

**Minutes of the Chideock Parish Council meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, at 10 am**

**Present:** Cllr George Dunn (Chair), Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Mick Downes.

**In attendance:** Clerk, Outgoing Clerk (Sal Robinson), Cllr Simon Christopher, and six (6) members of the public.

**The Parish Council Meeting commenced at 10:00am.**

**2933. Apologies.**

Cllr Vanessa McAra sent her apologies, which were accepted.

**2934. Grants of Dispensation.**

None received.

**2935. Declaration of Defined Pecuniary Interests.**

None. The Chair reminded councillors of the need to review their register of interests at least once a year and inform the clerk of any changes.

**2936. Minutes.**

**RESOLVED** to accept and sign, as a true record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.

Proposed by *Cllr Hunt*, seconded by *Cllr Anna Dunn*, carried unanimously.

**2937. Dorset Councillor and Police Reports.**

**a. PCSO Bishop.**

PCSO Bishop was not in attendance at the meeting. That this was without apologies was noted as unusual.

**b. Cllr Simon Christopher.**

It was noted that Cllr Christopher's report to the CPC had arrived at approximately 10 pm the previous evening (26/06/2023), and it was requested that reports in future are sent at an earlier point so as to allow for circulation amongst the CPC. Cllr Christopher responded that he aimed to provide as up-to-date an account as possible and hence this sometimes meant that reports would arrive at such a time.

Cllr Simon noted that he had sent an email about grants that are available, and that Cllr Anna Dunn was looking into this topic.

Cllr Simon informed the CPC of an ongoing consultation regarding a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dogs on beaches, noting that there is great concern regarding dogs defecating on beaches and in rivers and the impact that this can have, including up to the levels of causing blindness. He noted that the councillor with the relevant portfolio to this is Cllr Beddow, and noted that she has made social media posts regarding responsible dog ownership, such as using short leads and picking up waste. He added that any further concerns should be emailed to him.

Cllr Simon noted the proverb Matthew 19:26, “with God, anything is possible.” This was to indicate that he is hoping that in the near future, Cllr Bryan, who holds the portfolio relating to Highways, will visit Chideock and assess the concerns the CPC and residents have. He told the CPC that when clarification regarding a date is received, he will inform the CPC.

Cllr Simon noted that the CPC had been busy as of late, referencing a meeting that the CPC had with representatives of National Highways, and a meeting with Chris Loder MP at which Cllr Simon was in attendance as an observer. He now wished to take the opportunity to provide input that he hoped would begin a discussion and would allow him to identify the thoughts of the CPC, specifically regarding the question of a second crossing in Chideock. He mentioned the importance of the issue to the CPC and expressed the view that it is a necessary addition to the town for the benefit of residents on the east side of Chideock, regardless of the effect such a crossing would have on slowing traffic. He solicited the comments of the CPC regarding the meeting with Chris Loder MP.

He commented on the effect that the current situation with mortgage rates rising, and commented on comparisons with previous rises in mortgage rates, noting that in the past, an increase of one percentage point from 10% to 11% represented a 1% increase in repayment costs, whereas an increase of one percentage point from 2% to 3% represents a 50% increase in repayment costs. He noted that the current situation is exacerbated by the greater amounts that people have had to borrow, such that the increases represent large values. He mentioned that this issue is especially difficult for households that entered into 2-year fixed rate agreements two years ago when rates were low and there was greater encouragement for borrowing. He claimed that the Labour Party are arguing for a return to MIRAS (Mortgage Interest Relief At Source, whereby the government contributed 20% to household’s mortgage interest payments), and compared this to a rush into the housing market after Chancellor Nigel Lawson announced that double MIRAS (MIRAS that was able to be used twice for households owned by a couple on the first £30,000) was to end, but not with immediate effect.

Cllr Christopher noted the many difficulties people are currently facing, such as increased food prices, and general price increases. He stated that Dorset Council is not unaware of the importance of the activity of the labour market, noting that the ONS have reported that wages have increased by 7%, and as the Dorset Council’s largest expenditure is wages, challenges exist.

He concluded his prepared statement by updating the CPC on his activities on the day, and expressed that he is conscious of upcoming by-elections, noting the Dorset Council by-election in Sherborne on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, and parliamentary by-elections in July. He told the CPC that he is handling a lot of correspondence in connection with road safety in the village, and later that day would be attending a meeting about the future of Marshwood Church, which is currently used by a local school and is facing financial pressures.

