

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 10 am.

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

Present: Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Downes, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Coates, Cllr Peacock, and Cllr Anna Dunn.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Christopher, and 1 member of the public.

Cllr George Dunn took the Chair in the absence of Cllr McAra.

2721 Apologies.

Cllr McAra had sent her apologies, which were accepted.
PSCO Bishop has sent his apologies.

2722 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2723 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared. Cllr Anna Dunn has a pecuniary interest in the Friends of Clapp's Mead but has a dispensation to allow her to participate in discussion and to vote.

2724 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 29 March 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr Hunt, carried with abstention by Cllr Coates and Cllr Peacock who were not present at the meeting..

2725 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) Police Report. PCSO Bishop has sent an e-mail update, Item 0B on the Actions and Information List.

Cllr George Dunn thanked Cllr Downes for volunteering to take on the co-ordinator role for Community Speed Watch.

b) Cllr's Christopher spoke as follows: -

- He asked Cllr George Dunn to speak about the Dorset Council Place and Resources Overview Committee, held on Thursday, 21st April 2022 at 10.00 am.

Cllr George Dunn said

- It was an interesting experience; the meeting was well organised and run
 - It was well attended
 - It appears that Dorset Council is out of touch as to what parishes want regarding 20mph speed limits (one of the agenda items)
 - Janet Moore delivered a good paraphrasing of the Air Quality Action Plan consultation report
 - Committee members noted that the Air Quality Action Plan was aspiration with no teeth
 - After 30 minutes deliberation it was decided that the report should be re-presented at a later date with definite achievable proposals
 - This is a satisfactory outcome from Chideock's point of view
 - There will be further opportunities for Chideock Parish Council to put forward their ideas and views.
- Cllr Christopher spoke about the meeting

- In his view the committee was not convinced by the plan and considered that more could be done and greater effort is required.
 - Cllr Ray Bryan did give a clear commitment to a safe route for walkers, cyclists, etc., between Chideock and Bridport.
 - John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place, has asked Cllr Christopher to provide a list of measures which could improve air quality in the short, medium, and long term
 - Cllr Christopher therefore suggests that councillors have an informal meeting with him to progress this as soon as possible, within 2 weeks
- Cllr Christopher said that the next A-Road Task Force meeting, organised by Chris Loder MP, is on Friday 29 April – he will be attending
Cllr Hunt asked why no minutes / notes are produced from these meetings.
Cllr Christopher said that they are no formal meetings so minutes are not required.
Cllr Downes asked if driver education has been considered?
 - Cllr Anna Dunn spoke of concerns with BT's plans to stop all traditional landlines. Not everyone has broadband or a mobile phone, and mobile phone signals can be poor and are affected if there is an issue with a mast. Cllr Christopher asked the Clerk to send him an e-mail and he will pass it on to the relevant Dorset Council portfolio holder.

ALL

CC

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2726 Democratic Period.

A member of the public spoke briefly about speeding vehicles and the need for more police enforcement of the speed limit. In his view a bypass would be a short-term solution – otherwise it will never happen.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2727 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 15 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Items 1 to 9 – Bus Back Better. Cllr Christopher said he is attending a meeting with Cllr Ray Bryan and Baroness de Vere on 5 May.

Item 15 – Litter Free Dorset – **AGREED** to raise this at the Annual Village Meeting on 10 May, asking for volunteers, and, once a date is set, advertise it in the Chideock News.

CC

2728 A35 Matters.

Items 16 to 22 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 16 – A35 Communities Initiative – the Clerk reported that 3 parishes have responded so far, but that more replies are expected after the matter has been presented at parish council meetings.

CC

Items 21 and 22 – meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner re the A35 on 21 June. **AGREED** that the parish Council will produce the agenda for this meeting and ask Char Valley PC for input.

Cllr Peacock spoke of the possibility of using verges on the A35 (from Dorchester to the Devon boundary) to introduce a 3rd lane in some locations, which could help reduce congestion by facilitating overtaking of slow vehicles.

Cllr George Dunn raised the possibility that National Highways provide a new VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) – this was briefly discussed at the walk-about meeting with Ben Hampson in 2021.

