

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Annual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday
27 April 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.00 am**.

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

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher and 3 members of the public.

2550 Apologies.

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

2551 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2552 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2553 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 23 February 2021.

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

2554 Co-option to Fill the Casual Vacancy.

RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Mick Downes as councillor by a majority of 4 votes to 2.

As the meeting was held via Zoom Mr Downes made a verbal declaration of acceptance of office; the paper form will be signed at the first in-person meeting.

The Clerk will send him the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest for completion within 28 days, as required by law.

2555 Election of Chair.

Cllr Coates nominated Cllr Vanessa Glenn who said she was willing to stand as Chair. Cllr Hunt seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations and Cllr Glenn was **ELECTED** unanimously.

As the meeting was held via Zoom Cllr Glenn made a verbal declaration of acceptance of office; the paper form will be signed at the first in-person meeting.

2556 Election of Vice-Chair.

Cllr Anna Dunn nominated Cllr George Dunn who said he was willing to stand. Cllr Peacock seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations and Cllr George Dunn was **ELECTED** unanimously.

As the meeting was held via Zoom Cllr George Dunn made a verbal declaration of acceptance of office; the paper form will be signed at the first in-person meeting.

2557 Election of Councillors to Committees.

a) Finance Committee & General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that all councillors should continue to be on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Planning Committee. Proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr Peacock, carried unanimously.

2558 Appointment of Representatives, who do not have to be Councillors.

The following appointments were **AGREED**: -

a) **Rights of Way** matters – all councillors.

b) **Village Hall** representative – Cllr Hunt

c) **Environmental and Air Quality** matter – Cllr Peacock.

- d) All other matters pertaining to the **A35 Trunk Road** – all councillors.
- e) **Dorset Council Highways** Matters = all councillors.
- f) **Bridport Local Area Partnership** (BLAP) Steering Group – Cllr Glenn
- g) **Western Area Transport Action Group** (WATAG) – Cllr Anna Dunn
- h) **Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils** (DAPTC) – quarterly meetings held in Bridport – Cllr Coates.
- i) **Community Flood Group** representative – Cllr Downes.
- j) **Clapp's Mead Playing Field** maintenance co-ordinator – Cllr George Dunn
- k) **Parish Liaison Meeting** representative – meetings of the 14 parishes within the Bridport Local Partnership area, held approximately monthly in Bridport – Cllr George Dunn
- l) **Foss Orchard Car Park Ticket Machine** – to collect money with the Clerk from the machine on a regular basis – Cllr Coates.
- m) **All-Purpose All-Weather Footpath** representative – Cllr Coates.

2559 **Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.**

- a) PSCO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows: -
 - Between 2.15pm and 3.15 pm on 28th March, a handbag was stolen from the boot of a vehicle at Langdon Woods. As always, advice is not to take anything of value with you if you do not need to. Never leave items of value inside vehicles, even if hidden away.
 - There have been reports across the County of thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles. This has occurred a couple of times in the Bridport area over the last few months. The vehicles likely targeted include Japanese models, such as Honda's and Toyota's. I do not wish to cause anyone with these types of vehicles panic, but I would advise everyone to be vigilant and to consider your security. Catalytic converters are part of the exhaust system, so if you see anyone with an angle grinder or saw underneath a vehicle and this appears suspicious, please report it to us on 999 (as a crime in progress). If anyone is concerned or would like advice on security, please contact us.
- b) Cllr Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor, had reported sent 2 reports via e-mail, which are appended to the minutes.
Cllr Christopher said that, in relation to cycle paths, Chris Loder has made it clear that he regards Chideock to be very important, probably more important than any other part of his constituency.
It was agreed that a date to meet with Cllr Christopher will be arranged via e-mail.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2560 **Democratic Period.**

A member of the public said he had found the Air Quality figures up to January on the Dorset Council website, though the presentation is not as good as it was before. He has made a spreadsheet for the data which he is happy to share. He said that it is a pity that there is no data for other pollutants and is appalled that these are not being monitored.
Cllr Christopher said that he shares these concerns. He emailed relevant counsellors and officers within Dorset Council about that point yesterday and looks forward to the day when the responsible councillors and officers actually visit Chideock and meet with residents.
Cllr Glenn said that Bristol University has shown interest in monitoring PM_{2.5} pollution and will be visiting Chideock once the COVID regulations permit.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2561 **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 2 – 5A – All-Purpose All-Weather Path – the Clerk reported that she has identified the owner of the first field east of Broadmead on the southern side of the road and will send the information to Cllr Coates.