*Cllr Hunt* gave his impression that the meeting with Chris Loder MP was positive, and that he had appropriately researched and understood the area. He commented that

interesting points had been raised, and while there were to be questions regarding delivery, he felt that Chris Loder MP had listened, and there was positivity. Cllr Christopher commented that he agreed, but noted that it was important to keep in mind the residents in the east of Chideock. *Cllr George Dunn* echoed the sentiment expressed by *Cllr Hunt*, and mentioned that he got the impression that there was an intention to make such meetings more regular events. Cllr Christopher agreed that such meetings needed to be more regular, and that there was a great desire to see progress, in particular with ASCs (Average Speed Cameras).

He also commented on concerns about road closures, how often the road would be closed, and what work would take place on the hill. It was noted that opposite Muddiford Lane, there was a notification that road works would commence for twenty-two (22) weeks, which would be conducted in the same manner as significant roadworks a few years prior, which involved permanently maintaining one lane up the hill and one lane down the hill. It was noted that this work was to address land slippage on the north of the A35.

#### **2938. Reports/ Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.**

*Cllr Anna Dunn's* disappointment at the virtual meeting of Bus Back Better was noted, with hopes that regardless, something positive will come of it. It was noted that one application for co-option to the CPC had been received, and an informal expression of interest had been received. The meeting was reminded that the deadline for applications was the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, and that co-option would take place at the next meeting (July 2023).

The meeting was informed that there had been various items of correspondence regarding restricting HGV deliveries to the Spar shop, and that these all received positive responses. The positive development regarding Dorset Council acknowledging responsibility for the bus shelter at Broadmead and the quick clearing of the shelter that followed was noted.

The meeting was told that the notes taken at the meeting with Chris Loder MP were authored by *Cllr McAra*, with whom the Chair had spoken earlier that morning. He said that she had told him that she had received comments from Chris Loder MP which she would be incorporating and would subsequently send these notes to the Clerk, at which point they will be published. The Chair added that Chris Loder MP had suggested that it would be a good idea for the CPC to identify and prioritise major points of concern on the A35, and therefore asked each councillor to identify four (4) priorities that would then be collated to be sent to Chris Loder MP.

It was noted that there had been an amount of back-and-forth regarding police action on exhaust noise from motorcycles, and that there was evidence that noise cameras were in use elsewhere in Dorset which the CPC desired to also be used in Chideock. It was pointed out that this had not yet been formally requested. *Cllr Downes* suggested writing to Mr Sidwick on this issue, with which the outgoing clerk agreed. The meeting was informed that Dorset Roadsafes have promised deterrent days, during which they would set up measures such as road checks. The Chair requested that *Cllr Downes* draft a letter on behalf of the council, which he agreed to do. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile also requesting dates for a meeting, given that Mr Sidwick had previously responded positively to the suggestion of a meeting, but no date had been set. (The reader should be informed that the standard procedure for drafting correspondence on behalf of the CPC is that such items are drafted and subsequently circulated

among the CPC for amendments, and the final draft is sent by the clerk subject to a majority of the CPC approving of it).

A letter that had been sent to Dorset Council to address the issue of dogs on Seatown Beach was noted. It was mentioned that the CPC had been told that enforcement was currently not possible as notices regarding the prohibition of dogs on the beach were not in the correct places, and should be on the approach to the car park so that people were aware of the prohibition prior to entering the car park. This had been resisted by Palmers (who own the car park) who expressed that they did not wish to add additional signage, but it may be fruitful for the clerk to pursue this matter presently. It was noted that enforcement is a difficult task due to the number of dog patrol officers and the number of places covered by the relevant PSPO. *Cllr George Dunn* asked Cllr Christopher if he would forward an email to Dorset Council, who responded that he had emailed Cllr Beddow who is now looking into the matter.

### **2939. Democratic Period**

The outgoing clerk noted that the Democratic Period item on the agenda had been skipped. This then commenced.

Paul Ramsden (a Chideock resident) wished to speak on the matter of the hedge at the Foss Orchard Car Park. He told the meeting that there had been a previous agreement in 2019 when shortening the hedge had been discussed such that the hedge would be maintained at seven (7) feet where it had been previously, therefore providing protection from noise pollution and air pollution for the residents behind it. He noted that there had been discussions about reducing the height of the hedge so as to allow Rob Murray to be able to continue servicing it safely, intending to cut diagonally upwards into the hedge from the top of the lettering. Mr Ramsden expressed concerns that this would be unattractive as it would expose bare stems, and that this would be a shame as the hedge is a positive contribution to the village. He instead offered to take responsibility for cutting the hedge at a higher level, noting that he has suitable equipment as well as private offers of assistance from other residents.

*Cllr George Dunn* confirmed that this would be done on a voluntary basis, and asked whether the stated height would be for the entire hedge or just the lettering; Mr Ramsden confirmed that it was the former. It was emphasised that Mr Murray would continue to maintain the topiary letters. Mr Ramsden informed the CPC that trimming would occur at the earliest in September, due to bird nesting season. The meeting agreed that it would have to be discussed whether the Bridport Town Council lengthsman will maintain the sides of the hedge, noting the existing contract for the coming financial year. Another resident expressed support for this plan.

