

**CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024 AT
CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM**

Present: Cllrs G Waters, C Byrom, D Walsh, C Hampton

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 3 members of the public, Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes

1. Public Participation

23.103 The issue of the flooding of the Village Hall playing field was raised. The landowner, who was present at the meeting, stated that, when the field was leased to the village hall, there was a stipulation that there would be no buildings or structures put on it and the bank of the stream could not be raised. It was noted that, whilst the flooding of the playing field could be inconvenient for the school, in particular, it had limited impact on the school's use of the field, especially when flooding occurred during the winter months.

The maintenance of the stream banks was raised, in particular those alongside the school and playing field. It was noted that the banks come under riparian conditions and the school would normally be responsible for one side and Dorset Highways for the other. Cllr Haynes may be able to assist with determining who is responsible for the maintenance of the area. She agreed to speak to the relevant department within Dorset Council.

Highdon House – It was noted that the response submitted supported the application but did not make any mention of the potential light pollution that may be caused by the new extension. The Parish Council supports Dorset Council's Dark Sky policy and this will be referred to in all future planning application responses, if appropriate.

2. To receive apologies for absence

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

3. To receive Declarations of Interest

23.105 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024

23.106 A copy of the minutes 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 Waters and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.

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5. Matters arising from the meeting for report only

23.107 Armed Forces Covenant – It was noted at the January meeting that the Parish Council would look into signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant but no further information had been found. Cllr Haynes suggested speaking to Dorset Cllr David Walsh, Cabinet Member supporting the Covenant. The Clerk will look into this for the May meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report

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

Cllr Haynes added that agreement had now been confirmed for the charging of double council tax on all properties that had been empty for more than one year. This will take effect from the 1st April 2024. In addition, second homes will also be charged double council tax, commencing the 1st April 2025. The additional revenue received will be available to all precepting authorities, including parish councils. Monies have been received to help mitigate the problems regarding nitrate nutrients in Poole Harbour. This means that Dorset Council could buy land by way of mitigation and those wishing to build would have to pay to maintain the land. It is understood that some land has already been purchased in Bere Regis for this purpose.

7. Parish Councillors’ reports

23.109 Cllr Waters reported that there have been three named storms in January, followed by temperatures 3.5’c higher in February than normal, and more than double the usual amount of rainfall normally expected. He and Cllr Taylor met with Justin Neally of Dorset Council on the 12th February. This was following the previous visit from the Environment Agency who said that, because the stream is small, it was under the authority of Dorset Council. The bank of the stream in front of the school and in front of Campion Cottage was discussed and Mr Neally agreed to checking on whose responsibility it was to maintain it. The flooding of the field was also raised and Mr Neally recommended letting the stream do what it naturally does. This means, if it naturally floods the field, then it should be allowed to do so. If it presents a problem to property, then we could intercede by keeping sandbags available should the bank start to wear away. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored in the hope that the spring will provide a respite.

Cllrs Waters and Taylor have spoken to the resident of Campion Cottage whose property is located by the bank and who had suffered water ingress. They expressed concern that, if the banks are not maintained, the ingress of water to their property may get worse. It is understood that, prior to the Covid Pandemic, the banks were cut back twice a year, but nothing has been done since. Cllr Haynes agreed to look into this matter and report back to the Parish Council.

A resident had raised the possibility of ‘Beware – Ice’ signs for Chebbard bends. Cllr Waters will raise this with Dorset Highways.

ACTION: CLLR WATERS

19.35 Cllr Haynes left the meeting.

Cllr Byrom informed the meeting that the Climate Action Group will be meeting on the 6th March to decide whether or not it will continue, once she steps down. Cllr Byrom confirmed

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that she will continue to manage the verge by the bus shelter until the end of grant report which is due at the end of June. If no-one wishes to organise the recycling bins outside the village hall, they will be removed but will remain the property of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hampton drew members' attention to the manure heap on Hasketts Goat Farm. It already appears to be larger than the one that caught fire last year and is constantly being added to. He felt that the Parish Council should take steps to ask the farmer his intentions as residents are concerned that it will catch fire again.

ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR

Although unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Searle had left a report with Cllr Taylor.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – The weather has prevented the team from being out recently but, as the weather improves, they will deploy more regularly. March 20th is Road Safety Awareness Day and the team are planning to be out, weather permitting, in support of Dorset Police and, possibly, with the support of the TruCam team.

Litter picking – The pick at the end of January was well supported and thanks are extended to all the volunteers. A request has been received for an additional road safety sign to be purchased to support the safety of the volunteers along the route. Cllr Searle will find the cost of the sign and this will be discussed at the May meeting.

ACTION: CLLR SEARLE

Bus shelter book exchange – This is going well and a tidy up is planned before Easter. The resource is being well used by residents. It may be necessary to purchase some additional plastic boxes.

