

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 10am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10am**.

Present: Cllr Vanessa McAra, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn (Vice Chair), Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Coates.

In attendance: The Clerk, PCSO Bishop and 1 member of the public.

2825 Apologies.

Councillor Christopher sent his apologies.

2826 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2827 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Coates declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11b (planning application P/LBC/2022/06804 - The Orangery North Road - internal and external alterations) and said she would leave the room while it was being considered.

2812 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 25 October 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr Hunt, carried unanimously.

2828 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) Cllr Christopher's e-mailed report was noted.

b) PCSO Bishop reported as follows: -

- There is nothing to report for Chideock
- There have been several thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles across the Bridport police section. Japanese makes, particularly Honda, are being targeted. Residents are encouraged to contact Dorset Police if they have security concerns.
- Telephone scams are rife and are constantly changing. Neither the police nor banks will ever ask for bank account details. He suggested that people use "call screening" or an answer phone.
- Cllr George Dunn said that people need to be wary of calling what turn out to be costly premium numbers.
- The police engagement event at Felicity's Farm Shop went well – it was an ideal location.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2829 Democratic Period.

A resident spoke as follows: -

- A resident has received a letter from Chris Loder MP reporting that stone has been sourced for the bridge to be repaired. At the public meeting on Friday 25 November Chris Loder reported that the bridge has been repaired. As this is not the case, it was **AGREED** that the clerk queries this with Jane Gordon-Banks, his primary parliamentary secretary. **CC**
- He said that the newly erected Dorset Council warning sign for the lagoon at Seatown is a waste of space as it does not mention the serious issue of sewage contamination. **AGREED** that the Clerk writes to Dorset Council about this **CC**

deficiency.

Cllr McAra said that an informal meeting of the river Winniford community group is being held tomorrow. The Parish Council will support the group which will investigate pollution of the Winniford.

It was stressed that the Environment Agency has no responsibility for the Winniford water quality as it is classified as a watercourse not a river. Dorset Council is not responsible either. However, Wessex Water does have responsibility for sewage releases into the river.

At the meeting on Friday 25 November Chris Loder said that he is keen to support the community group.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2830 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 and 2 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

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2831 A35 Matters.

Items 2 to 15 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

At the meeting on 25 November Chris Loder reported that

- A speed limit consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order for the speed limit reduction on Chideock Hill is due immanently. The TRO must be in place before Average Speed Cameras can be installed.
- When asked about the Safety and Severance report he said that he thinks it unlikely that a second controlled crossing will be provided.
- Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3) – the A35 has now been included.
- He is keen to get as much investment to improve the A35 as possible.

2832 River Winniford and Water Pollution Issues.

Items 16 to 42A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Cllr McAra said that she will join the group as liaison with the Parish Council and will attend the informal meeting being held tomorrow.

At his meeting with residents Chris Loder said he will look for funding for the group.

The Clerk suggested that the group could apply for a grant from the Parish Council. Cllr McAra said that she will mention this tomorrow.

AGREED that the Clerk asks Dorset Council for an update on the promised letters to local businesses regarding the potential health issues faced by those who swim or paddle in the Seatown Lagoon. This also applies to dogs. **CC**

AGREED that the Clerk investigates whether Dorset Public Health has any responsibility in this matter. **CC**

Cllr George Dunn said that he had done some research and wished to share the following information: -

- Sewage works do NOT discharge raw / untreated sewage - It will always be partially treated
- The recent problem at the Seatown pumping station was a blocked sewer which Wessex Water rectified the next day and advised that they found NO material in the river. (Clerk's email 3 Nov 22 at 10:29 included the comment:
 - "*The incident has been resolved – it was a blocked sewer. Nothing to do with storm discharges. **Wessex Water tested the river water and found no contamination, probably because of the significant rainfall***
- None of us are experts - feedback / opinion from Public Health England / Dorset Council / Environment Agency / Wessex Water etc. must be respected.
- Hopefully, the meeting with Wessex Water in January will give everyone a better understanding of the issues of sewage releases
- Lagoon - blue green algae and phytoplankton (greenish colour) naturally occur and can cause problems to pets and humans. It can look like raw sewage BUT is not.
- The real problem appears to come from combined sewer and surface water. But this problem has been much improved since the 1960s when the Treatment Works opened.
- From a limited search on the Internet, I found an official Government site which records

ALL e coli infections (from GPs/Clinics/Hospitals etc). There are many instances recorded by area etc and Public Health England watches for clusters could point to an outbreak and then the source would be found and isolated. There appear to have been NO such clusters in Dorset since 2015 and that turned out to be NOT an outbreak, but individual and unrelated cases largely contracted from pets.