Geoffrey Fry (Chair of Pucknowle & Swyre Parish Council, P&S PC) noted that the clerk as anticipated to take on the role of clerk for P&S PC, and that as the clerk is new to the role he would be attending training, suggested that the cost of this training be shared between the two parish councils. It was noted that DAPTC can be asked to bill half of the cost to each parish council separately, as opposed to one council making a payment to another after the latter settles the full cost of the course. It was agreed that this detail should be resolved later, but the principal of the suggestion was agreed. The clerk was instructed to contact DAPTC to resolve this as it arose.

The meeting discussed the Chideock Society notice board. It was pointed out that it is in need of

repairs as the post is rotting and that it is the smallest notice board in the village. Chideock Society plan to replace it should the need arise. Consideration will be given to the idea that the Village Hall Committee will take responsibility for it.

Mr Ramsden provided updates regarding the activities of WRAG. He informed the meeting that samples of the river were taken to test for e-coli and other bacteria on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, with the expectation that the result should be clean due to the lack of storm overflow in the previous 20 days, and hence the samples were to be a base case. He reported that the samples were actually similar to results earlier in the year when there were storm overflows. As a result, he contacted Wessex Water, who checked readings from the treatment plant and confirmed that UV treatment was working correctly, indicating another potential source of pollution was involved. As a result, WRAG will need to run more tests to identify the source. He confirmed that the test at the site of output and at the site of the village was disparate, and hence the suspected source of pollution lie between those two points. *Cllr Downes* enquired about the possibility of motor homes discharging their waste being the source. *Cllr Christopher* suggested that *Cllr Beddow* be invited to speak to the CPC about this issue as well as issues relating to the beach, noting that she had already spoken to another parish council. The Chair requested that the clerk address this.

It was noted that the booking for the Village Hall for the meeting was in the evening rather than the morning. It was explained that the error is likely to have arisen from the previous year's arrangements whereby meetings in summer took place in the evening to see if this would lead to greater attendance.

#### **2940. A35 Matters.**

The CPC's meeting with National Highways (NH), attended by *Cllr George Dunn*, *Cllr Anna Dunn*, *Cllr McAra*, and *Cllr Downes* was commented on as seeming productive, though this was the case with previous meetings that effected no change, and hence hope was expressed that this meeting would not fall into that pattern. It was stressed that the processes that NH go through can be somewhat extended. The meeting was informed that notes of this meeting were taken and were in the process of being agreed with NH. It was mentioned that as no issues were resolved following the previous meeting with NH, the same issues came up, in addition to new concerns, such as those of utility covers. It was suggested that the act of flagging priorities to Chris Loder MP may prove useful in encouraging NH to act.

The meeting discussed recent road closures and frustrations arising from access to the village for residents. The clarity and timeliness of notifications from relevant bodies were commented upon, even if execution was not ideal. The upcoming closure of Pettycrate Lane was noted and the provision of information was remarked upon positively.

*Cllr Hunt* informed the meeting of a road incident near the Village Hall the previous day involving an HGV and passenger car. He commented that the A35 is not fit for purpose, stating that a contributing factor in the incident was the narrowness of the road and the width of the HGV forcing the HGV to encroach on the other side of the road. He suggested that this incident be used to flag issues to relevant bodies. *Cllr George Dunn* agreed with this sentiment and suggestion. He also commented on a recent incident near the Spar shop which caused traffic issues. *Cllr Hunt* argued that HGVs should not use the A35 and instead should use the A303. While accepting that the A35 is a trunk road and there is nothing that the CPC can do about this,

he argued there is a need to prevent HGV usage, with which *Cllr George Dunn* agreed. The Chair suggested that *Cllr Hunt* draft a letter about the incident to be sent to NH and Chris Loder MP. *Cllr Downes* dissented, arguing that the incident was a standard road accident, and it would not reflect well on the CPC to over-react to this.

**2941. River Winniford and Water Pollution Issues.**

The Chair thanked Mr Ramsden for the update on pollution matters.

**2942. Motions Received with Notice.**

None.

**2943. Planning Matters.**

No planning applications had been received. A notification of Appeal from Cains Farm was received (**P/FUL/2021/04618**).

**2944. Finances.**

The meeting was informed that the outgoing clerk had submit forms to remove herself from the CPC bank account and to add the clerk and *Cllr Hunt* the Thursday three weeks prior to the meeting. She told the meeting that she assessed the progress two weeks later, and was informed that it had not been processed due to a delay. As a result, for the time being cheques must be signed by *Cllr George Dunn* and *Cllr Anna Dunn*. It was suggested that at some point after the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2023, the clerk confirms the progress of adding the signatories. The clerk and *Cllr Hunt* agreed to pursue the establishment of online banking for the CPC.

