

MINUTES OF THE CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JULY 2022, AT CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7.00PM

Present: Cllrs C Byrom, G Waters, C Hampton, N Searle

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 1 member of the public

Public Participation

No matters were raised.

1. Declaration of Interests

22.23 No interests were declared at this stage.

2. Apologies

22.24 Apologies had been received from Cllr Robin Maslin, Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Dennison.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May 2022

22.25 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members with the agenda. Cllr Hampton proposed the minutes were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting are confirmed and signed as an accurate record

4. Matters arising from the minutes – for report only

22.26 Insurance – This has now been paid.

Bespoke email addresses – All members now have their own personalised email addresses.

Jubilee Commemorations – A vote of thanks was given on behalf of the Parish Council to the Jubilee Planning Committee. A very successful day, enjoyed by all who attended.

5. Dorset Councillor's Report

22.27 A copy of Cllr Haynes report had been issued prior to the start of the meeting.

6. PCSO's report

22.28 Cllr Searle reported that she had spoken to PCSO Dennison regarding various issues, including cybercrime. PCSO Dennison is now on holiday for three weeks and Cllr Searle has left another message for her to respond upon her return. It is hoped that Cllr Searle and Cllr Taylor will meet with PCSO Dennison as soon as possible.

7. Parish Councillors Reports

22.29 Cheselbourne Climate Action Group (CAG) have set up recycling bins for soft plastics, tetrapacks and tin foil outside the village hall. Information about this scheme is in the July Village News and the bins are already in use and emptied regularly by volunteers A dental recycling scheme run by the school is in place in the bus shelter.

The Churchyard wildflower project sees the yellow rattle seed, sown last year and flowering now, starting to weaken the growth of grasses on these plots. Sadly, the wildflowers planted there seem to have been eaten – possibly by rabbits. The PCC have given their consent to the planting of wood anemones and fritillaries in the churchyard this September to flower next spring. Earlier this year, the CAG planted up roadside verges with primroses and snowdrops, and will do the same again next year, with additional native daffodil bulbs.

Great Big Green Week runs from 24th September to 2nd October and the CAG will meet on Wednesday 6th July to generate ideas.

A Village Litterpick is planned for October with the date to be agreed.

22.30 Cllr Searle raised the issue of litter picking on Long Lane, from the junction with the B3142 to the village. She is starting litter picking exercises here on a regular basis. There are now nine volunteers willing to help with the litter pick along Long Lane. This will start on the 16th July at 10am, meeting at the Rivers Arms and will be undertaken on alternative months for the remainder of the year, after which, the frequency will be reviewed. All litter pickers will have high viz jackets and litter picking signs will be put out. This will be undertaken for the remainder of the year and will then be reviewed. Everyone is encouraged to continue picking litter as they always have.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllr Searle had agreed to take on this role and has met with Maria Attwood, the Dorset CSW Champion. Cllr Searle advised that it is important that if something has occurred that is perceived to be dangerous, i.e. speeding, driving without due care, it should be reported to the police in order for them to gain a better understanding of what is actually happening. There are currently eight confirmed volunteers to help with the CSW initiative and three more possible volunteers who may wish to take part. Cllr Searle is looking to start the CSW at the end of July but, prior to this, the new volunteers will need to be trained. The team will be looking at covering four locations through the village in order to determine specific areas that need to be targeted.

Safety Camera Team – They have not been in the village for over a year and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to invite them back. The ‘No Excuse’ team will also be invited to attend the area. The possibility of a traffic survey was discussed and, despite Dorset Highways thinking it would not be of benefit the last time the topic was raised, it will be reconsidered at a future date. In the meantime, Cllr Searle will look at having Drakes Lane risk assessed for the Speed Watch team.

22.31 Cllr Hampton spoke regarding the Brook Green footpath. The Enforcement Officer, Mr Neil Le’Maire, had confirmed that he had attended the site and spoken to the residents. He has also obtained legal advice and, as a result, has arranged a meeting with senior colleagues and the legal team for the 11th July in order to progress the issues surrounding the footpath and the land rising at the rear of Brook Green.

22.32 Cllr Waters reported that there was nothing to report in respect of flooding and the river. Residents are asked to keep their section the riverbank cut back but keep sufficient vegetation to allow the river to meander. Cuttings should be left on the bank for at least a week to permit wildlife to go back into the river. Residents are asked to refer to the riparian owners' handbook for details on how to manage the stream sympathetically.

6. Finance

22.33 To agree the payments list

The following payments had been requested:

DAPTC	Annual subscription & email hosting	BACS006	177.08
C Byrom	Reimburse litter picking equipment	BACS007	96.24
RSA	Insurance renewal	BACS008	207.48
C Byrom	Litter picking & village hall recycling	BACS009	318.99
John Lilley	Commemorative bench	BACS010	300.00
Cheselbourne Village Hall	Hall hire May 2022 to March 2023	BACS011	72.00
C Byrom	Purchase of bulbs	BACS012	66.00
A Crocker	May/June wages	BACS013	234.65
HMRC	May/June PAYE	BACS014	54.40
Barker-Fox Associates	Internal audit ye 31.03.22	BACS015	60.08
NJ Green Fencing	Repair fence & instal posts	BACS016	240.00
Play Inspection Co	Annual inspection	BACS017	90.00

The total amount requested from the Precept is £1,916.92

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

Resolved: The payments are made.

22.34 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

A copy of the bank reconciliation and position against budget had been issued to all members with the agenda.

Resolved: The bank reconciliation and budget position are accepted.

22.35 To confirm the Internal Auditor's report and agree any necessary actions

A full copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Each of the twelve recommendations were considered.

Cllr Hampton felt several of the points raised were unnecessary and the wording in the letter saying the Parish Council is 'borderline between partial and reasonable' gave a poor impression of the Parish Council and would like to see the sentence removed. The Clerk will go back to the auditor and set out the Parish Councils concerns. If necessary, a meeting will be requested between Councillors and the auditor.

Resolved: Members generally felt that the letter casts the council in a negative light and will be withheld from the website until a response is received from the auditor.

22.36 To agree the additional expenditure for litter picking equipment

At the May meeting expenditure for the litter pick was agreed at £96.24. Since then, Cllrs Byrom and Searle felt that additional signage was needed for the safety of the litter pickers. A further £130.13 was needed to purchase the warning signs before the cost increased. This was agreed via a round-robin email. Cllr Waters proposed that the expenditure was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Hampton and agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The additional expenditure of £130.13 is retrospectively agreed for the purchase of litter picking safety signs.

9. To consider any Planning Applications

22.37 No planning applications had been received.

10. To confirm and accept the Annual Play Area Inspection and consider any works required

22.38 A full copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

The recommendations in the report are all noted. In particular, it was agreed that:

- The soft landing area under the swings needs to be topped up again and some replacement bark will be purchased. Cllr Hampton will look into this and report back via email.
- The picnic tables were noted as a hazard and are quite rotten. They should be removed.
- The earth on top of the tunnel has worn down. New soil and grass seed can be added in the autumn. The tunnel would need to be fenced off while the new grass is established.
- The swing frame is suffering from surface rust only which does need to be treated. The work for this could be undertaken over the summer. Cllr Hampton has already levelled the uneven swing.

The report also recommended some signage be put in place. This was noted but it was agreed that this recommendation will not be taken forward at this time.

Resolved: The report is accepted and Cllr Taylor will contact Cllr Maslin to discuss the necessary work.

11. To consider the maintenance of public rights of way over private land

22.39 Cllr Searle reported that she had been approached by a resident saying Cardiac Hill is very overgrown. Some residents have said that they would be willing to clear the path. However, if the overgrown path is reported via the Dorset Council website, it will be logged and Dorset Council will contact the landowner to request that vegetation is cut back.

12. To review the role of the Parish Council Highways Officer and to consider the addition of a Parish Council Rights of Way Officer

22.40 It was noted that the role of the Rights of Way Officer does not necessarily need to be taken by a councillor. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report any issues they find in relation to public rights of way on the Dorset Council website.

Cllr Taylor offered to be the Rights of Way Liaison Officer and act as the point of contact for the Parish Council should any residents not wish to file the report to Dorset Council themselves.

Parish Council Highways Liaison Officer – The role was created with the intention for a Parish Councillor to keep close contact with DC Highways and establish a working relationship with them. The role includes the reporting of faded road markings and camera signs. Cllr Taylor offered to take on the role of the liaison for Highways, supported by Cllr Searle

Resolved: Cllr Taylor will take on the roles of Rights of Way Liaison Officer and Highways Liaison Officer.

13. To consider a Community Resilience and Severe Weather Plan

22.41 Cllr Hampton reported that this item had been prompted by a recent presentation given by Dorset Council. The Parish Council has a flood plan and a snow plan in place, but both may need revisiting and updating. A Community Resilience Plan could also be considered. Cllr Hampton offered to start looking into this, assisted by Cllr Searle and Cllr Waters.

14. To consider the proposal for a Cheselbourne Road Safety Strategy

22.42 Copies of Cllr Searle’s proposal had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

The Community Speed Watch initiative represents one element of such a Road Safety Strategy but there is more that could be done.

Cllr Taylor felt that the proposed Road Safety Strategy was very helpful and a discussion took place on what can be done locally over and above national campaigns. It was noted that there is a ‘Quiet Lanes’ initiative currently running in Suffolk. Is this something Dorset Council could be persuaded to adopt? This could be something for the Highways Officer to discuss with the contact at Dorset Council.

Resolved: The Parish Council support the initiative of a Road Safety Strategy and will monitor how this develops with the various resources that can be called upon locally and nationally. CSW will be part of a wider strategy. Cllr Taylor will raise the possibility of a Quiet Lanes initiative in Dorset with Highways.

15. To receive an update on the Play Park upgrade

22.43 Cllr Maslin was unable to attend the meeting but will forward a report in due course.

23. Date of next meeting

22.44 The next meeting will be held on 5th September 2022, commencing 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00hrs.