

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.05 am**.

**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Glenn, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr David Rogers, Cllr Coates, Cllr Tony Peacock, Cllr Peter Hunt.

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher and 5 members of the public.

**2517 Apologies.**

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

**2518 Grants of Dispensations.**

None.

**2519 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.**

None declared.

**2520 Minutes.**

**RESOLVED** to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 26 January 2021.

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

**2521 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.**

a) PCSO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows: -

- On the evening of Wednesday 27th January, a vehicle travelling through the village through thick fog, collided with a wall and flipped over. Fortunately, the driver suffered no injuries and was the only involved person.
- We have had a number of calls over the last few months of people reporting scam calls from callers purporting to be Police Officers. The caller purports to be an Officer (usually from the Metropolitan Police) investigating a fraud involving the recipients bank cards. This is a scam and Police would not operate in this manner (Police would investigate a crime, if reported by the victim). If you get a call from someone purporting to be a Police Officer and you are not sure if it is genuine, take the name and collar number of the Officer, the Station and Force where they are based, hang up, then call 101 and ask to speak to that Force to confirm if genuine. Also remember to NEVER give out or CONFIRM any details when asked or provided. The vast majority of unsolicited/cold calls are not genuine, so please just hang up and do not get into any conversation with the caller. You can also contact your phone provider to ask about call screening services. For further information visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

All

b) Cllr Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor, had reported by e-mail and his report is appended to the minutes.

He gave additional information and answered questions.

Dorset Council's budget has been formally agreed.

Discretionary grants may be available – he should be contacted with details for grants required.

CC

News regarding A35 improvements will be available in April.

There is a lot of interest in the state of lanes such as Hell Lane and about the possibility of a Bridport to Maiden Newton light railway.

He talks to the Dorset Council Leader Spencer Flower on a weekly basis.

He mentioned that Tom Munro, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has recently sent out an e-mail to all farmers on their database about the Government's plans for agricultural support post-Brexit, and especially on Environmental Land Management (ELM).

Cllr Glenn asked Cllr Christopher if he would be willing to have a Zoom meeting with councillors to enable a more detailed conversation about issues in Chideock – Cllr Christopher agreed to this. Clerk to arrange.

CC

Cllr Dunn said, in relation to increased use of footpaths etc during the pandemic, that there is no guarantee that this will continue in the future.

*Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.*

**2522 Democratic Period.**

A member of the public spoke as follows: -

- Priority should be focused on addressing safety concerns regarding the lack of any suitable pedestrian access on the south side of the A35 in the centre of the village of Chideock between Chideock Bridge and Bilberry Close, rather than on an all-purpose path between Chideock and Bridport. As a resident of some 20 years living directly between these two locations, he has observed daily the risk being taken by pedestrians both residential and tourists using this section of the road of being knocked down by HGV's and road vehicles.  
This dangerous section of the road is also used constantly by children and walkers accessing the public right of way to Clapps Mead playing field and Seatown beach.
- The lockdown period has caused an increase in what were already unacceptable levels of vibration felt in his property, causing damage to the boundary wall adjacent to the A35 and also cracking of the east facing elevation of the property. This additional increase in the vibrations levels felt can be attributed to the speed increase of the HGVs as a result of a reduction of traffic through the village slowing the HGV's down. However, this does not distract that when things return to normal i.e., post lockdown the speed and vibration levels will become acceptable.

A member of the public spoke to confirm this and also said that the speed camera is still not in place in the eastbound housing at the western end of the village.

Cllr Christopher said that news of A35 improvements from Honiton to Yellowham Hill to the east of Dorset will be available in April. A35 improvements are funded by Highways England, things such as an all-purpose path are funded by Dorset Council.

A member of the public complained that the police do very little speed limit enforcement in Chideock despite being asked.

Cllr Christopher said that there is no reason for this and that the Parish Council should request that mobile speed camera units should attend on a regular basis.

A member of the public said that mobile speed checks are just sticking plaster – what is needed is Average Speed Cameras.

Cllr Christopher asked everyone to e-mail their concerns to him.

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

**2523 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.**

Items 1 to 7 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Item 1 – Chideock Cemetery Entrance.** This is a matter for the Parochial Church Council not the Parish Council.

**Item 5A – Seatown Car Park Attendant's Hut.** The Clerk reported that Palmers attempted to remove the hut from the river on 31 January but failed. Another attempt will be made. It appears that the hut has now broken up.

**Item 6 – Storm Damage to Seatown Toilets.** The main damage is to the screen in front of the toilets. Material has been tidied up and put at the side of the toilet block. The door to the Ladies has not been replaced. Clerk to chase this up with Dorset Council

**CC**

Rubbish from the recent beach clean has been piled up around the rubbish bin and is blowing around in the wind. Clerk to chase Dorset Council re bin emptying arrangements.