Resilience – A fire prevention event was held following the recent house fire in the village. It was well supported and raised the following points:

- the fire hydrant points in the village often become overgrown, clogged with mud and require maintenance. The Fire Service have asked if the points could be checked and, if any require attention, report them and they will inspect them and undertake any remedial action.
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms – Cllr Searle will write an article for the Village News regarding this and fire prevention advice.
- Should the Parish Council review the communications process?

Electrical Vehicle Charging points – We still await the Dorset Council electricity survey to confirm the best location for the EV charger to be installed in the village. Cllr Searle will follow this up on her return.

ACTION: CLLR SEARLE

8. Police Traffic and Roads

23.110 General Report – This has been covered in Cllr Searle's report above.

23.111 January Police report – A copy of the January report had been issued with the agenda.

23.112 To receive an update on the 20mph initiative from Dorset Council – Cllr Taylor reported that a response had been received from Tony Burden, the Road Safety Manager at Dorset Council. The Safety panel met and agreed to take the application to the formal consultation which

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represents stage two of the process. This will be conducted in the second quarter of the financial year. Thanks are extended to Cllr Byrom for all her help in getting the project to this stage.

9. Planning Applications

23.113 There were no applications at the time of this meeting.

10. Finance

23.114 To agree the payment of accounts

The following payments had been requested:

Dorset Council	Speed surveys	BACS036	570.00
Copper Beech Play	Purchase & instal play equipment	BACS037	8,700.00
Community Heartbeat	Annual support free defibrillator	BACS038	151.20
Hugo Fox	Web hosting March 2024	DDR	11.99
Copper Beech Play	Purchase & instal play equipment	BACS039	8,700.00
A Crocker	January/February salary	BACS040	310.94
HMRC	January/February PAYE	BACS041	64.80

A total of £18,508.93 was requested.

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

23.115 To agree the bank reconciliation and position against budget

Copies of the report had been issued with the agenda. No comments were made and the reports were noted.

11. To receive an update on the Elections

23.116 Cllr Taylor will check with Dorset Council to see if one person can take all the papers in. *Post meeting note: Cllr Taylor confirmed this is possible and he has made an appointment to deliver all nomination papers on the 18th March.*

Cllrs Colin Hampton and Carol Byrom confirmed that they will not be standing for re-election. We are very grateful for all the work they have done during their time in office and they will be greatly missed. Their departure will leave two vacancies on the council. An advertisement regarding the Parish Council vacancies has been posted in the Village News and on the village notice boards.

12. To receive an update on the footpath alongside the village hall

23.117 Cllr Sewill had offered to speak to the Dorset Council legal team. However, Cllr Hampton has still had no reply from Mr Le'Maire of the Dorset Council Planning Enforcement Team. It is understood that Charlew have gone into liquidation. It would be challenging for the Parish

Council to create a safe and useable footpath and extremely costly.

13. To review the Model Publication Scheme and confirm the GDPR policy, revoking the suggested amendment at item 12 23.6(d) of the September 2023 minutes

23.118 At the time of the minutes, the Parish Council did not have a Publication Scheme. However, it has since come to light that we are legally obliged to hold one, which means the original wording in the GDPR policy is correct and should be reinstated. Cllr Waters proposed that a working party is set up to review the draft Publication Scheme to determine which policies are relevant and need to be drawn up. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

This will be discussed at a later meeting, once the new council is in place.

14. To consider the date for the May meeting and items for the Annual Parish meeting agenda

23.119 Due to the constraints set out by the election, the meeting cannot take place on the 6th May but must be held between the 13th and 23rd May. It was agreed the meeting will be held on Monday 20th May and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held before the start of the Parish Council meeting.

15. To receive an update on the play area

23.120 Cllr Byrom reported that the work has started and the company undertaking the work are very approachable and helpful. The material dug out is being made into a crescent shape and will be turfed. There are a few logs for the children to balance on and some log stepping stones.

The Asda grant has still to be achieved and the Shared Prosperity Fund has not yet reopened. Monies from these grants can be held for maintenance of the site. Cllr Byrom will be leaving the play park steering group as soon as phase 1 is complete. There will be an opening ceremony in May or June, once everything is completed. New signs have been purchased and will be going up at the entrance to the play park at a cost of £18.90.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Cllr Byrom for all the work she has done in finally getting this project completed.

Once completed, it may be necessary to have the grass cut more regularly if the area is going to be used more often and there will be some tree maintenance necessary as branches are overhanging and some need to be crown raised and others thinned out.

Cllr Byrom thanked the support of the play park steering group, especially Cllr Hampton when it came to the installation.

16. Date of next meeting

23.121 The next meeting will be on Monday 20th May 2024, commencing 6.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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