The Clerk asked if the VAS should be removed from the asset list, and therefore form the items insured, as it does not work. Cllr Downes said that he will charge one of the batteries and see if the VAS still malfunctions.

2729 Motions Received with Notice.

RESOLVED that Chideock Parish Council moves from making payments by cheque to using

on-line banking. Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Coates, carried with 5 votes for, 1 **CC** against.

2730 Planning Matters.

Items 23 to 24B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

a) Applications.

P/VOC/2021/02516 Golden Cap Holiday Park – Revised Leisure building plans. This application will be considered at a separate Planning meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 3 May..

P/TRC/2022/02142 Clapp's Mead Playing, Field Mill Lane - T1 Oak - Remove all deadwood; T13 Ash - Remove all defective branches including limb over property, leaving a 4m stub & remove all deadwood; T16 Oak - Remove all deadwood; T17 Ash - Fell - basal rot.

Chideock Parish Council cannot comment on its own application.

b) Determinations. None.

c) Appeals. None

d) Other Planning Matters.

i. AONB, Lighting / Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.
Nothing to report.

ii. Enforcement, Retrospective Planning Applications.

Cllr Christopher said that additional Dorset Council Planning Enforcement staff are being recruited.

iii. Other.

Items 25 – 26A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 26 – Dorset Deserves Better – **AGREED** to invite a representative to attend the June Parish Council meeting. **CC**

2731 Finances.

Items 27 – 30A on the Actions and Information List were **NOTED**.

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for April	£274.34
ii. Village Hall Hire – 26 April	£14.00
iii. BLAP contribution for 2022/23	£68.91

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

b) Accounts and Budget Monitoring as of 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED to accept the Accounts and Budget Monitoring for 2021 – 2022 as a true statement of the Parish Council's financial position on 31 March 2022. Proposed by Cllr Downes, seconded by Cllr Peacock, carried unanimously.

c) Internal Audit and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Internal Audit will take place on Tuesday 3 May.

Pages 3, 5 and 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be signed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 31 May 2022. Page 3 is the Certificate of Exemption from external audit for smaller authorities with income and expenditure both less than £25,000. The Internal Auditor completes and signs page 4. Pages 3, 4, 5 and 6 will then be published on the Parish Council website as required under the Smaller Authorities Audit Regulations.

d) Actions to be taken post Financial Year End.

RESOLVED that the 2021 – 2022 budget underspend of £226.82 be transferred from the General Reserve to the Clapp's Mead Reserve Fund.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

e) Foss Orchard Car Park.

RESOLVED to accept the estimate of £3520 from Mr Barnes for maintenance of the river bank adjacent to Foss Orchard Car Park.

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

Work cannot commence until Dorset Council Flood Management agree that permission is not required as the watercourse flow will not be affected during or after the works.

- 2732 Clapps Mead Playing Field.**
 Items 31 - 34 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
AGREED that the new signs re dogs being off lead provided that they are under control and there are no children in the field should be made of durable material. Clerk to obtain a quotation for this. **CC**
 The Clerk passed the new “pick up dog poo” signs to Cllr Dunn who will put them in suitable locations. **GD**
 Cllr George Dunn will also remove the 2 COVID-19 signs and store them in case they are needed in the future. **GD**
 Consideration of the actions recommended in the RoSPA Inspection Report from the inspection conducted by Mr Hussey in March was deferred to the May meeting.
 A local resident has volunteered to empty the 2 waste bins in the field every 2 weeks.
- 2733 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.**
- a) Rights of Way.**
 Items 36 and 37 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
- b) Dorset Highways.**
 Items 37A and 37B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
AGREED to ask that Dorset Highways considers traffic management on Carter’s Lane, which is single width with few passing places, as there may be large vehicles needing to access North Chideock by this route while North Road is closed. **CC**
- c) Flood Management.**
 Nothing to report.
- The Clerk reported that progress is being made on the formal complaints to Dorset Council regarding the extremely poor service received from Dorset Highways and Rights of Way in relation to reported problems. **CC/MD**
- 2734 Current Consultations.**
- a) DEFRA Nature Recovery Green Paper Consultation / Environmental Targets Consultation / Nutrient neutrality guidance.**
AGREED that the Clerk edits and circulates Cllr Peacock draft response on Environmental Targets. Response required by 11 May. **CC**
- b) DEFRA Consultation on the Government’s Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan.**
AGREED that those councillors who so wish will make individual responses. It was noted that this is an historic problem due to the Victorian sewage and drainage systems which, to solve the problem, would need to be replaced in its entirety. Response required by 12 May.
- c) DEFRA Consultation on preventing charges for DIY waste at household waste recycling centres** and call for evidence on booking systems at household waste recycling centres. **AGREED** that councillors will put forward suggestions to the Clerk. Response required by 4 July.
- 2735 Correspondence.**
 There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors’ notice.
- 2736 Annual Village Meeting.**
 This has been advertised in the April and May Chideock News, on the Parish Council website and Facebook page and on the Chideock and Seatown Community website.
 The Clerk will post the formal notice on the Parish Council noticeboard at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.
 The Clerk will send formal invitations to village groups offering them the opportunity to give a brief update if what they have been doing for the past 3 years, since the last Annual Village Meeting.
 Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served from 6:45, and the meeting will start at 7pm.