- Bacteria enter the river from many sources including field run-off; bird droppings etc but are NOT necessarily harmful

2833 Motions Received with Notice. None.

2834 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

P/FUL/2022/07144 Golden Cap Holiday Park - Installation of Photovoltaic modules (Solar Panels) to generate carbon free electricity.

Chideock Parish Council supports this application but wishes to raise the following points: -

- *Potential noise irritation to people in accommodation adjacent to the transformer*
- *If the works affect a Right of Way, the applicant must obtain a Public Path Order from Dorset Council Rights of Way.*

AGREED by 5 councillors, 1 councillor objected.

P/LBC/2022/06804 The Orangery North Road North - internal and external alterations. *Chideock Parish Council supports this application, subject to the Conservation Officer's recommendation.*

AGREED by 5 councillors, 1 councillor objected.

b) Determinations.

P/HOU/2022/05812 Rozelle Main Street - Erect Carport/Store. **GRANTED.**

P/FUL/2022/05521 Hell Farmhouse, Hell Barn Holiday Cottages, Hell Lane - Install Solar/PV Array on south elevation of holiday cottages. **GRANTED.**

P/LBC/2022/05522 Hell Barn Holiday Cottages, Hell Farmhouse Hell, Lane - Install Solar/PV Array on south elevation of holiday cottages. **GRANTED.**

c) Appeals. None.

d) Other Planning Matters.

- AONB, Lighting / Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.
Nothing to report.
- Enforcement, Retrospective Planning Applications.
Item 43 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.
- Other.
Items 44 and 45 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2835 Finances.

Items 46 and 47 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

a) Payments.

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|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| i. | Clerk's Salary and Expenses for November | £464.20 |
| ii. | Village Hall Hire – 29 November | £20.00 |
| iii. | Luke Bennett –Bus Shelter Cleaning | £40.00 |
| iv. | Clerk - Reimbursement for topsoil for Foss Orchard Garden | £60.00 |

Proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Coates, carried unanimously.

b) Given that there will be no Parish Council meeting at the end of December, RESOLVE to draw and sign cheques, post-dated 27 December 2022, for the following payments:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| i. | Clerk's net salary + office allowance for December | £280.70 |
| ii. | HMRC – PAYE for October, November & December | £244.80 |

Proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Hunt, carried unanimously.

c) Second Draft of Budget for 2023 – 2024.

No amendments were made. This will be presented again at the January meeting for formal approval at the January meeting.

d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

NOTED that topsoil has been purchased at Mr Rob Murrey request to level up the lawned area.

- 2836 Clapps Mead Playing Field.**
- a) Playing Field Update.**
Mr Hussey's recommendation in the recent inspection report that the picnic table inside play area must be fixed or relocated outside fenced area will be actioned by Cllr George Dunn and Mr Kelson.
Cllr Hunt reported that the latch on the pedestrian gate from Mill Lane needs attention.
Cllr George Dunn said he would investigate.
- b) Friends of Clapp's Mead.**
Cllr Anna Dunn reported that: -
- £127 was raised at the Christmas Market held on 26 November in the Village Hall
 - 3 events are planned for 2023: -
 - 12 April - Cream Tea at Chideock House
 - 28 May – Classic Car Show at Clapp's Mead. Cllr Dunn asked if this could be held under the Parish Council insurance. The Clerk said that one of the conditions of use of the field is that no damage is caused to the surface so the field could not be used if there had been rain. Cllr Anna Dunn said that she would take that back to the committee.
 - 12 August – Village Fete
 - She asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay for the children's entertainer (cancelled twice previously) to be at the fete. Councillors **AGREED** in principle.
- 2837 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.**
- a) Rights of Way.**
AGREED to ask Russel Goff what his new role covers. **CC**
- b) Dorset Highways.**
Items 47A to 49 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
Cllr Anna Dunn said that the Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) AGM is being held on 26 January and asked if someone could attend as she is away. The Clerk said that she would go. **CC**
- c) Flood Management.**
No updates.
- 2838 Current Consultations.**
Dorset Council - Let's Talk Libraries.
The Clerk encouraged councillors to complete the "Public survey" version online and to send input for the "Employee, business and partner survey" so that a corporate response can be submitted. She will resend the latter survey to all. **ALL**
CC
- 2839 Correspondence.**
There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors' notice.
- 2840 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council meeting.**
The next scheduled meeting is at 10am on Tuesday 31 January 2023.

