

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 10th March 2022

Held in Cerne Abbas Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Councillors present:

**J. Crouch, F. Horsington, J. Bolt, M. Keating, R. Wilkin, G. Bishop, C. Crosbie, C. Paul,
L. Prowse, and L. Exton**

Also present:

18 members of the public

1. Co-option of Parish Councillor for Godmanstone

Mrs Helen Brown was proposed, seconded, and unanimously co-opted as a new member for Godmanstone.

Cllr Brown signed the acceptance of office paperwork.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Beresford and Cllr Haynes (DC) sent apologies.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

There were no declarations made at the time, although Cllr Horsington declared any matters to do the allotments field on his arrival.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th February 2022

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

6. Update from the Chair

It was confirmed that the Job description for the Clerk was still on going between the Chair and Deputy Chair.

7. Public Discussion Period

It was requested if the Parish Council could explain how planning decisions are come to.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council was a consultee and not the decision maker, this is Dorset Council.

The system depended on several factors that included predominantly, the decision date at set by Dorset Council and the complexity or potentially controversial nature of the application.

If the decision date fell AFTER a Full Council meeting, then the application would be discussed at Full Council. The Chair referred to the agenda.

If the decision date fell before a meeting, the Clerk would ask for an extension to the decision date to after the next Full Council

Or

If the application was deemed straight forward, a resolution would be taken via electronic means and ratified at the next meeting.

If the application was deemed complex or controversial (as deemed by any Councillor) then only in these circumstances would an extraordinary Full Council be called to discuss the application. Generally, the application, developer and architect would be invited to the meeting.

The 'minded to' zoom meeting was trial to engage debate without the need to call a Full Council meeting.

The Chair concluded by stating this matter would be further discussed under item 16.

Many residents spoke regarding the entrance to Giants Close.

In short, they all deemed this a health and safety hazard, from the degree of the slope to the step and surfacing.

Residents were in acceptance that it was the responsibility of the developer, but they were not getting any replies as it was understood they were in a 'period of restructuring'.

The Chair confirmed that, it was understood that funds from Dorset Council were available to mitigate this issue but could only be released if the developer went out of business.

It was also noted that the provision of the entrance was not included in the planning decision made in 2019, application WD/D/19/000673.

The following was agreed:

The Clerk would write to the Head of Highways, Head of Planning, and the Ward Councillor – outlining the issue at Giants Close.

Cllr Prowse would act as a representative at any meeting that may occur.

In order to facilitate this, the members of the public were requested to send the Clerk some photos and a brief but specific outline of the issue.

Cllr Horsington arrived at the meeting.

8. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

A report had been received and distributed to members. There were no questions for the Ward Councillor.

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

a. Allotments

Cllr Keating confirmed that the committee had met on the 07th March.

A cordless strimmer had been purchased for use by all plot holders.

The allotments committee would again sponsor the best allotment competition.

Then was to be a plot holder social on 17th July at 2pm.

The right-hand side of the allotments will be wild flowered seeded with native plants.

b. Burial Ground

The Clerk confirmed that the path extension around the back of the Well had been completed, as had the groundwork tidy up which included the shaping of the hedge.

The rehinging of the gate at the entrance had been completed, and the pointing just about finished.

The gates will then be painted when the weather becomes warmer.

To conclude, a couple had planted a thousand snow drop bulbs around the first two trees.

c. Car Park

Cllr Prowse confirmed that a meeting had taken place with the EA, who aimed to finish the dam work by the 31st March. After this the car park would be reinstated.

It was also agreed to restore the island triangle at the front of Kettlebridge Lane and to look at creating a native wildlife area.

It was emphasised that the re- opening of the car park to visitors was the main priority, and another meeting would be arranged prior to the EA leaving site.

d. Children's Play Park

Cllr Keating confirmed that the committee had met on the 07th March.

A second quote for the resurfacing of the entrance had been received but was more expensive than the first from Dorset Council.

The committee agreed to procure from the Dorset Council quote in accordance with resolution 13 from the February 2022 minutes.

