Burden has advised that the positive aspect of the application is that Cheselbourne has a village hall and a school. Understanding the current speed of traffic is fundamental to the application moving forward. Cllr Walsh proposed that the surveys are undertaken. This was seconded by Cllr Byrom and agreed unanimously. Cllr Taylor will go back to Tony Burden and request the surveys are carried out.

16. To discuss the School Streets initiative from Dorset Council

23.82 Chris Perry had contacted Cllr Taylor about this. It is a nationwide programme which Dorset Council is looking to implement. At this point, we are not being asked to look at the detail but to say whether or not we would support getting more information and having a further discussion at a later date. Members were in favour of gaining more information.

17. Remembrance Service

23.83 Cllr Taylor will attend the service organised by the school on Friday 10th November which will be held at the school, rather than at the cross near the Church, due to staffing issues. The Church will be holding a service on Sunday, but Cllr Taylor will not be able to attend this. Once the school service is over, Cllr Taylor will then take the wreath and place it on the memorial.

18. Date of next meeting

23.84 The next meeting will be on Monday 8th January 2024 at Cheselbourne Village Hall, commencing 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.52hrs.