**a. RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

- i. Clerk's (Steven Rose) salary and expenses for June:  
£342.60
- ii. Clerk's (Sal Robinson) salary and expenses for June:  
£324.70
- iii. Village Hall hire – 27<sup>th</sup> June  
£20.00
- iv. Sal Robinson, BOSCH battery and charger  
£65.82
- v. CPRE Subscription  
£36

Proposed by *Cllr Hunt*, seconded by *Cllr Anna Dunn*, carried unanimously.

- b.** No invoices were received after the agenda was circulated.
- c.** The CPC agreed to accept Mr Ramsden's offer to assist Mr Murray in maintaining the hedge. It was noted that this proposal had been discussed with Mr Murray, who was supportive. The Chair instructed the clerk to draft a letter replying to Mr Ramsden to confirm this.

**2945. Clapp's Mead Playing Field.**

- a.** The meeting was updated about the provision of goal posts and nets for the playing field, for which the CPC is currently awaiting delivery, but are otherwise ready to be installed. It was suggested that the clerk follow this up should the matter not be resolved by the Monday following the meeting. It was noted that the discount obtained by Ken Hussey (who conducts the quarterly inspections of the playing field) will apply to future purchases.

*Cllr George Dunn* informed the meeting that a resident had raised an issue with the catch at the playing field, and a nail protruding on a gate panel. These items have been resolved.

- b. The CPC was reminded that the fete would take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

**2946. Dorset Rights of Way; Dorset Highways; Flood Management.**

**a. Dorset Rights of Way.**

A question was asked regarding the progression of Mr Maskell's proposed trailway. The meeting was informed that a planning application should arrive at some point, but validation (the step after submission) can take an extended amount of time.

**b. Dorset Highways.**

It was noted that the idea of amending data used by satellite navigation systems did not result in a positive outcome. The meeting was told that there is pending outgoing correspondence to Dorset Highways regarding Duck Street, Mill Lane, and other matters. It was confirmed that a study will commence on Duck Street and Upper Sea Hill Lane that counts the number of cars and measures the speed of cars passing past these points. The study will replicate the positions and dates of a previous study to provide a comparison.

**c. Flood Management.**

None.

**2947. Consultations.**

**a. Dorset Consultation on a Dog related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).**

Councillors were reminded of this consultation.

**b. RIS3 Consultation.**

This consultation was noted as significant. It is being conducted by NH in connection with the plan for the Strategic Road Network (SRN) for the period 2025 – 2030. The Chair has emailed the CPC to ask councillors for comments by Friday. He informed the meeting that he, *Cllr Anna Dunn*, and *Cllr McAra* would be meeting on Monday to collate these and put them in a format for submission to then be sent to the clerk to submit as the CPC response. It was noted that emails are an acceptable format for submission. The response will be published in accordance with precedent.

**2948. Correspondence.**

No requests were made. It was suggested that this item has been made redundant by the Actions & Information list and hence discussion is warranted for its elimination as a standing item on the agenda.

**2949. Confirm the time and date of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.**

The next meeting will be at 10:00 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 at Chideock Village Hall.

The meeting closed at **11:20am**.

Action	Responsible individual	Item	Notes
Draft letter to David Sidwick to request that noise cameras be installed in Chideock to address exhaust noise from motorcycles, and to request dates for a meeting.	Cllr Downes	2938	Once drafted, correspondence is circulated among the CPC for amendments and approval prior to sending.
Draft letter to Palmers to address the issue of inadequate signage regarding the prohibition of dogs at Seatown Beach.	Clerk	2938	As above.
Contact DAPTC upon commencing clerk-related training so as to split the cost of the training between the CPC and Pucknowle & Swyre Parish Council.	Clerk	2939	
Arrange a meeting with the CPC and Cllr Beddow regarding the issue of river pollution and beach issues.	Clerk	2939	The clerk will identify suitable dates for the CPC and subsequently draft correspondence with Cllr Beddow, subject to the standard process described above.
Draft a letter informing National Highways and Chris Loder MP of the recent road accident near Duck Street.	Cllr Hunt	2940	
Draft a letter to Mr Ramsden confirming acceptance of his offer to maintain the hedge in conjunction with Mr Murray.	Clerk	2944	
Follow up on the delivery of goal posts and nets for Clapp's Mead Playing Field.	Clerk	2945	To be acted upon if no progress has occurred by the end of 03/07/2023.
Submit comments on the RIS3 consultation to Cllr George Dunn by the Friday following the meeting.	All councillors	2947	These will be collated on Monday and sent to the clerk to be submit to NH. The deadline is 13/07/2023.