

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Chideock on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.02 am**.

Present: Cllr Roger Carey (Chair), Cllr David Rogers, Cllr Rob Murray, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Laurie Elliot, Cllr Kate Geraghty and Cllr Vanessa Glenn.

In attendance: The Clerk, Dorset Division Councillor Turner and 7 members of the public. Mr Nigel Wraxall arrived during the meeting.

2064 Apologies.

West Dorset Councillor Simon Christopher sent his apologies.

2065 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2066 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Glenn reminded councillors that she works for Dorset County Council.

2067 Minutes.

a) **RESOLVED** to accept and sign, as a true record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 31 October 2017.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Elliot, carried unanimously by those who were at the meeting. Cllr Carey and Cllr Rogers abstained as they were not present.

2068 County and District Councillors' and Police Reports.

Cllr Turner reported as follows: -

- On 7 November the Minister for Communities and Local Government has said he is "minded to approve" the creation of 2 Dorset unitary authorities
- 2 Area Joint Committees have been formed, one for each proposed unitary are
- These committees will take forward
 - Development of the Parliamentary Structure Order
 - Council Tax harmonisation
 - How DCC assets and services for Christchurch can best be disaggregated
- The unitaries will be completely new authorities
- Christchurch, which opposed the proposal, is conducting a referendum of electors
- East Dorset and Purbeck, which also oppose the proposals, will each meet to determine how they wish to proceed
- DCC met with the CEO of South West Railways on 24 October regarding the timetable changes which come into effect in December 2018. Journeys between Weymouth and Dorchester will be faster but less frequent.
- The Parliamentary Boundary Review consultation ends on 11 December. Slight changes are proposed to the eastern portion of the West Dorset constituency boundary.
- WDDC planning delays are improving
- Toilet cleaning in West Dorset - the firm currently carrying out this work (Churchill) have announced that they are relinquishing the contract at the end of March 2018.
- WDDC expects to make further cost savings over the next 3 years.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2069 Democratic Period.

The Clerk gave brief answers to two questions raised at the previous meeting: -

- What funds do the two Chideock cameras generate and where does this money go? The Clerk said that she has made enquiries but not yet received a response.
- What are the 6 trends mentioned in the August HE notes point 3a)? The Clerk said that this was an error on her part – trends have been looked for but not found.

Members of the public spoke on the following matters: -

- The owner of a property adjacent to Bullen's Lane thanked the Parish Council, Chideock Society and DCC Rangers Team for the clearance work carried out at Bullen's Lane on 22 November and wished to know of any plans for the area to be improved and maintained in the future.
- Reference was made to the CPC article in the Chideock News and the letter in the Bridport News, and the Chair was asked to explain why Chideock Parish Council has sought to cast doubt on the lawful democratic process by seeking to misrepresent the outcome of the Parish Poll, conducted under Electoral Commission guidelines by West Dorset District Council and was asked if Chair would correct this.
- Will the Chairman explain how the Parish Council intends to seek the views of the 70.97% residents entitled to vote who chose not to?
- Can the Chairman confirm that all meetings of the Parish Council A35 Advisory Group will be open to members of the public and press in accordance with LGA guidance and where they will be held. If not, why not?
- Are future meetings with Highways England and Oliver Letwin going to be held in public? If not, why not?

The Clerk said that the notes from the November Quarterly HE meeting will be put on the community website in due course, when agreed by the Parish Council.

- Sir Oliver Letwin had told the A35 Bypass Working Group that that the meeting with him had been called by the Parish Council but the Parish Council claimed that it had been called by Sir Oliver. Which is true?

CC

- When are the next Parish Council elections due to be held?

The Clerk said that they are due to be held in May 2019, but that date may be affected by the formation of Unitary Authorities.

- The Quarterly HE meeting notes for 2 February 2017 say that the Clerk will attempt to produce an "idiot's guide" to Low Emission Zones. Was this done and, if so, is it available to members of the public?

CC

The Clerk said that she had produced a document and that copies are available if requested.

- Will the Chairman confirm what reply the Parish Council is going to give to the question asked at the last meeting, namely, will they endorse the will of the people of Chideock to have a bypass, as unanimously voted for in the Public Poll? If not, why not?

- Will the Parish Council please explain the term "published" in connection with documents, and how may a member of the public access a "published" document?

The Clerk said that "published" means "placed in the public domain", for example being placed on the Community website. Copies can be requested.

- Is a charge made by the Parish Council for papers supplied to members of the public? The Clerk said that no charge is made if the information is supplied electronically but that if paper copies are required a small charge is made to cover printing costs and postage.