The meeting closed at **12.05pm**.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

I will be at County Hall on Tuesday and unable to join you for your November meeting.

It was good to meet with many of you at the Christmas Fair on Saturday.

I attended a meeting with National Highways at Kilmington, re the A35 in Devon and Dorset. Councillors George and Anna Dunn attended the meeting, it had a focus on safety and speed. I was left with the clear impression that we would hear further from National Highways with their thoughts on speed limits and other safety issues in the coming months
It is envisaged that there will be a further meeting involving parishes blighted by traffic.

Una and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a happy Christmas.

Local Government Reorganisation Savings

	Annual Efficiency and transformational saving £'000
2019/20	17,200
2020/21	14,400
2021/22	27,786
2022/23	17,259
Total	76,645

Christmas Bin collection

The revised dates for bin collection vary across the county. To find out what is yours go the Dorset website check your bin, put in your postcode and you should get an answer! However, in general, the usual collection services will be delayed by a day from December 26 until December 30. For example, rubbish collection on Monday, December 26 will now be taken on Tuesday, December 27 etc. This will remain in place throughout the week until normal service resumes on Monday, January 2. You can keep track of what bin needs to be put out when by visiting dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/check-your-bin-day.

Community grants – Round 4 of funding

Dorset Council project funding can help you to make a difference to people living in our communities. The fund is a small project grant, funding up to 80% of total project costs. We are open to all applications that [meet our criteria](#). We offer grants from £1,000 to £5,000 to support the council to [meet its core priorities](#). In round 4 Cultural applicants can apply for projects that meet the council's cultural outcomes and priorities. Cultural applicants can be considered for a cost-of-living project grant but can only submit one application in this round.

Voluntary and Community sector (VCS) groups can apply in this round. However, applicants should note that round 4 will prioritise applications from the VCS that support the cost-of-living challenges that affect local communities. You can find out more about Dorset communities [from the Dorset Insight Page](#). Dorset council is committed [to projects benefitting marginalised people](#).

As we expect demand for funding to be very high, we may award applicants less than they apply for.

Applications from Voluntary and Community sector organisations who are seeking a grant to support local community projects can still apply but we will prioritise grants to those projects that address and

support the cost-of-living challenges for vulnerable communities and those most in need in the Dorset council area. Details of the types of cost-of-living projects that can be considered will focus on:

- community warm rooms/spaces especially those in rural areas
- community food projects including lunch clubs, dinner clubs and community meals
- foodbanks including community fridges
- low level Mental Health projects

Schools Admissions

Dorset are running the annual consultation on the School Admission Arrangements 2024/2025 with effect from Monday 7th November 2022 to Sunday 18th December 2022. Details of the consultation will be available to view at [2024 to 2025 school admission policies - Dorset Council](#).

Responses must be submitted either in writing to School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ or by email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by Sunday 18th December 2022. Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully, and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

The timetable for the consultation is set out below:

Dorset LA consultation begins	7th November 2022
Dorset LA consultation ends	18th December 2022
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) determine Admission Arrangements	28th February 2023
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) publish Admission Arrangements	15th March 2023
Deadline for Objections to Office of the School's Adjudicator	15th May 2023

Helping vulnerable women

A project which will help vulnerable women in Dorset has come one step closer to realisation. Dorset Council has appointed BCHA, a charitable housing association based in the southwest, to lead the Pause Programme. Pause is a nationally evaluated programme which works with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in their children needing to be removed from their care. The programme aims to give women the opportunity to pause and take control of their lives, breaking a destructive cycle that causes both them and their children deep trauma. It supports them to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future.

Net Zero Target

The local authority published its third Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Progress Report outlining progress towards reducing carbon emissions. Since introducing their strategy in 2019, the carbon footprint of the council has reduced by 26 per cent and current data indicates we are on track to achieve their interim target of reducing council emissions by 40 per cent by 2025.

