

CHIDEOCK ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2020

Minutes of the Chideock Annual Village Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Cllr Vanessa McAra (Chair of the Parish Council) took the Chair.

The meeting was attended by 22 residents, 7 Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and Dorset Ward Councillor Simon Christopher.

Sal Robinson, Parish Clerk, took the minutes.

The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

1. Introduction.

Cllr McAra welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. This is the first Annual Village Meeting since 2019 due to Covid-19 and the associated restrictions

The Clerk explained the origin and procedure of an Annual Village Meeting as opposed to the Annual Parish Council Meeting or an ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

2. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from PCSO Alex Bishop (who is on paternity leave), Laurie and Jane Elliot, and Gaby Martell, Tish Wynford-Thomas.

3. Minutes.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Village Meeting held on the 21 May 2019 were agreed by those who had attended that meeting.

4. Reports from Chideock Parish Council, Dorset Ward Councillor, and the Police.

a) Cllr Vanessa Glenn, Chair of the Parish Council, gave a summary for the past 36 months:

The Parish Council

- continued to function during the COVID-19 restrictions, conducting core business
- tries to be a voice on behalf of the village to Dorset Council, Chris Loder MP, and other bodies such as National Highways
- continues to raise issues regarding the A35 – congestion, severance, safety, pollution – with the powers that be e.g. Dorset Council, National Highways, the Department for Transport, central government
 - asked several universities if they would be interested in conducting research into Chideock's air quality issues. Bristol University came forward and have been conducting research for the past year or so and this will continue until at least the end of 2022. The results to date have been shared with Dorset Council and National Highways and this will continue.
- Cllr George Dunn, with Cllr Simon Christopher, attended the recent Dorset Council Place and Resources Overview Committee on Thursday 21 April 2022 where the draft Air Quality Action Plan was on the agenda for approval, and read out a statement from the Parish Council which had been drafted and agreed via e-mail. The committee decided that the plan was unsatisfactory and sent it back to be amended.
- In addition the Parish Council has been involved in issues related to Public Footpaths, flood management, planning issues, meetings with other Parish Councils and other relevant partners, and has responded on behalf of the village to numerous public consultations on issues such as the new Environmental legislation.
- Parish councillors are involved in daily correspondence via email and during Covid continued to meet in person (when allowed), or via Zoom.

b) Miss Sal Robinson, Clerk to Chideock Parish Council, gave a report and presented the accounts for 2021 2022:-

- In person meetings were suspended from March 2020 until the end of August that year due to COVID. During that period business was conducted via e-mail, in line with an agreed scheme of delegation. In person meetings resumed from 31 August (the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had to be approved and signed by that date), only to be suspended prior to the November meeting. Meetings were then held via Zoom in December (delayed November meeting) through to April, with in person meetings resuming in May 2021, with strict social distancing.
- The precept has not been significantly increased over the past 3 years and it is hoped that this will continue but there is no certainty.
- The accounts for 2021 - 2022 have been finalised and there is an underspend of £226.82 which has been transferred to the Clapp's Mead Playing Field Maintenance Fund.
- The Internal Audit took place on 3 May and no issues were raised.
- Foss Orchard Car Park.
 - National Highways funded the installation of 2 electric car charging points, and the Parish Council receives £833.34 each year in rent.
 - The hedge is cut twice a year by the Bridport Lengthsmen (excluding "Chideock").
 - The garden area will be tidied up by the Lengthsman, if not already done.
- Clapp's Mead Playing Field
 - The required RoSPA checks for insurance are now conducted by Mr Ken Hussey, who does this for other parishes, including Bridport. The checks are done every 3 months and any minor repairs are done there and then. Mr Hussey has done other larger repairs on several of the older pieces of equipment thus prolonging their lives..
 - Councillors conduct visual inspections every 2 weeks.
 - The Parish Council thanks Cllr George Dunn, Mike Kelson, Shay Devine, and others whose names I don't know, for helping with general maintenance tasks.
- Bus Shelters - Bus shelter cleaning recommenced in April and is being done by Luke Bennett.
- Finally, thanks to Anna Dunn and Lyn Crisp for providing the tea, coffee, and biscuits at the start of the meeting.

c) Cllr Simon Christopher, Marshwood Vale Ward Councillor spoke about: -

- The Dorset Council Place and Resources Overview Committee on Thursday 21 April 2022
- The repair to Chideock Bridge – no-one at National Highways appears to want to get this done
- The number of accidents on Dorset roads is depressing
- The A-Road Task Force meeting, lead by Chris Loder MP, is due to take place this coming Friday, after being cancelled the previous week. Cllr Christopher will be raising the issues of the Chideock Bridge repair; the speed limit discrepancies between Chideock and Bridport Crown roundabout; how dealing with accidents on the A35 could be improved so as to reduce congestion.
- Dorset Planning function. In his view this is not working well - he has told Cllr Spenser Flower (Leader of Dorset Council) of his concerns. The process takes too long; planning officers do not conduct site visits; too many officers are still working from home; with large applications it takes too long for conditions to be set which delays approval and therefore construction; very few applications are now being considered by the Planning Committee but are decided by officers under delegated authority.
- Bus Back Better – Dorset did not get any money from central government – Cllr Ray Bryan (Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment) is battling with Baroness Vere of Norbiton (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport) for money to be made available
- Police and Crime Commissioner – the Parish Council, together with Char Valley Parish Council, are meeting with the PCC in June. Any questions from electors should be sent to the Clark.

5. Update from Mr Maskell and Cllr Coates on the provision of the much needed and long sought for safe walking and cycling route between Chideock and Eype.

Mr Maskell gave an update of Hell Lane – a new Temporary Traffic Control Order will be put in place shortly and Dorset Highways are evaluating what work can be afforded to improve the lane.

Mr Maskell updated everyone on the current position – the path is supported by Dorset Council but it is one of several schemes which have been put forward and funding is limited.

He asked people to continue to show their support and to encourage others to do the same.

The group (Deirdre Coates, Will Grafton and himself) are exploring other funding sources. Applying for grants will mean that the group has to be formally constituted with a constitution etc..

He was sincerely thanked by the Chair and those present in the hall for taking this project on and for the fantastic work he has completed to date, supported by Cllr Coates and Will Grafton.

6. Updates from Village Groups.

Updates were received from the following groups:-

- Chideock Society
- Chideock and Seatown Community website
- Roman Catholic Church
- Friends of Clapp’s Mead
- St. Giles Church
- Chideock Bypass Working Group
- W.I.
- Clapp’s Mead Preservation Society (ClAMPS)
- Community Café
- Village Hall

7. Open Forum.

Professor Denys Brunsten raised concerns about pollution of the River Winniford from field run-off, septic tank leakage and release of effluent from storm drains by Wessex Water. He suggested that as a starting point a Freedom of Information request is made to Wessex Water asking how many times effluent has been released in to the river. It was agreed that the Parish Council take this forward.

A member of the public said that the current Temporary Traffic Regulation for Hell Lane ends at the end of this month – what happens then?

He also asked why such closures are not enforced – why can’t a barrier be put in place? It was agreed that the Parish Council take this forward.

Cllr Christopher that he understood that planning approval is not permitted where a development could be detrimental to 5 Dorset rivers and to Poole Harbour. It was pointed out that the River Winniford is classed as a watercourse not a river. It was agreed that the Parish Council take this forward.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Signed: - Date: - ?? May 2023