The Clerk would contact Dorset Council and arrange a date.

From the inspection report it was noted that some wooden slats on the multi play were showing signs of rot.

It was agreed to get some quotes for turning or replacing these slats.

To conclude, it was agreed to ask Mr Drage to pressure wash the remaining seats with a view to staining them afterwards.

e. Footpaths and Environment

Members had noticed 'severe pruning' of trees alongside the allotments path.

This matter had been escalated to the Dorset Council tree team.

It was agreed it was a suitable time to clear the path alongside the riverbank.

Cllr Keating would lead on this matter.

Cllr Wilkin was still waiting permission from the Up Cerne estate to install a stock fence for pedestrian use between the Giants View car park and the Kettlebridge car park.

Members agreed to 10% increase in the routine maintenance programme from Wessex Grounds Services.

f. Planning (JC)

- i. P/HOU/2022/00774**
Mansdale Main Road Godmanstone DT2 7AH
Erect two-storey extension and alterations to dwelling house.
Erect new timber framed Car Port.

This application was supported but with the following comments:

That a sustainable drainage area be inserted for the car parking area, which is in accordance with policy 6 of the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan.

That the car port location be adjusted slightly so that more natural screening could be kept.

**ii. P/PABA2/2022/01116
Manor Farm Godmanstone DT2 7AH
Erect agricultural building to use as grain store**

This application was unanimously supported.

**iii. P/HOU/2022/00412
8 Duck Street Cerne Abbas DT2 7LA
Demolition of existing conservatory (retrospective) & erection of single storey
orangery extension**

This application was unanimously supported.

**iv. P/FUL/2021/04236
Beauvoir Court South Barn Kettle Bridge Lane Cerne Abbas DT2 7GY
Conversion of existing barn to create a single dwelling
(Ratification only)**

The Chair asked for a proposer and seconder that the 'minded to' resolution made on the 17th February 2022 was ratified.

However, despite this being proposed and seconded, members voted against this ratification on a majority 3-7 vote.

The Chair then asked for a proposer and seconder to support the application. This was proposed and seconded and approved on a majority 7-3 vote.

It was agreed to insert comments from the original 'minded to' resolution regarding the proximity to an ancient scheduled monument, conservation and AONB concerns.

10. Financial update and payments for authorisation

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **11 payments (PV 108 -118)** totally **£ 2513.03** That were approved and authorised for payment.

b. Provisional end of years accounts

The Clerk produced the end of year accounts, subject to end of year reconciliation and any other payments and receipts.

Income	£ 47266.53
Expenditure	£ 47138.85

Excess of income over expenditure of £ 127.68

Members approved this subject to EOY.

c. Transfers to the reserves

The Clerk explained the proposal of transfer monies to the reserves.

All would transfer to the General Reserve with the following exceptions:

Excess of Play Park budget to Play Park reserve	£ 198.05
Overspend of Car Park budget from Car Park reserve	£ 69.13
Excess of Allotment budget to Allotment reserve	£ 448.57
Overspend of F&E budget from F&E reserve	£ 30.73
Excess of Burial Ground budget to Burial Ground reserve	£ 130.18
Excess of Allotment income to Allotment reserve	£ 437.55
Excess of Burial Ground income to Burial Ground reserve	£ 633.65
Excess of Car Park income to Car Park reserve	£ 4566.32

Members approved this subject to EOY.

Other financial matters

Godmanstone Village Hall had requested a grant from the CIL funds to assist with installing solar panels at the venue.

The Clerk explained that resolution could not be passed as this was not an agenda item, however as Full Council were not to meet again until May, he was content that if minded, members could pledge the monies in order that Godmanstone Village Hall could continue with the project.

Subject to any planning permissions required, it was agreed to pledge £2193.00 from CIL reserve to assist with the project.

Concerns as to the invoice for PV 106 had been raised by the Clerk to the money laundering officer. These concerns were upheld. It was noted that the original invoice had no payable to details or no contact address. The second invoice showed that the payable to details did not agree with the company name. The money laundering officer remained uncomfortable with this.