Rough Sleepers

Dorset Council has successfully secured more than £1.5 million to help continue excellent work supporting rough sleepers. As well as continuing to support existing projects, such as the Bus Shelter

and our advice and support services, the additional funding will help establish a new rapid assessment unit for vulnerable people providing accommodation and bespoke assistance to prevent returning to the streets. Spread over three years the money will also be used to support charities in the community which are set up to help rough sleepers. The funds over such a significant period, will give security to the organisations and their workforces.

Library Consultation

Now in the second phase of consultation, communities are being asked for their views on the draft strategy, to help prioritise and explore what the library service could look like in their community. In addition to the main survey, there is a dedicated children's survey for ages 5-15 years, this can be completed on behalf of children who you care for. To find all our surveys head to:

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries. Support is also available via customer services where an officer can help to fill in the survey over the phone. Call 01305 221 000.

Those who need paper copies of the survey can access these by visiting their [local library](#).

The survey will close on 22 December 2022.

Land Charges

Dorset Council has announced the time taken to complete land charge search requests is back down to 10 working days. A year ago, the average time to return these searches had risen to 62 days which was holding up the sale of properties and in some cases led to the collapse of some sales.

Gritting schedule

Gritting crews are on standby 24/7 across Dorset from now until the end of March ready for action. Up to 22 main gritting routes are treated by Dorset Council's Highways Service when road surface temperatures are predicted to drop below one degree Celsius. The roads form the majority of roads used by the majority of the motorists - covering 684 miles of the council's network. In preparation for the chilly temperatures, the local authority has stockpiled 12,700 tonnes of rock salt in the council's depots.

The precautionary gritting network includes all A, B, and well-used C class roads as well as:

- links to hospitals,
- large industrial estates, transport interchanges, emergency services stations (including manned Coastguard and RNLI) and identified critical infrastructure
- routes to all urban schools with more than 500 pupils and rural schools with more than 350 pupils
- primary bus routes with a substantial frequency
- main routes through towns and villages with populations of more than 750

Homes for Ukraine - Dorset update

Since March 2022: 309 Dorset Sponsors have welcomed 787 Ukrainian Guests to Dorset

As of 23 October 2022: 280 Dorset Sponsors are hosting 720 Ukrainian Guests and

40 Sponsors are waiting to welcome a further 75 Ukrainian Guests

School data as of 10 October 2022:

- We have received 278 applications for school places
- 13 children are in private schools
- 10 children have moved area or returned to Ukraine
- 242 children are registered on the roll of a Dorset School

Dorset's Homes for Ukraine response is now established as a council service, made up of and integrated with many front-line services, operating the following complex workstreams:

- Main Operational Service
- Re-Matching Support
- Post Six-Month Long-Term Housing and Support
- Unaccompanied Children

I attended a meeting on farm business succession held in the Marshwood Vale Ward and organised by a national farming organisation. This as you can imagine for someone who has helped farmers in a professional capacity was interesting and thought provoking. In the same way it is noteworthy that DEFRA's Lump Sum Exit scheme has attracted the attention of many farmers especially those farming small acreages fuelling fears about consolidation in the farming industry.

We are also seeing proposals for the reform of farm tenancy arrangements which could well impact on County Farm Estate tenants and farmers generally.

I have received communications in respect of dog/litter bins and the price of fuel and in particular the differential between petrol and diesel prices with these high prices being an issue for individuals.

Clearly, I attend many meetings whether connected to education, or the Royal British Legion, with farmers and other businesses. Many organisations have to deal with similar issues whether risk assessments, health, and safety generally and other compliance costs.

A common complaint is that the requirements placed on individuals and indeed businesses are more onerous, this annoyance can take many forms whether through removal of the facility to pay for parking by cash or the additional cost of employing labour, with respect to the increase in labour wage inflation but other costs such as auto enrolment and pension costs generally but also the compliance costs in meeting payroll obligations. The latest compliance issue is a consultation whereby employers will have to provide more information on where workers are working as part of their Real Time Information provision.

Clearly additional pressures on employers may lead to reduced work forces, reduced trading activity or ultimately cessation.

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher
The Dorset Councillor for the Marshwood Vale Ward
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