- Is it correct that a Governance Review can take place if it is requested by 7.5% of electors?

The Clerk said that a Community Governance Review can be requested by electors and that such a review is concerned with matters such as changes to parish boundaries.

CC

- Is it true that the Chideock A35 Bypass Group now wants to pursue a bypass through the village, despite the question posed in the poll, as agreed at the Parish Meeting, was for a route outside the Parish?

The Clerk said that, if members of the public wish to raise matters for consideration at a Parish Council meeting, the request needs to reach her by the Wednesday before the meeting, at the very latest, so that it can be included in the meeting papers which must be delivered to councillors at least 3 full working days, excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays,

prior to the meeting.

The Clerk also stated that, when replying to e-mails / letters from members of the public, she only replies to the sender and does not include others. This is because the sender may not wish the content of the original email / letter and / or the reply to be made known to others.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2070 Updates to the Follow-Up List.

AGREED that the following items be added to the Follow-Up List

CC

- Meeting with Inspector Neil about Rural Policing issues
- Bullen's Lane – progress on grant applications made by the Chideock Society
- Additional diffusion tubes and procedure changes

2071 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 - 4 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2072 A35 Matters.

Items 5 - 30 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** except for those detailed below, which were discussed in more detail.

Item 5 – Letter from Mr G Dunn. AGREED that no reply is required.

Item 6 - A35 discussion with Oliver Letwin MP on 17 November 2017. AGREED that the notes will be placed in the public domain once they have been agreed by councillors as an accurate record of the discussion, and Sir Oliver has seen them and agreed to this.

CC

Item 8A – Letter from Mr D Maxwell. AGREED that a reply be drafted by the Clerk and circulated for agreement by all councillors.

CC

Items 11 – 13 – Air Quality. AGREED to refer the late production of the 2017 Defra Report to Mr Graham Duggan (Head of Community Protection for West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and North Dorset District Council).

CC

AGREED to ask what is being done to install more diffusion tubes, as agreed at the LEZ meeting held in Dorchester on 15 September 2017. **AGREED** to ask Mr Duggan when the new procedures for diffusion tube monitoring, following the recent anomalous results, will be introduced.

Item 19 and 19A – Miles Cross A35 Meeting Notes. AGREED that the Clerk informs Bridport Town Council of the inconsistencies between the minutes from the Clerk and those sent on behalf of Bridport Town Council.

CC

Item 27 - 30 – Vehicle Activated Sign not working. AGREED that action not be taken now as this may not be required if Average Speed Cameras are installed. To be added to the Follow-Up List.

AGREED that the Clerk follows up on the Bilberry traffic counter data with Andy Kirby, who reported at the HE Quarterly meeting that it is turned on.

CC

Cllr Glenn said that everyone knows the importance of finding solutions to the A35 problems and that CPC is passionate about, for example, safety issues. It is essential that progress is made on replacing the obsolete GATSO speed cameras with Average Speed Cameras.

Cllr Rogers said that Chideock Parish Council has done and continues to do as much as it can regarding the A35 problems, probably much more than other parishes would. But CPC has no powers and can only chivvy higher bodies which do have powers. But these higher bodies have their own agendas and are reluctant to spend money as budgets are so tight.

2073 Motions Received with Notice.

Cllr Elliot briefly explained the purpose of the resolution:

- To increase the effectiveness of communication and follow-up by involving more councillors
- To improve communication and engagement with Chideock parish residents and receive feedback from them

After discussion, the motion recommended by the CPC A35 Working Group at the meeting on 8 November 2017 was amended as shown in bold and strike-through. The amendments were proposed by Cllr Elliot, seconded by Cllr Murray and carried unanimously.

The amended motion was thus

- To rescind the resolution made on 25 September 2017 to form a CPC A35 Advisory Group
- **That the CPC A35 Working Group continues to meet informally as required**
- That individual Councillors take **lead** responsibility for particular action areas

Communication / Engagement	Cllr Glenn
Sir Oliver Letwin	Cllr Murray
Highways England	Cllr Murray
WDDC	Cllr Elliot
DVSA	Cllr Carey & Cllr Murray
Dorset Road Safe	Cllr Hunt
Resurfacing/Connect/Balfour Beatty	Cllr Elliot
Chideock Matters/Local MEPs	Cllr Geraghty
D of T - manual traffic count	Cllr Elliot
- That all Councillors have delegated authority to deal with their action areas, with the proviso that all letters / e-mails to external bodies must **be circulated to and agreed by all councillors prior to being** sent by the Clerk

The amended Motion was proposed by Cllr Elliot, seconded by Cllr Murray and carried unanimously.

