

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

**CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Full Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Cerne Abbas Village Hall**

Councillors present:

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr's Keating and Paul sent apologies

**2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests**

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

**3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

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

**To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 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**

The Chair thanked those Councillors who attended the Code of Conduct training.

It was reminded that all Councillors must complete the Register of Interest declaration.

**6. Public Discussion Period**

There were no comments at this point. The Chair was content to allow the public to speak at the relevant agenda item.

**7. To receive a report from the Ward Councillor**

A report had been received and distributed. There were no matters for the Ward Councillor at this point.

**8. To receive the report from the Cerne Abbas Flood Warden**

A detailed report had been received and distributed to members. The concerns of the Flood Warden were echoed by the Parish Council.

**Members expressed concerns as to why the recent flash flood occurred and would like an explanation as to why this happened and the lessons that have been learned.**

**The Clerk would invite a member of the Environment Agency to the next Footpath and Environment Committee meeting on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

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

**a. Allotments**

Cllr Crosbie spoke on the following matters from the recent Committee Meeting:

All plots are taken with nobody on the waiting list

The committee had agreed to buy a battery powered strimmer for use by all ploy holders  
The top boundary to be wildflower seeded in the New Year  
The polytunnel squares to be allocated by ballot in the New Year  
The tenancy agreement to be reviewed to ensure it is up to date  
Recommendation to Finance Committee that rent remains at current level for 2022

**b. Burial Ground**

With regards to fixing and painting the front gate by the Abbey, Cllr Beresford was awaiting a quote from a contractor, as was Cllr Bishop. The Clerk had requested a quote from a third contractor but had received no reply. It was agreed to move this to the Burial Ground Committee.

**c. Car Park**

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Environmental Agency stating that the works to the dam were likely to take a further 2 months to complete. This would extend the closure of the car park until the New Year.

**It was agreed to invoice the EA for a further 2 months loss of car park donations at £250 per month.**

**d. Children's Play Park**

Cllr Prowse spoke on the following matters from the recent Committee Meeting:  
On the inspection report:

a. A rotten post on the fence between the swings and multi-play.

**It was agreed that this barrier should be removed as it served no purpose.**

b. The gates did not self-close.

**Council was content to leave as is. The original issue of the gates closing to quickly has been eradicated by removing the faulty mechanisms. It was felt that the risk of dogs entering the playpark was minimal especially if the gates have been closed.**

c. Litter bin not locked.

**Members felt there was no risk of the bin being emptied over the play park.**

It was confirmed that the broken chain link was in hand with the contractor  
The sunken surfacing around the springer was being quoted for  
Bark chippings were being bought for the entrance of the playpark

**e. Footpaths and Environment**

Cllr Bolt confirmed that the Committee were to meet on 09<sup>th</sup> December.

The Right of Way consultation had been completed with 5 area of concerned logged. Further details will be on the F&E agenda.

The new footbridge, at the bottom of the Giant had broken away from its abutments in the recent flood event.

Cllr's Bolt and Beresford would investigate.

**f. National Trust**

Cllr Wilkin had spoken to the NT who confirmed that it had been an exceptional year of grass growth. They stated that the sheep were going in a second time and after this the area would be cleaned up.

**g. Planning (JC)**

- i. **P/PAAF/2021/04303 Higher Barns Cerne Abbas  
Change of use of agricultural building to a flexible use**

Members expressed concerns on this application and offered a **COMMENT** on it

Concerns were raised as to the suitability of the road and track to the site if large scale storage, or storage of large items with the potential requirement of HGV's for transportation was allowed.

The Parish Council expressed keen interest as to what was likely to be stored.

It would also like to know if approval could lead to any other use.

#### **10. Financial update and payments for authorisation**

A total of **7 payments (PV's 74-80) totalling £ 792.71** were approved and authorised for payment. The Clerk confirmed that the budget was on target and cash flow was £ 67413.16.

Members agreed a donation of £40 to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath.

Members were content to take the next agenda item out of order.

#### **19. Waste bin in Godmanstone**

Members of the Godmanstone community spoke and had a signed petition, both stating the reasons for leaving the waste bin next the telephone box in its current location.

**Members agreed to this request and would not pursue the matter any further.**

#### **11. Job evaluation, contract, and description for Parish Clerk**

The Chair had spoken to the consultant on the job evaluation but had yet to receive a formal reply. Fellow members were not satisfied with this and requested that they are copied in on further communication. A deadline was set of 26<sup>th</sup> November for this to be completed, and if not, for DAPTC to do the evaluation.

**It was agreed to discuss this matter further at Finance Committee.**

The Chair then stated that she had received notification that the Clerk had offered to rescind his resignation.

**This was accepted by Council, on a majority vote (one member abstained) on the current terms and conditions and in no way conditional to other financial matters that were still ongoing.**

#### **12. Speeding on Old Sherborne Road**

Cllr Wilkin had produced and circulated a paper on the item. This included collision data (centred mainly around one junction) which proves there was a cluster.

This data does not show all the near misses as witnessed by local people.

**It was agreed that Cllr's Crouch and Wilkin would draft a letter to be sent to Dorset Council which highlights this issue.**

#### **13. Further discussion on the police cones at the Saddlers on Long Street/Duck Street junction**

It was agreed that the police cones at the junction were not the long-term solution.

The original query had been assessed by officers in Enforcement, Passenger Transport, Community Highways and Highway Improvements, and the local bus company had also been consulted.

It was noted that a bollard or any other street furniture must be a minimum of 450mm from the kerb face – which in this case would restrict footway access.

A build out could not be considered due to layout and space.

It was stated that if the Highway Code was adhered to and the local population educated on the issue then the problems would not occur.

Options looking ahead included:

- a. Requesting the PCSO assist with educating the offending residents
- b. The sponsor a traffic warden scheme

**It was agreed to request the Ward Councillor, Cllr Haynes and the portfolio holder for transport, Cllr Bryan to a site meeting so they could assess the issue.**

**14. Initial discussion on transfer of public toilets from Dorset Council**

Cllrs agreed to await formal proposals from Dorset Council.

**In accordance with Standing Orders, it was passed by resolution to continue the meeting for an additional 30 minutes to conclude the matters on the agenda**

**15. Initial discussion on providing a children den / shelter / hang out area**

Cllrs decided not to pursue this idea for safety reasons.

**16. Village gateway(s) and blooming area**

It was agreed to move this to the Footpaths and Environment Committee.

**17. Charles North Charity**

It was agreed to move this item to the next agenda.

**18. Fingerposts at Turning Point Godmanstone quote**

Members agreed to the quote of £375 from a contractor for the making of the finger post, the cost to come out of the Footpaths and Environment Reserve.

**19. Defibrillator in Cerne Abbas**

Members were happy that this project should move forward. Cllr Beresford also suggested that a defibrillator should also be discussed for Godmanstone.

**Cllr Prowse and The Clerk would start working on some quotes from various companies with a view to bring this item back to Full Council in January.**

**20. Litter bin at the bus shelter on the Folly**

Cllr Prowse stated that no further littering had occurred in this area.

It was agreed not to pursue the matter.

**21. Free trees for planting project**

It was agreed to request the company attend a site meeting and access what was feasible.

**22. Items for the next meeting**

Precept setting

**23. Date(s) of next meeting(s)**

Finance	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	6.30pm
Planning	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	7.30pm
Footpaths and Environment	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	8pm
Cerne Abbas Village Hall		
Full Council	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	7.30pm
Godmanstone Village Hall		

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2150 hours