2737 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.
The next scheduled meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 31 May 2022.

The meeting closed at **11.30am**.

After the meeting had closed Tony Peacock informed that council that he is standing down as a councillor as he is moving from the village.

The Clerk will notify Dorset Council of the resultant Casual Vacancy.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

A very brief interim report.

Since my last report I have dealt with residents' concerns.

These ranged from VAT treatment of empty residential buildings where the property has been unoccupied for more than 2 years and the requirement to obtain Dorset Council proof for reduced rate VAT to apply on renovation costs to concerns about waste bins.

Clearly there are continuing concerns re the high incidence of Covid and pressure on GP practices on local hospitals. Your MP is aware of the strains placed on all parts of the NHS locally, not least due to recruitment issues and caseloads.

Following disappointing news in respect of the claim for HMG funding of the Dorset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan Bid i.e. BSIP portfolio holder Councillor Ray Bryan has secured a meeting with relevant Government Minister Baroness Vere to press for release of funds in the second tranche of funding.

I attended the relevant Committee of Dorset Council, dealing with the Councils Air Quality Plan prior to any referral of the Plan to Dorset Council. This will be discussed further at face-to-face meeting with Chideock Parish Council.

I believe that our discussions prior to the Dorset Council Committee meeting on 21 April was constructive and the submission by Chideock PC was well received by the Dorset Council Committee .

I look forward to A35 working group meeting on 29 April with your MP.

I am pleased that the proposed meeting with our Police and Crime Commissioner is now in the diary .

Clearly cost push price inflation is problematic .For Dorset Council this is also problematic not just rising input costs but also concern re financial viability of the suppliers to Dorset Council , whether goods or services, within the supply chain.

I continue to liaise with the Head of Enforcement who informs me that he has been involved in recruiting additional staff , which is welcome given residents' concerns about the level of planning breaches.

The LGA i.e. The Local Government Association is urging people to engage in positive, constructive debates.

There are growing concerns about levels of public intimidation and toxicity of debate in local politics both online and in person.

This behaviour not only risks the personal safety and well-being of councillors, but also undermines the fabric of local democracy the LGA has warned ,

LGA chair Cllr James Jamieson and the LGAs group leaders said:

"Councillors play a unique role in representing the need of residents ,often working together cross party to tackle important local issues and to improve the quality of life of local people."

"Differences of opinion ,and the defence of those opinions through councillors arguments and public debate are an essential part of the cut and thrust of political life."

"But we hear too many harrowing stories from councillors and officers about the harassment and intimidation they face . This is unacceptable and damages our democracy by forcing people from public service."

I look forward to the Annual Village meeting on the evening of Tuesday 10 May.

However, I would likely to pass on some thoughts from a local farmer as we approach the silage making season and that is in relation to dogs on footpaths."

"There is continuing concern that dog mess is not picked up by the dog owner.
The main issue with dog faeces in silage is neosporosis which causes abortion in cattle.
The problem is that the organism that cause the condition can survive the fermentation process and so cattle fed contaminated silage in winter are still vulnerable."

Best regards

Simon

Dorset Councillor Simon Christopher
Marshwood Vale Ward
077988 33715