CC

Item 9 – Community Governance Review.

The Clerk reported that the Symondsbury Clerk has identified further properties in North Chideock which are in Symondsbury Parish. The request from CPC will be taken to the next Symondsbury Parish Council meeting on 4 May.

Item 11 – Seatown Litter Bins. The Clerk said it would be a good idea to monitor whether the bins are being emptied as stated. **CC**

Social Media Presence.

The Clerk said that she has not actioned this but will do so before the next Chideock News deadline and that it will be advertised in the Chideock News.

2562 A35 Matters.

Items 15A to 31 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2563 Motions Received with Notice.

None.

2564 Planning Matters.

a) **Applications.** None.

b) **Determinations.** None.

c) **Appeals.** None.

d) **Other Planning Matters.**

Items 32 - 34 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

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

Item 32 – Dorset National Park. The Clerk will submit the information requested by Chris Loder by the due date of 30 April. **CC**

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

Cllr Downes reported that West Dorset Leisure Holidays are advertising 16 Acre Field for tenting and VWs from 9 July to 6 September (59 days), when the planning consent is for tenting / trailer tenting for 39 days a year. **AGREED** that this will be reported to Planning Enforcement.

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

No updates.

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

AGREED that this be removed from the agenda as the land has been claimed by the adjoining property, so the owners are responsible for removing vegetation overhanging the A35 and impeding visibility for walkers exiting from FP18 onto the A35. **CC**

v. **Additional Matters.**

Items 33 and 34 – Housing Need. **AGREED** to have an open forum after the May Parish Council meeting to consider this.

The Clerk asked Cllr Christopher if there are problems in the Planning Department as there have been very few applications and decisions – she knows that this is particularly true for Bridport Parish. Cllr Christopher said that there are delays particularly in validation of applications and land searches. He also said that he is concerned that very few applications are going to the Planning Committee for consideration.

2565 Finances.

Items 29 - 30 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

a) **Payments.**

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for March £266.69

ii. Huck Nets for goal net pegs £30.00

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

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

b) **Year End Accounts & Budget Monitoring.**

The Clerk reported that the VAT refund was received after Year End and so only £53.03 unspent budget could be carried forward to the Clapp's Mead Maintenance

Fund. Now that the refund has been received the additional amount will be credited to that fund.

The Year End accounts were **NOTED**.

c) Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

RESOLVED to approve the Declaration of Exemption from External Audit, given that both income and expenditure for 2020-2021 are less than £25,000.

CC

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

The signing of the form has been carried out by post.

N.B. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return cannot be completed and signed until after Internal Audit has taken place. The deadline for completion of the AGAR is 30 June 2021.

Cllr Hunt congratulated the Clerk on the quality of the accounts. Cllr George Dunn seconded this.

d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Items 35 - 36 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2566 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Items 37 - 46 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 39 – Goal Net Pegs. AGREED to wait for the next quarterly ROSPA Inspection Report before any a decision is made regarding the goal nets. **AD**

Items 41 to 45 - Use of Clapp's Mead for football by over 15-year-olds. There have not been any further reports of this occurring. As it is linked to Item 39 any action is deferred but councillors are against removing the goal nets.

Friends of Clapps Mead. Cllr Anna Dunn said that she will hopes that the first meeting will take place mid-May.

The Clerk thanked Cllr George Dunn and his group of volunteers for the work carried out to paint the play area fencing and the play equipment. **CC**

2567 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Items 4 – 58B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 47A – Addition litter and poo bins. AGREED, at Cllr Christopher's suggestion, to e-mail him with the information supplied by Dorset Waste Services and he will pass this matter on the appropriate Lead Councillor at Dorset Council. The response to the Parish Council is at odds with the response made to Cllr Downes (Item 11). **CC**

Items 48 and 49 - Mill Lane / Sea Hill Lane direction sign. The Clerk thanked Cllr George Dunn for taking this forward.

Item 52 - New Grit Bin for North Road. Cllr Glenn said that she is happy for the bin to be delivered to her address.

