

**MINUTES OF THE CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
10th JANUARY 2022 AT CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM**

Present: Cllrs C Byrom, R Maslin, G Waters, J Pearce

Chair: Cllr C Hampton

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 3 members of the public

1. Open Session

A resident had raised a query regarding the use of the play field at Streetway Lane. She felt that, as it is a children's play area, dogs should not be permitted access. She expressed concern over loose and out of control dogs that could be a problem and would like to see the play area developed, for the use of the village, the school and the children.

Another resident reported that her dog had been attacked by three dogs, not on leads, whilst at the play park. As a result, she agreed that dogs should not be allowed in the park. Cllr Maslin reported that he has spoken to the Dog Warden who confirmed that they were aware of five other incidents involving the same dogs. As it is a civil matter, the Dog Warden would issue a letter asking for the dog owner's version of events but, as it is on open land, there is little else they can do. At this time, the dogs' owner has not responded to the letter. Recent legislation only applies to fenced children's play areas. Should the dog bite a person, it then becomes a Police matter.

Bus shelter – is there anything that can be done to prevent the water and mud from collecting in front of it. This has been an issue for many years but Highways have said it would be necessary to relay the road and install new drains – something they do not have the budget for. Cllr Maslin does try to clear the mud on a weekly basis but this is an ongoing task during the wet periods. Cllr Pearce will contact Highways and ask them to attend the site and see if it would be possible to put in an additional channel to drain the standing water into the nearby drains

2. Apologies

21.71 Apologies have been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Donnison.

3. To receive any Declarations of Interest

21.72 No interests were declared at this stage.

4. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 1st November 2021

21.73 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members with the agenda.

Resolved: The minutes reflect a true and accurate record of the meeting and are signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising – for report only

21.74 Playpark fencing – a quote has been received from Nick Green for £50 to repair the chain link fencing. This has been accepted and we await the start of the work.

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report

21.75 Cllr Haynes was not available to attend the meeting but had sent a report at the beginning of December to cover both November and December. This has been forwarded to members. The Chair summarised the report for the benefit of those members of the public present.

7. PCSO’s report

21.76 PCSO Donnison was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a short report, a copy of which was included with the agenda and is available as Appendix A to these minutes.

8. Parish Councillor’s Reports

21.77 Cllr Byrom – A tree event was held on the 4th December and 30 of the 50 available whips were given away, together with tree guards and stakes. The remaining whips were used to plant around the village. There will be a litter pick in March.

Cllr Maslin – Bus shelter books – there has been a reasonable turnover of books so the facility is clearly being used. There was talk about opening the bus shelter to exchanging other things, such as plants, but no-one has come back expressing an interest. This might be something that can be picked up in the Spring. Playpark – it has previously been discussed that, once the lease extension was agreed, more could be done with the site. A steering group has been set up with a view to adding more equipment to the park. This would be aimed primarily at the under 10s. The group would be looking to fence a triangular area and installing an additional gate at the top of the new path that goes up the side of Brook Green and through an access in the hedgerow. This would enable the school to have easier access to the park and would mean they would not have to walk up Streetway Lane. Cllr Hampton reported that the proposed new path is currently under review. Various issues have arisen following the developer’s recent actions and, as a result the path has since been referred back to the Planning Officers. One of the issues raised by the Steering Group is, before they go ahead and look to start fundraising, they would need the official backing of the Parish Council. This will be included as an agenda item on the next agenda.

Cllr Waters – Keeping a close eye on the stream. Most of the rain has not been consistent which has allowed the water level to drop between each downpour. The village hall working group for the Queen’s Jubilee Platinum event will be meeting again tomorrow for anyone who wishes to join in.

Cllr Pearce – Speed Watch will be starting up again shortly and more volunteers are needed. The Highway Code is changing, subject to final approval on the 29th January. An article will be included in the Village News for the February addition.

Cllr Hampton – The planters have been commissioned.