Cllr Glenn said that she will prepare a draft Communications Strategy for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting, which will include regular updates for residents to report progress made.

VG

2074 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

None.

b) Determinations.

WD/CA/17/00454 GREENHILLS, CHIDEOCK HILL T1 Copper Beech - Reduce by 25% overall - to allow more light into garden

c) Appeals. None.

d) Any Other Planning Matters.

- i. **AONB / Lighting & Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.**
Cllr Geraghty reported that CPRE has grave concerns for the future of AONBs and Green Belt land due to the pressure from Central Government to provide housing.
- ii. **Enforcement and Retrospective Planning Applications.**
Item 31 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.
- iii. **Mill Lane Bridleway 18.**
No update. **AGREED** that this be followed-up with DCC Rights of Way if no update is received by mid-January.
- iv. **Bullen's Lane / Bridleway 20 at Junction with A35.**
Cllr Geraghty gave a report on the recent work by DCC Rangers and residents to clear the land. She outlined the Chideock Society's ideas on how the land can be improved and maintained in the future, including improving visibility for pedestrians and drivers at the junction of Bullen's Lane and the A35 Trunk Road.
Councillors thanked the public volunteers, the Chideock Society and the DCC Rangers for the work carried out so far.
- v. **All Weather Footpath.**
Highways England has informed the Council that the land opposite Bilberry Close and on up to Quarr Cross is no longer owned by Highways England.
- vi. **Seatown.**
Item 59A on the Actions and Information List was noted. Cllr Geraghty said that a temporary repair has been carried out by the Seatown car park attendant.
- vii. **Seatown Regeneration Feasibility Study Project.**
Items 32 and 33 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
Mr Nigel Wraxall, owner of Seaton beach, spoke about the forthcoming works to install further rock armour to protect the turning circle, road and concrete apron. He is supplying the Mendip stone free of charge and WDDC are paying for the installation.
- viii. **Other**
Item 34A on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.
Item 34 – Letter re WD/D17/001515 - Yew Tree House. AGREED that the draft

Cllr Rogers reported that cars are regularly parking on the verge at the Piggery North Road which is making it very difficult to access the post box and notice board. **AGREED** that this be reported to DCC Highways – who owns the verge?

Cllr Glenn queried the lack of an up to date Parish Plan. The Clerk said that Parish Plans carry no weight and that the Parish Council had previously decided not to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan requires a desire for development and needs a group of committed and dedicated to people to work on its development. Cllr Glenn said that she felt that this should be revisited as the lack of a Neighbourhood Plan could leave the area open to development. She said that she will investigate, with the Clerk's help, and report back at the February meeting.

CC

Cllr Geraghty left the meeting at 12:15 pm as she had another appointment

2075 Finances.

Item 35 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

a) Payments.

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| i. | Clerk's Salary for November | £247.01 |
| ii. | Chideock Village Hall Hire – November | £52.00 |
| iii. | Theresa Mudford – hire of mower x 2 – November | £20.00 |

Proposed by Cllr Carey seconded by Cllr Murray, carried unanimously.

- b) Given that there will be no meeting at the end of December, **RESOLVED** to draw and sign post-dated cheques for the following payments: -

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| i. | Clerk's net salary + office allowance for December 2017 | £227.21 |
| ii. | PAYE payment for Oct, Nov, Dec 2017 | £170.40 |

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

c) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Item 35 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

Item 36 – Review of Season Ticket Charges. RESOLVED to increase the charges by 100%, which puts them back to the level they were at in September 2009. Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Glenn. 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

The Clerk asked if she should request an estimate from the Bridport Lengthsman for repainting the white and yellow lines – Cllrs thought this was an excellent proposal.

CC

d) Budget / Precept 2018 – 2019.

The draft budget prepared by the Clerk was **NOTED. AGREED** that the budget does not need any amendment, unless information is received prior to the next meeting which indicates a need for adjustment. Formal resolution of the Budget and Precept will take place at the January meeting.

CC

AGREED that the possibility of devolution of the maintenance of the Seatown public toilets from WDDC to CPC be followed up in February and that it be added to the Follow-Up List.

CC

2076 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Item 39 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

The Clerk reported that Mrs Mudford has mown the children's play area twice in November.

CC

2077 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Item 39 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**. Cllr Carey reported that Simon Roberts of DCC Highways had been told by DCC operatives that the gully clearing had been done and is investigating why it was not carried out.

2078 Current Consultations.

None.

2079 Correspondence.

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

2080 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 January 2018. It may be necessary to hold a Planning Committee meeting between now and then.

The meeting closed at **12:35 pm.**