It was requested that the individual should have his name ‘trading as’ the company name. Cllr Crouch, who instigated the works, should contacted the contractor and ask for this information prior to payment being released.

11. Transfer of funds from General Reserve to F&E Reserve

Due to large expenditure during the financial year, the F&E reserve went overspent. It was proposed to move £1K from the general reserve to the F&E reserve.

This was unanimously agreed.

12. Waste bin at the Folly bus stop

Costs has been received from Dorset Waste Partnership.

To purchase and install a bin cost £ 247.00

The cost of each empty is £ 5.44

Members agreed to the purchase and installation cost to be borne from CIL funds.

Members agreed to request a weekly empty, to come from F&E reserves as this had not been budgeted for previously.

Cllr Prowse would act as the point of contact.

* Note to minutes that DWP could only offer a fortnightly collection.

13. Refurbishment of the bus stop on the Folly

Cllr Prowse raised concerns as to the poor condition of the bus shelter.

It was felt it was dark and unsafe making it unusable for members of the public.

Members agreed to these points and options were discussed as to how to bring back into a good condition. These included:

Knocking it down completely

Knocking it down and replacing with new

Inserting windows to let in more light

Refurbishing the inside including painting

Members also agreed that this would be a good use of CIL and a good discussion point for the Village Meeting.

The Clerk will send out an email reminder with a view to Cllr Prowse investigating options further (with some costings) and bring back to Council at the next meeting.

14. Update in electronic banking

The Clerk had contacted Unity Trust Bank and had circulated the criteria for this bank.

Authority was granted to continue with this application, starting with the Clerk, Chair and Deputy Chair as signatories and permission was granted to transfer the requested £500.00 to the new Account but which ever means was most appropriate including by the VISA card.

15. Queens Platinum Jubilee update

Cllr Prowse requested that the idea of a tree for the jubilee as part of the Queen's green canopy was still a great idea. The question remained as to where.

Options included:

An avenue of seven native trees running from the allotment gate, up the allotment field to the stile.
One native tree in the Water meadows.

It was agreed to ask the public at the Annual Village Meeting.

16. Planning policy and procedures

Cllr Horsington wished to clarify the procedure on how planning applications will be discussed in the future.

In principle, it was suggested the following must be adhered to:

1. If the decision date (set by Dorset Council) falls AFTER the next Full Council meeting, then the application is discussed at next meeting.

1b. If any Councillor believes that the application is complex or controversial that it warrants its own meeting then this must be made known at the earliest opportunity as to allow the Clerk time to facilitate this.

2. If the decision date falls BEFORE the next Full Council meeting, then the Clerk must request an extension PROVIDING the extension is no longer than two weeks after the original decision date and covers the next Full Council meeting.

2b. See note at 1b.

3. If options 1, 1b, 2 and 2b cannot be achieved, then a ‘minded to’ resolution will be passed Electronically and ratified at next Full Council providing a minimum of 6 Councillors express support for the application.

Failure for 6 Councillors to support (note again 1b and 2b) will result in the Parish Council not Replying to the application.

This option is the means of last resort.

Councillors were reminded of how to assess a planning application by using the policies and principles of the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan along with material planning considerations. Matters of the NPPF, Local plan, conservation, heritage, highways etc remain critical but there are other statutory consultees who deal with these matters whose replies hold more weight than the Parish Council.

This was endorsed by the Chair who once again encouraged members to attend training.

The procedure was endorsed by all.

17. Items for Annual Village Meeting

The Clerk encouraged Councillors to think of what they wish to discuss at the AVM.

Bus shelter and tree for the jubilee where both noted.

18. Items for the next meeting

The bus shelter on the Folly
Queens Platinum Jubilee

19. Date(s) of next meeting(s)

AGM	21st April 2022
Annual Village Meet	21st April 2022
Full Council	12th May 2022
Cerne Abbas Village Hall @ 7.30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2140 hours

Jill Crouch _____

Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council