9. To receive the Correspondence Report

21.78 There was no additional correspondence.

10. To agree responses to planning applications

21.79 No applications to review.

11. To agree the payment of accounts and accept the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

21.80 The following payments had been requested:

Cheselbourne Village Hall	CAG hire 17.11.21	6.00
R Maslin	Repay 4 boxes for bus shelter	83.76
Community Heartbeat	Village emergency telephone system	120.00
A Wallis & Son	Community Christmas tree	50.00
C Hampton	Refund purchase of play area woodchip	47.95
HMRC	PAYE – Nov/Dec	53.60
A Crocker	Nov/Dec wages	233.25
C Haskett	Grass cutting 1 st & 8 th November	100.00
C Haskett	Clear areas managed by CAG	30.00

Total amount requested from Precept: £724.56

Resolved: Payments amounting to £724.56 are made.

Copies of the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget were issued with the agenda. No comments were made.

12. To agree the budget for the year 2022-2023, set the Precept and review the reserves held

21.81 A copy of the proposed budget had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Four possible options, ranging from no increase to a 12.5% increase were explained by Cllr Hampton. It was noted that, as Dorset Council has increased the tax base for a Band D property from 136.3 to 140.5, an increase of almost 3.1%, were the Precept to be held the same as the current year, a Band D taxpayer would be paying £1.04 less in 2022/23.

The proposals are:

- (a) Precept to remain at £4,725 – Band D would be £33.63; a decrease of £1.04 over the current year
- (b) Precept to increase by 3% to £4,867 – Band D would increase by 3p to £34.67
- (c) Precept to increase by 10.0% to £5,198 – Band D would increase by £2.33 to £37
- (d) Precept to increase by 12.5% to £5,316 – Band D would increase by £3.17 to £37.84

All the options would give a surplus budget with Option (a) yielding £118.

A show of hands was taken for each option:

Option (a) 4 in favour
Option (b) 1 in favour

Resolved: The Precept would be held the same as the current year at £4,725 for the year

Reserves: The general reserve currently stands at £9,782.07 and earmarked reserves held at £246.90. It was suggested that £2,500 of the general reserve is earmarked for play area improvements. This would assist with any funding applications submitted.

Resolved: £2,500 will be taken from the General Reserve and Earmarked for play area improvements.

13. To agree the appointment of an auditor

21.82 Paula Harding will charge £17.50 an hour to undertake the audit which will take about 2-3hours for the first year.

Resolved: Paula Harding is invited to take the post of Internal Auditor for the year 2022-2023.

14. To review the policy in respect of the play area inspection and appoint a contractor

21.83 At the moment the Parish Council does not undertake regular inspections. It is a requirement of the insurance policy that a full annual inspection is undertaken and regular, visual weekly checks are carried out and recorded.

Resolved: To appoint the Play Inspection Company to undertake an annual report of the play area and provide a full report for insurance purposes.

15. To confirm support for Dorset Council’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

21.84 A copy of the strategy had been issued to all members with the agenda.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the Dorset Council’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

16. To receive and agree quotes for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee commemorative works

21.85 Replacement of wooden planters – 4 at £320 each.

Seating for the village green – a quote has been received from Eastments for 3 concrete pads to go at the broad end of the green facing the bus shelter at a cost of £1,073 + VAT. Various types of seating were considered.

Cllr Hampton suggested keeping the existing bench which would be refurbished, reposition it and perhaps just have one more bench facing it.

The first course of action will be to contact John Lilly to see how much it would cost to refurbish the existing bench. Cllr Hampton will contact him regarding this.

The quantity and location of the benches will be added as an agenda item for March, along with quotes to refurbish the existing bench.

Resolved: The cost of 4 planters at £320 each; replacement posts on the village green at £150 + VAT; and repairs to the play park fence at £50 + VAT are all confirmed.

17. To consider adopting a policy in respect of allowances for members

21.86 A draft policy was issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Resolved: The Allowances Policy is adopted by the Parish Council

18. Date of next meeting

21.87 The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th March 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:42pm