Incident in Duck Street / Sea Hill Lane. Cllr Downes reported that a wide farm vehicle had caused damage to a wall outside The Cabin. After discussion it was **AGREED** to monitor the situation before taking any action.

2568 Current Consultations. None

2569 Correspondence.

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

2570 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 25 May 2021.

This meeting must be held in-person as virtual meetings are not allowed from 7 May 2021 onwards. It is hoped that the Village Hall be available.

The meeting closed at **11.53 am**.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Reports.

Report 1.

Chideock Parish Council asked Cllr Christopher to consider the following questions in his report: -

1. Has the HE report re Safety and Severance etc, promised for April, been issued? If not, when is it expected? If yes, please can CPC have a copy?
2. Has Chris Loder's A35 meeting taken place yet? If yes, what are the highlights and when will minutes be available? If no, has a date been scheduled?
3. Despite CPC being told by Jane Gordon-Banks on 2 April that CPC would shortly receive Chris Loder's amendments to the minutes of the meeting with him held on 5 February, nothing has been received.
4. Please comment and advise on the BBC report of the coroner's confirmation that PM_{2.5} contributed to the death of the young girl in London.
5. What is Dorset Council intending to do about PM_{2.5} pollution – the smell from burning brakes is pervading the village. What is our MP actively doing to address this matter?
6. Roundabout construction at Miles Cross for Vearse Farm development – starting January 2022.
 - a. What arrangements are going to be put in place for traffic diversions for through HGV traffic and holiday traffic ?
 - b. Who will communicate directly with Chideock to inform / consult on any planned activity which will impact on the A35 , including limiting our access to necessary services?
 - c. What routes have been identified for construction traffic for the roundabout - will it come through Chideock or from the East ?

Cllr Christopher responded as follows: -

"I am anticipating that it would be useful to have a meeting with yourselves after 6 May 2021.

I will answer the 6 questions in your e mail of 22 April 2021 to the best of my ability and explain why the meeting should be after 6 May 2021

My replies are somewhat limited by the Police and Crime Commissioners elections and the Local elections on other parts i.e., sections of the A35 where there are elections. Accordingly, information will not necessarily be released e.g., by e mails by others e.g., Highways England until after the polling date of 6 May 2021 i.e., the end of a purdah period . It is my understanding that I will not have e mail reports from Highways England to forward to you until after 6 May 2021

1. There is an expectation that the safety and severance report will not as per above, be issued until after 6 May 2021
2. I have attended 2 meetings with Chris Loder MP this week. Please note that the first meeting involved a lead member for highways , the second meeting was not confined to the A35 and extended to cover all A roads in the County and interested parties e.g., Highways England, Dorset Highways, and a lead member for highways were in attendance with Chris and myself .
3. I spoke with Jane Gordon-Banks on 22 April 2021 who assures me that the minutes of the meeting Chideock PC had Chris Loder MP in February 2021 will be sent to you shortly
4. The news of the death is incredibly sad . As you know I update the Chief Executive of Dorset Council with concerns of residents and yourselves .Please note I am in contact with the head of public health for Dorset .
5. See 4 above. Please note that I have forwarded your questions to Chris Loder MP, who together with myself ,actively engages with Highways England and I look forward to discussing proposals and developments after 6 May 2021 to extend to and not limited to safety , speed cameras , speed limits , alternative transport modes, etc.
6. It is intended that updates will be available from the portfolio holder for Highways.
Please note that construction programme for a roundabout at Miles Cross would in part be governed by the intentions of the developer working with the consultees

I hope this explains the current position."

Report 2.

"You may be aware that Hertfordshire Council and others brought a legal action against the Government's decision not to allow parliamentary time to allow legislation for the continuing use of virtual meetings beyond early May 2021. The hearing was held on 21 April and as I write this, we are awaiting the result of the court decision.

Since the last meeting we have seen a major slip of the cliff East of Seatown, and I am sure we are all aware that the slip appears massive and could at a different time could have had devastating loss of life.

With respect to the planning application to erect a side extension at The Old Creamery, Ridwood, where Chideock Parish Council objected on the grounds that the proposed use of render would be unsympathetic to the existing dwelling, I have received a response from the nominated officer for Development Management and Enforcement at Dorset Council, Anna Lee:

"I am satisfied that under the provisions of Dorset Council's constitution this application can be determined as a delegated decision. I consider that the concerns raised by Councillor Christopher and Chideock Parish Council have been addressed in the officer's report, noting that a similar mix of render has been used on another property in the vicinity. Overall, I consider that this is an appropriate matter to determine under delegated powers."

