**Minutes of Cheselbourne Parish Council**

**Held at Cheselbourne Village Hall on 4th May 2015**

 **Apologies**: Cllr Haynes, Cllr Northover, Cllr P. Cooke and Cllr A. Canning

**Present**: Cllr Widdowson, Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Timlin, Cllr Bere

**In attendance**: M Treccani-Chinelli (Clerk), Cllr J. Cuff and a couple of members of the public.

**Minutes of previous meeting**: Approved and signed

**Matters arising:** Nominations for Parish Council, Rivers Arms, Broadband and Finger Posts were put to discussion later in the meeting.

**Nominations for Parish Council:** Cllr Greenwood apologized for a misunderstanding which led to the parish council nominations not being handed in on time. These will be re-submitted and an election held on 11th June. If a councilor is needed in the meantime a District councilor will be provided by WDDC. Clerk to hand out nomination papers.

**Superfast Broadband:** Cllr Widdowson pointed out there had been an article in the Blackmore Vale with Wessex Internet vouchers for businesses and she has been encouraging businesses in the village to sign up, so hopefully we will be connected soon.

**Finger Posts**: Cllr Greenwood explained that some of the missing fingerposts have been located by Richard Warren who the Parish Council is hoping will be able to carry out the repairs. Cllr Widdowson reported that a quote of £1600 has been received from AONB fingerpost project for repairing 2 fingerposts and the Parish council had received a donation. Cllr Widdowson said that AONB thought there may be a third one that needs repair, but we are not aware of any others. The cost of using the service was too high but that she was looking into buying the parts from the council and getting the work done by Richard Warren. Dewlish carried out their own repairs to which Cheselbourne Parish Council contributed. Cllr Cuff suggested that we could collaborate with other Parish Councils over the cost.

**Reports from district councilor Jacqui Cuff:**

* Cllr Cuff was asked by Cllr Greenwood about the usefulness of a neighbourhood plan. She explained that she is Member for the Piddle Valley ward whose NP is currently under consultation. She explained there are grants available for admin/printing/consultation costs but these have to be used fairly quickly or can be lost. She recommended Jo Withersden a former WDDC planning development officer as a possible consultant. She also explained that plenty of people are needed to help, with minute taking being especially important. She outlined benefits such as: more control over development of the area including the type of housing, style, size and number of properties; income from community infrastructure levy for parish council if new homes developed; provision of community facilities; the protection of certain areas from development and the ability to ensure homes go to local people with connection to the area. She suggested that Cheselbourne could possibly join with Melcombe Horsey for the development of an NP as they are too small to have a parish council.
* My Home in Dorset is a new WDDC website for local tenants to find rental properties and landlords to list properties that is free to use.
* Property Pilot offers the same for commercial properties in Dorset and is also free.
* The Dorset for You website now allows people to set up *e*petitions.
* BOATS- bridleways across Dorset are to be consulted over again due to a discrepancy in map sizes, land owners will need to get on board to prevent unwanted changes.
* Dorset Accessible homes is a county wide scheme aiming to keep people independent and in their own homes by providing alarms, sensors and also installing hoists, walk-in showers and the like for the disabled or elderly.
* P. Hiscock from Plush standing for District Councilor as J. Cuff standing down.
* NDDC and WDDC to merge to cut costs therefore parish councils will need to take on a bigger role and become more self-sufficient.

**Planning**: Application No WD/D/15/000712 Rosehill Farm, Access to Rosehill Dairy, Cheselbourne. Create agricultural access road (25m) - no objections.

Application No WD/D/15/000325 The Rivers Arms, Change of use from public house to 3 dwelling houses (re submission). Cllrs Widdowson and Greenwood reported that they had attended the planning committee meeting and that the planning has been refused again on the grounds of unacceptable loss of services to the community. Since no change of use has been granted yet there is still hope. Cllr Greenwood is currently producing evidence for an appeal which must be submitted by the 15th May. Cllr Cuff suggested asking for an extension, also using Dormen as a mentor to create a business plan and figures although they would charge a fee for this. Cllr Timlin suggested that buyers interested in the past might be contacted to see if they had business plans which could be used as evidence. Cllr Greenwood to look into this.

**Finance:** Cllr Widdowson presented the accounts for the year 2014/15 and asked for approval for audit. Cllr Greenwood proposed and Cllr Bere seconded, so accounts to be sent for audit by the clerk. Cheques to be paid out to Mr A Kellaway for grass cutting at the Village Green (£125), to Came and Co insurance (£265), to St Martin’s PCC for grass cutting of the churchyard (£170) and to the Clerk (£200).

**Highways and Rights of Way:**  Two potholes just past the Rivers Arms - Clerk to report on website on behalf of PC.

**Open Session**: Judy Cooper suggested that rather than everybody exchanging Christmas cards with all their neighbours it would be nice if the Parish Council purchased a Christmas tree and lights, then each household could write one card/tag to go on the tree and donations could be made to charity instead of buying cards as she had seen this in another village. Cllr Widdowson suggested that the tag might be bought from the Parish council and they donate the money to charity.

**AOB:** Cllr Widdowson said that the Chairman’s report is still pending. Cllr Greenwood thanked Sue Widdowson for all her work on behalf of the Parish Council as she is standing down.

**Next meeting: 6th July 2015**