**CC**

Cllr Anna Dunn said that reporting of such things a storm damage, rubbish etc would be much easier if the Parish Council has a social media presence. **AGREED** that this will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Cllr Dunn spoke about the Rural Access to Public Transport group which was set up last year by Cllr Jackie Sewell (Broadwindsor PC), Cllr Christopher Noon (Char Valley PC) and herself. Nothing further has been done to date due to the pandemic. The Western Area Transport Group (WATAG) has recently communicated with her saying

“We are also exploring whether we should follow Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG) who have recently produced a draft paper entitled “Purbeck Transport Strategy”. We wonder whether we should be exploring a post Covid-19 “West Dorset Transport Strategy”, and this is where your group (with Chris Noon and Jacqui Sewell) - “Rural Access to Public Transport (RAPT)” might be an ideal partner. We envisage input from all ‘stakeholders’ – to include town/ parish councils; transport operators; other ‘interested’ bodies including individuals – to assist in putting together a paper. It’s certainly a project that we would be unable to undertake without assistance. Please think about it and talk to Chris and Jacqui.”

Cllrs **AGREED** to this request for assistance and Cllr Glenn **AGREED** be involved.

**2524 A35 Matters.**

Items 8 - 14 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

**Item 11A – Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman response re CPC’s Complaint against Dorset Council re Air Quality.** **AGREED** that this be put on hold until the meeting at noon on 23 February given Chris Loder’s suggestion that the Parish Council should work through him on A35 issues.

**Item 12 - Tyres > 10yrs old banned.** **AGREED** to write to Cllr Christopher asking what action Dorset Council will take to ensure that this is adhered to by both the council itself and all contracted companies.

Cllr George Dunn said he had not received any responses from other councillors to his draft paper to escalate the complaint against HE to the ombudsman. **AGREED** that this be put on hold until the meeting at noon on 23 February given Chris Loder’s suggestion that the Parish Council should work through him on A35 issues.

**2525 Motions Received with Notice.**

None.

**2526 Planning Matters.**

**a) Applications.**

None.

**b) Determinations.**

None.

**c) Appeals.** None.

**d) Other Planning Matters.**

**i. AONB / Lighting & Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.**

No updates.

**ii. Enforcement and Retrospective Planning Applications.**

Item 15 on the Actions & Information List was noted.

**iii. Mill Lane / Bridleway 18.**

No updates.

**iv. Bullen’s Lane / Bridleway 20 at Junction with A35.**

No update.

**v. All Weather Path between Chideock and Eype / Symondsburry.**

Items 15A – 15D on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

**vi. Seatown.**

No updates.

**vii. Additional Matters.**

None.

**2527 Finances.**

Items 15E – 18 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

**a) Payments.**

**RESOLVED** to make the following payments: -

**i.** Clerk’s Salary and Expenses for January £364.08

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

The Clerk will send the cheque to Cllrs Anna and George Dunn for signature.

**b) Budget Monitoring Year End Projections.**

**NOTED**, with a projected underspend of approximately £490, largely due to not using the Village Hall due to COVID.

**c) Grants to External Bodies, to be paid at Year End.**

**AGREED in principle: -**

Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau - £200

Chideock News - £200

Bridport Leisure Centre - £100.

A resolution for payment will be placed on the agenda for the March meeting.

**d) Foss Orchard Car Park.**

Item 19 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

**2528 Clapps Mead Playing Field.**

Items 20 – 23 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

The actions on the Clerk's report regarding remedial works required were **AGREED**.

Cllr Dunn said that he and Mr Kelson are of the opinion that a piece of trellis will solve the problem of the fence being too low at one point in the play area, which gives possible access to the river (water hazard).

Authorisation of expenditure to repair the Bridge with Hut will be made at the March meeting, with the work requested to take place in April.

Cllr Anna Dunn suggested that the Parish Council should do fund raising for renewal of equipment at Clapps Mead. The Clerk said that parish councils are not permitted to do that but that maybe a "Friends of Clapp's Mead" group could be formed. **AGREED** that the Clerk will work with Cllr Anna Dunn to write an article asking for support, to go into the April Chideock News.

**CC/  
AD**

**2529 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.**

Items 24 – 26B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

In regard to the mud and water in Mill Lane, Cllr Glenn said that she has been told that there was a culvert under the road which has now collapsed. Clerk to report this to Dorset Highways,

**CC**

Mr Mick Downes, Flood Warden, said that the vegetation along the ditch by FP17 has been flayed and that the detritus is now in the ditch impeding the flow of water. Clerk to report this to Dorset Council Rights of Way. He also said that there are issues with water exiting on to Seahill Lane from the first field on the west going towards Seatown. The Clerk will write to the landowner.