With the continuing dry weather, it is easy to forget the consequences not least for our farmers with I understand this being the driest April for some 80 years. There is an appreciation that there are consequences for farmers, for example the amount of water used in dairy farming livestock arable and indeed mixed farming paying more than £2 a cubic metre. Other parish councils often talk of river pollution due to slurry and other waste entering our rivers. I am under the impression that across Dorset that there are increasing numbers of farmers wishing to leave the dairy industry whether conventional or organic dairy farmers choosing to get out of dairying. This may be reflected with the Dorset County farms estate. While the dairy sector plays its role in the presentation of our green and pleasant land, we should remember the safety aspect with accidents on farms across the Country exceeding 50 in the last year. Our local farmers have to cope with restrictions on abattoir availability, the high incidence of TB in cattle and as result of the 2 previous points having animals to cull being left on the farm too long

Despite sheep and beef prices holding up well dairy prices are in the doldrums and the dry weather is set to impact on crop yields. Many farmers have diversified into tourism and one concern is how long Dorset Council's planning team is taking to process applications

I have particular concerns that decisions are consistent, and you may please want to consider whether you have any thoughts on this subject

With respect to the A35 I am expecting statements from specialists around the areas of speed limits impacting of course on safety and the environment and the provision of much needed safe walking and cycling on routes as an alternative to the A35 while extracting commentary from those who specialise in public health.

I look forward to speaking with you at a meeting devoted to A35 issues when I might have received emails from specialists mentioned above outlining proposals for 'the way forward,

Dorset Councillor Ray Bryan appears to have devoted a considerable amount of his time to safety matters in Weymouth particularly railings by the harbour. The railings have caused an enormous amount of press coverage whether the railings are needed you can judge for yourself. I have made my mind up that they are necessary

I am aware that there is considerable frustration concerning poor mobile phone coverage whether in the remotest parts of the Marshwood Vale Ward or even within parts of Dorchester. You may be aware that the Council is using its own waste collection vehicle to monitor mobile phone coverage across Dorset. It is my understanding that The Government is proposing law changes that will allow phone masts to be increased in size in rural areas to improve coverage. It is further my understanding that the proposals are for the mobile phone companies to be allowed to build masts up to 5 metres taller and two metres

wider than presently allowed .There is the desire on the part of H M Government to eliminate 4G not spots as they are termed and to speed up the roll out next generation 5 G networks

There is discussion of a new Green Homes Grant as HM Government looks to meet new carbon targets in particular the new target to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2025 when compared with 1990 levels . With more than 800,000 rural homes heated by oil this will be a major challenge as those living off grid are encouraged to move to alternatives such as ground source heat pumps.

The Cabinet of Dorset Council will be considering the future of St Mary's Shaftesbury, this was purchased by the Dorset Council earlier this year. This was then followed by a public consultation around the Councils preferred option for use for Special Educational Needs pupils. The vast majority of the respondents to the survey agreed with the preferred option of Dorset Council. The envisaged daily commute to the school is 45 minutes so my colleagues and I will be looking for appropriate investment in the West of the County e.g. at Mountjoy, Beaminster

There has been much discussion of the National Bus strategy and the idea that the transport portfolio holders in Councils across the land are charged with the duty to come forward with proposals in the next few weeks, so assisting amongst other things, helping the economy bounce back from the depths of the recession providing an improved service for residents and holiday makers.

I am concerned about the level of road rage as people drive on local lanes and hope people will treat others with respect as Dorset becomes busier during the next few months
Having spoken at length about farming at the start of this report I shortly turn to accommodation and hospitality sectors but before I do, I will comment that Dorset Council has increased some car parking charges with a view to boosting car parking income that collapsed due to lockdown restrictions

In the 12 months to 28 February 2021 whereas GDP across the economy fell by 7.8 per cent across the Country The corresponding figure for accommodation showed a reduction of 73.9 per cent and for food and beverage the reduction in GDP was 51.3 per cent . Clearly every assistance that Dorset can be given to boosting the economy through a successful tourist system will be helpful for the Country's finances and also those of Dorset Council."