

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council held on 12th October 2023 at Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Councillors present:

F. Horsington, S. Beresford, G. Muskett, K. Burghart, G. Bishop, L. Prowse, and K. Marshall.

There were no members of the public present

FULL COUNCIL

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr's Crosbie, Brown, Bolt, Keating, and Paul sent apologies, along with Cllr Haynes (DC).

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Horsington declared an interest in any matters to do with the allotment field.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2023

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Update from the Chair

The Chair confirmed correspondence from a member of the public as to the poor state of the Cerne Giant. The Clerk had replied stating it was a National Trust responsibility.

It was also discussed as to regards an email a parishioner who had concerns over various aspects of the music festivals held at the Brewery.

It was agreed that the flyer in the Parish magazine was from the brewery and that concerns must be sent back them. The concerns were not for the Parish Council but for the brewery and Dorset Council.

The Clerk would reply, and sign post the individual to departments within Dorset Council.

To conclude, an update from the solicitors mentioned that they were awaiting the final transfer deed from the seller's solicitors, and upon receipt would write the report.

Further to the burial ground extension update, the Chair asked the working group to establish if the GPR survey report from Sheffield University would be valid with Dorset Council as part of any future change of use application.

6. Public Discussion Period

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

A report was received and distributed.

8. Financial update

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **15** payments (**PV's 67-81**), totalling **£ 2952.07** that were authorised and approved for payment, subject to agenda items 10 and 13.

b. Half year budget report

The Clerk confirmed that the overall budget spends sat at **48.07%**.

It was again noted that the administration budget would go overspent, possible more than expected once agenda item 10 has been considered.

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

a. Allotments

The committee met on 28th September.

It was mentioned that all plots are full and that 3 people were on the waiting list.

The committee were recommending that plot fees increase whilst the Precept request would be lower.

b. Burial Ground

Cllr Beresford confirmed that the committee met on 06th October.

The committee would also recommend an increase in fees and request an increase in Precept.

It was agreed to have the following works quoted for:

Removal of self-seeded lime trees and vegetation around the north wall by the Abbey.

Tidy and cut back of the yews on the footpath to Beauvoir.

Realignment of tomb.

c. Car Park

Cllr Prowse confirmed the committee met on 11th September.

The committee would not request funds from Precept as income was generated from honesty box.

The inspection report showed one minor damage to the play equipment whilst the entrance post which had been hit, showed no concerns.

The permissive path had been cleared, and the tree work of removing dead wood and lifting the canopy had been completed.

Wild daffodils had been planted and some areas cordoned off to allow growth – all of this in the wildlife area.

d. Children's Play Park

It was confirmed that the committee met on 11th September.

The committee would request a deduction in play park funding from Precept.

The inspection report showed no new areas of concern.

See agenda item 11 for improvements funding.

e. Footpaths and Environment

It was confirmed that the committee would meet on 26th October.

Concerns were raised as to regards, a dead tree on the river walk, overgrown public rights of way, and fly tipping.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had no power to act on any of these matters, and they must be reported to the Dorset Council who would contact the relevant landowners.

However, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the tree team with regards the dead tree as this was a serious issue.

It was also mentioned that the beech hedge at Chescombe would be cut by Dorset Council.

f. Planning

a. P/FUL/2022/02607

**Cerne Abbas Church of England First School, Duck Street, Cerne Abbas, DT2 7LA
Erect building for use as Learning Resource Centre**

The Parish Council supported this application.

10. Website Fees

Members agreed to pay the annual fee of £122.28 to Hugo Fox.

11. Play Park repairs

It was requested that the following works be paid from the Play Park reserves.

Varnishing of remaining benches

Clearance of picnic bench area

Sand down, fill in gaps, and wood stain the uprights of the swings

Back fill the jungle much around the edge of the multi play.

This was unanimously agreed.

12. EV charging point(s) for Kettlebridge Car Park

Cllr Prowse met a representative from Dorset Council. A double charger would be installed at no cost to the Parish Council.

Indeed, the Parish Council would receive 1.5p per kilowatt-hour.

It was unanimously agreed for this project to go ahead.

13. External audit report

The external audit report identified two areas of concern.

Charles North Funds still held in account

This has been dealt with and the Parish Council were just awaiting bank details to transfer monies.

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Incorrect bank reconciliation sent

The Clerk had challenged this as it was felt this was incorrect.

Members therefore declined to accept the external audit report until evidence of the above was shown. The Clerk confirmed that 3 emails and 1 phone call had been done with no replies. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should try once more before escalating to the Chair. It was agreed that the invoice should not be paid until resolution had been achieved.

14. Raising the profile – final poster

It was agreed that an A4 with all details would be a good start.

The Clerk would send a draft around to all Councillors who must by return that they are happy with the content on display.

15. Gift of field gate from resident

Members accepted the gift, and the Clerk would look into moving the gate from its current location to entrance to the burial ground extension.

16. Items for the next meeting

Honorarium payments

Initial Precept discussion

17. Date(s) of next meeting

Full Council

Cerne Abbas Village Hall

09th November 23

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2015 hours.

Cllr Fred Horsington _____ *Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council*