**CC**

**CC**

**2530 Current Consultations.**

- Dorset Local Plan. End date 15 March 2021. **AGREED** that the Clerk will collate the comments received from councillors and circulate the draft response via e-mail for agreement prior to submission.

**CC/  
ALL**

**2531 Correspondence.**

There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors' notice.

**2532 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.**

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

At the end of the meeting Cllr David Rogers announced his retirement from the Parish Council, effective immediately. He said that this had been planned for a while.

Cllr Glenn thanked him for all his work during his years on the council.

The meeting closed at **11.32 am**.

## **Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.**

A very brief report ahead of the Chideock Parish Council meeting

It is now almost a year since the start of the full impact of the Covid pandemic became apparent and the first lockdown commenced. My wife Una I remember the Shrove Tuesday event at Chideock Village hall approximately a year ago and reflect on what we have all missed subsequently

I thought that I would commence with a reminder of a couple of consultations

1 The Dorset Council local plan consultation covering the period 2023 to 2038

I mentioned this in my January report, and I encourage your consideration of this

2 The St Mary's school site Shaftesbury

I anticipate speaking about St Mary's after the consultation period has expired.

I am conscious that the clerk has asked for a short report and that the report this month is lettered with comments about money matters (and hope that it is not littered with spelling and grammatical errors also). You think it light on other non-money issues but at this time of year budgetary considerations seemingly dominate

The Full Council met on 16 February and agreed the Budget for 2021/2022 with some 70 of the 84 councillors voting in favour.

The budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022 is just under £313 million, an increase from the 2020/21 Budget of £304 million

The increase in budget is needed to fund the cost of responding to the coronavirus pandemic and the increased need for social care and inflation

Councillors agreed to increase the general council tax by just under 2 per cent and to levy the adult social care precept of just under 3 per cent in line with the Government Spending Review. The increase equates to £1.62 per band D property.

Dorset Councils Covid 19 response has resulted in additional expenditure for vulnerable residents, PPE, Covid secure arrangements together with lost income from car parking, leisure services, business rates and council tax

I thought I would stress what the leader of Dorset Council has said

'The twin uncertainties of a one-year settlement from Central Government and the serious to medium term impact of COVID 19 has had a real impact on our ability to maintain discretionary services which are very visible and valued. Increasing pressures in the needs-based services Adults and Children's has created the greatest challenge '

At the last meeting of Chideock Parish Council parish councillors agreed with my concerns in respect of the pressures put on the finances of Dorset Council and the relative lack of non-council tax income The Leader of Dorset Council Councillor Spencer Flower has had discussions with Luke Hall MP the Minister of State for Growth and Local Government to discuss the current financial situation in Dorset and help needed from Central Government. The achieve the of moving from 6 Councils i.e., 5 local District Councils and a County Council to one Unitary Council was stressed

I continue to have discussions with Highways England and with Dorset Council Highways officers and Dorset Highways councillors on matters ranging from The A35 to Hell Lane. I am very grateful for those who copy me in when they write in respect of the A35 to Dorset Council or Highways England. The way things are looking it appears likely that we will have a lead member for highways visiting to look at Hell Lane before either the Chief Executive or Leader meet with you in the village as I have suggested. I look forward to discussing this further with you on Tuesday

During the past month I attended a WATAG meeting and have continued to lobby for better public transport whether road or rail.

As I write this, I understand from Public Health Dorset our local Covid 19 case rate in Dorset continues to fall. The case rate for the Dorset Council area (92.2 per 100,000) is now slightly lower than the South West region average of 93.7

I would be pleased to hear your thoughts on the timing of lockdown easing. There are many people who are very concerned about lockdown being eased too early such that tourists occupy self-catering at Easter and with possible bad weather then being driven into pubs, restaurants, cafes and shops at Easter so causing a spike in Covid cases.

The week 15 to 21 February was national empty homes week. Throughout the week the Council used Facebook and Twitter to highlight the issue of long-term empty homes. It is estimated that there are around 400 long term empty properties in Dorset and there are some 6000 families on the housing waiting list.

Dorset Council has continued with a campaign to recruit more foster carers. Foster carers receive a weekly fee plus a weekly allowance for each child looked after. Foster carers receive a free programme of learning and development from experts, training courses, learning online etc.

The Dorset AONB partnership, hosted by Dorset Council, are researching attitudes and readiness for the Government's transition for agricultural support post Brexit and interest in developing farm income strands around environmental management. This will help inform support the AONB partnership may be able to offer in the future.

The partnership is promoting a free online workshop to be run 3 times which will feature the most current information on Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Land Management and farming in protected landscapes.

All households will receive a letter in connection with the Census. The census day is 21 March 2021. The census will help plan and fund local services. This could include transport, health and education.

I look forward to discussions on Tuesday and wish you well.

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher  
Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale