

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10am**.

Present: Cllr Vanessa McAra, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Coates and Cllr Peacock.

In attendance: The Clerk and 6 members of the public.

2669 Apologies.

Cllr Peter Hunt had sent his apologies, which were accepted..
PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

2670 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2671 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2672 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 30 November 2022.

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

2673 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) Police Report. PCSO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows:-

“Fortunately over the last month, crime has been very low in the area. Across the patch there have been a few suspicious incidents and a theft of several catalytic converters from a garage, so I do advise people to be vigilant and consider their security. If anyone would like security advice I am more than happy to speak or meet with them to provide further advice.

At this time of year there is often a rise in collisions on the road, due to driver error in poor conditions. Considering the road conditions and other hazards on the road that may occur (such as pedestrians, horse riders, etc.) please take care, especially in the lanes when approaching junctions and bends. Always slow appropriately prior to a bend as you are more likely to skid if you brake around the bend, but also consider that there may be a hazard in the road you need to stop for or avoid. Road positioning is always important to bear in mind as this can make the difference between a collision and a near miss. At this time of year it is also a good idea to check your vehicle over regularly for good tyre tread and pressure and the fluid levels. Tyre condition and pressure can also make the difference when braking/stopping.”

He sent a further report:-

“At approx. 2pm on Sunday 23rd January, a handbag was stolen from a vehicle (window smashed to gain entry) at Langdon Woods, by an unknown offender.”

It was **AGREED** to write to PCSO Bishop suggesting that the police make random visits to Langdon Woods to deter would be thieves. **CC**

b) Cllr’s Christopher’s verbal report was deferred as he had not yet arrived.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2674 Democratic Period.

a) Mr Richard Benjamin, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, read his report, raising the following points: -

- The response received by the Village Hall Committee regarding the lack of detail given in the Parish Council meeting minutes for Mr Benjamin's report, made during the Democratic Period at the November Parish Council meeting, was considered to be undemocratic - all comments made by member of the public should be reported in full.

The Clerk said that this is not customary but if a copy of a report is given to the Clerk it can be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

- He is most disappointed at the decision to cease making a grant to the Village Hall. When the first grant was made 2014 there was an assumption that a grant would be made every year.

The Clerk said that the Village Hall will receive the grant of £700 for the current financial year, at the end of March 2022. Whilst no specific grant to the Village Hall is included in the 2022 – 2023 budget, the sum of £1,835.00 has been budgeted for grants to external bodies. Village groups will be invited to apply for a grant – this included the Village Hall. Any such grants will be distributed at the end of March 2023.

Mr Benjamin did not give the Clerk a copy of his report.

- b) A member of the public read a pre-prepared "script", which is appended to these minutes. Additionally, the member of the public took up Mr Benjamin's point regarding reporting of matters raised by members of the public during the Democratic Period.

The member of the public said that the Chair should respond, not the Clerk.

Cllr Glenn said that the Parish Council will consider the comments outside the meeting. Only three councillors are members of the Bypass Group, and all were elected by an election.

The Clerk stated that the three casual vacancies which had occurred since the full election held in May 2019 had each been advertised, as required by law, asking for ten electors to request an election. This requirement was only satisfied for the first vacancy, which meant that the Parish Council, by law, had to co-opt to fill the other two casual vacancies. The legal procedure is set out in the Local Government Act 1972.

- c) A member of the public spoke as follows:-

- What is the definition of a "local" bypass given that in the Parish Poll conducted in 2016 electors voted that any A35 bypass for Chideock should be outside the Chideock Parish boundary?
- Flooding in Duck Street needs to be taken up with Dorset Council:-
 - a) Drains blocked by debris from hedge flailing
 - b) The inadequate pipe taking water from the 1st field on the west side of Sea Hill Lane adjacent to Welderley which causes water to flood on to Sea Hill Lane and then to Duck Street. Cllr Downes said that this has been reported to Dorset Council and the Parish Council is trying to arrange a site visit with Dorset Highways and the landowner. Cllr Downes said that the landowner has recently undertaken some work to clear the pipe.

AGREED that the Clerk will chase Dorset Highways for a site meeting and will also involve Dorset Council Flood Management.

Cllr Glenn said that there is no consensus as to the meaning of "local"; others would object to a bypass through the Marshwood Vale..

- d) Councillor Coates said she was disappointed that no parish councillors attended the drop-in meeting about the hoped for all-weather all-purpose path from Chideock towards Bridport, organised by Mr Maskell. Cllr Anna Dunn said that the Parish Council has always been fully supportive of this – perhaps councillors felt they would learn nothing new from the drop-in sessions. Cllr McAra said she was unable to attend the first session but will attend the second. She urged other councillors to attend to show support.

Cllr Christopher arrived during Democratic Period

Standing Orders were resumed.

2675 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports Continued.

Cllr Christopher spoke about

CC

- Second homes / holiday homes and the tax incentives currently available e.g. business rates + small Business Rate Relief; grants / loans due to loss of business due to Covid; Covid related benefits as self-employed, etc..
- Dorset Council Draft Air Quality Action Plan – Dorset Council does not seem to understand that air pollution in, for instance, Broadwindsor, is a very different matter to air pollution in Chideock. He would very much like to see Graham Duggan, Dorset Council Head of Community and Public Protection, and Chris Loder MP for West Dorset, to visit to see all the A35 related issues for themselves
- Public Transport and Bus Back Better – at the 1974 General Election there were approximately 52,000 electors in the West Dorset Constituency. Now there are approximately 80,000. More traffic but far less public transport.
- Chris Loders’ “A Road Task Force” has achieved some improvement on the A35 near Dorchester but nothing has been achieved for Chideock. National Highways needs to ‘bite the bullet’ and improve the A35 through Chideock.

Cllr Glenn asked if there are minutes from the Task Force meetings – Chris Loder has told the Parish Council that Cllr Christopher is the communication channel. The Parish Council needs to know what is to be discussed as it is not possible to do anything about decisions which have already been taken. CC

Cllr Downes questioned Dorset Council’s representation on the Dorset Road Safe Board – there appears to be no true representation for rural Dorset. Cllr Christopher asked for an e-mail on this matter and he will raise it with Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council.

Cllr Anna Dunn asked what will happen if Dorset Council does not get all of the Bus Back Better government funding requested. Cllr Christopher said he will push for improved services in West Dorset no matter what happens.

Cllr Downes said that National Highways say that the implementation of the 30mph limit on Chideock Hill is waiting for Dorset Council approval – why is it taking so long? Cllr Christopher asked for an e-mail on this matter and he will raise it with Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment. CC

Cllr McAra raised the need for installation of average speed cameras as part of the 30mph limit implementation. Cllr Christopher asked for an e-mail on this matter and he will raise it with Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment. CC

Cllr Coates spoke about the project for an all-weather all-purpose path from Chideock towards Bridport. Priorities for such projects are being decided now. How can Chideock’s need be promoted? The main focus is on the Maiden Newton to Bridport Trailway. Could Active Travel England, funded by the Department for Transport, be approached by Dorset Council for grant funding for a Chideock path? Cllr Christopher asked for an e-mail on this matter and he will raise it with Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment. CC

2676 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 2 to 11 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 3 - BLAP Parish Liaison Meeting. Cllr George Dunn reminded councillors of the next meeting on 4 March at which Chris Loder MP will be present, and asked councillors to let him have any questions for Chris Loder. Both he and Cllr McAra will attend the meeting. All

ITEM 9 – Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. AGREED that the Clerk writes to Barclays Bank asking what action, if any, can be taken to recover the money in the bank account, given that the signatories are deceased. CC

2677 A35 Matters.

Items 12 to 24 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 17 and 17A – Air Quality Meeting with Graham Duggan, Dorset Council Head of Community and Public Protection. The Clerk will ask him to arrange the meeting via Teams, as the Parish Council no longer has a Zoom licence. CC

Items 22 and 23 – Chideock Bridge Repair. It was suggested that the Parish Council attempts to source a matching piece of hamstone.

2678 Motions Received with Notice.

Cllr Peacock introduced the motion and said that it is necessary that this motion be resolved to ensure that Chideock Parish Council presents a united face to Chris Loder MP.

Cllr Coates proposed the following additional bullet point

- De-trunking of the A35 between Dorchester and Honiton.

Cllr Coates proposed the amendment, seconded by Cllr McAra, carried with 4 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

The amended motion,

“Chideock Parish Council **RESOLVES** to continue to lobby the responsible authorities and bodies to act to protect Chideock residents and visitors from traffic pollution and safety issues caused by the A35 passing through the Village, such action to include, but not restricted to: -

- Banning / restricting / re-routing of certain vehicle types
- Creating an alternative route for the A35
- De-trunking of the A35 from Dorchester to Honiton
- Reducing vehicle noise to between 55 to 65 dB(A), as defined by the World Health Organisation
- Reducing of air pollution of any type to below UK legal levels and / or to not exceed WHO targets
- Reducing traffic volumes by 55% - 69%, based upon traffic figures produced by National Highways or its equivalent body .
- Making the carriageway and footways safe for the use of the public in general.
- Reducing vibration caused by vehicles, such that any property on, adjacent to or within 20 metres of the current A35 Main Street shall not suffer from the effects of excessive vibration.”

was proposed by Cllr Peacock, seconded by Cllr Anna Dunn, carried with 5 votes for and 1 abstention,

2679 Finances.

Item 25 on the Actions and Information List – **Website Domain Name renewal. AGREED** to renew the website domain name for 10 years – due on 27 February 2022.

Items 27 and 28 on the Actions and Information List – **Insurance Claim against Chideock Parish Council. NOTED.**

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for January	£290.46
ii. Village Hall Hire – 25 January	£14.00
iii. Bridport Town Council – Clapp's Mead Grass Cutting (all)	£1620.00
iv. Bridport Town Council – Clapp's Mead Brook and Ditch works	£1404.00
v. Bridport Town Council – FOCP Hedge Cutting	£144.00
vi. Dorset Council – Clapp's Mead Tree Inspection	£270.00
vii. Ken Hussey - Clapp's Mead Inspection	£47.50

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

b) Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 31 December 2021,

Noted.

c) Final Draft of Budget for 2022 – 2023.

RESOLVED to set the budget for 2022 - 2023 at £18,397.00 and to request a Precept of £16,463.66, which equates to a Band D decrease of £0.09 per year.

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

d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Nothing to report.

2680 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Items 29 - 38 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED.**

The Clerk will look at signage, particularly in relation to emergency information and general contact details as identified in the latest inspection report, when she visits Clapp's Mead on 27 January with Bright's of Salwayash who are coming to provide a quote for replacement fencing. **CC**

Cllr George Dunn said that it may be difficult to make an “ivy band” all round some trees which are adjacent to the river. To be investigated.

Cllr Anna Dunn requested that, at the next meeting, Mr Ken Hussey is instructed to lay matting under the see-saw, at a cost of £80. **CC**

A decision on whether dogs should be allowed off lead in the playing field area is deferred pending consultation with residents via the Chideock News. N.B. The Children's Play Area is covered by the Dorset-wide Public Space Protection Order – Dogs, which prohibits dogs in any fenced play area. **CC**

Friends of Clapps Mead.

The Children's Christmas Party was cancelled due to Covid. It is hoped to rearrange this as soon as possible – if all else fails then it will be held as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration on 4 June 2022.

A Fete is planned for 20 August 2022.

Cllr Glenn left the meeting at 11.55 due to a work commitment.

Vice Chair Cllr George Dunn took the Chair.

2681 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

P/HOU/2022/00158 Hell Farmhouse, Hell Barn Holiday Cottages Hell Lane Erect extension to outbuilding and replacement windows

Chideock Parish Council has no objection to the application.

The Parish Council requests that any lighting installed on the extension is downlighting, to preserve "dark skies" in this rural setting.

P/LBC/2022/00159 Hell Farmhouse, Hell Barn Holiday Cottages Hell Lane Erect extension to outbuilding and replacement windows

Chideock Parish Council has no objection to the application, subject to the Conservation Officer's report.

The Parish Council requests that any lighting installed on the extension is downlighting, to preserve "dark skies" in this rural setting.

P/FUL/2021/03251 LAND NORTH OF NORTHDENE NORTH ROAD Erect 1.no dwelling and access.

Deferred to the next meeting.

b) Determinations.

None.

c) Appeals.

None.

d) Other Planning Matters.

i. AONB, Lighting / Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.
Nothing to report.

ii. Enforcement, Retrospective Planning Applications.
Nothing to report.

iii. Other.

Nothing to report.

2682 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Items 39 - 57 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 42 – Duck Street Signage. AGREED to consult residents as to the need for this signage as it has to be paid for by the Parish Council. **CC**

Item 51 – Hell Lane. AGREED that the Clerk will organise a site visit as suggested by Mr Probets. **CC**

Item 52 – Mill Lane. AGREED that the Clerk will respond to Mrs Crisp after the site visit with Bright's, when details of the Clapp's Mead fence replacement on the Mill Lane boundary have been clarified. **CC**

Item 52A – use of Mill Lane by HGVs. AGREED that the Clerk will write to **CC**

a) The SPAR distribution centre asking that deliveries to the Seatown shop are made via Sea Hill Lane not Mill Lane

b) West Dorset Leisure Holidays querying the use of Mill Lane for construction traffic going to Golden Cap Holiday Park.

Items 53 – 57 – New Grit Bin on North Road. AGREED to ask the Chideock Manor Estate for permission to put the bin on the verge at Gate Farm, as a contingency in case it is not **CC**

possible to place it in the preferred position on the northern verge at the junction of St Giles Close and North Road. Councillors were asked to suggest other possible locations in the vicinity. **ALL**

2683 Current Consultations.

Items 58 - 60 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**

2684 Correspondence.

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

2685 Start Time of Parish Council Meetings.

AGREED that meetings in April, May, June, July, and September should start at 7pm, to be reviewed in September. Meetings in January, February, March, October, and November will continue to start at 10am.

2686 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

The meeting closed at **12.50 pm.**

Budget and Precept for 2022 - 2023

INCOME	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	% change	Increase / Decrease	2021/22 Band D	2022/23 Band D	
Precept	£16,463.56	£16,463.66	0.00%	0.10	Tax Base = 335.5	Tax	
Vat Refund	£710.00	£960.00	35.21%		£49.07		
Rent for Flow Meter	£140.00	£140.00	0.00%				
Rent for Electric Car Charging Point	£833.34	£833.34	0.00%				
TOTAL PREDICTED INCOME	£18,146.90	£18,397.00	1.38%	250.10		Decr	
						???	
						£?? a	
EXPENDITURE							
Clerk's Salary (Gross)	£3,917.56	£4,075.00	4.02%	3% increase + 1% contingency for overtime			
Clerk's Salary Contingency (Gross)	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%				
Clerk's Travel	£75.00	£50.00	-33.33%				
Councillor's Travel / Phone calls etc	£50.00	£50.00	0.00%				
Clerk's Office Allowance	£78.00	£78.00	0.00%				
Postage/Phone	£30.00	£40.00	33.33%				
Stationery (V)	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%				
Stationery - print cartridges etc (V)	£80.00	£80.00	0.00%				
Training - Clerk & Councillors	£0.00	£100.00	N/A	£415 in Reserve			
Internal Audit	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%				
Insurance	£620.00	£630.00	1.61%	See over			
Room Hire	£513.00	£0.00	-100.00%	£303.50 in Reserve + expected underspend for 2021-2022			
Subscriptions	£290.00	£280.00	-3.45%	See over			
Quarterly Playing Field Inspections	£190.00	£190.00	0.00%				
Routine Playing Field Maintenance (V)	£2,000.00	£3,000.00	50.00%	Ditch, brook and culvert clearing			
Clapps Mead Mowing (V)	£1,620.00	£1,620.00	0.00%	See over			
Play Area Equipment & Maintenance (V)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	0.00%	Fund = £1343.00 ¹			
Foss Orchard Car Park Resurfacing / Maintenance	£833.34	£800.00	-4.00%	Fund = £14059.95 ¹			
Foss Orchard Car Park River Bank Maintenance	£800.00	£800.00	0.00%	Fund = £11255.10 ¹			
Community Fund Grant	£500.00	£1,000.00	100.00%	Fund = £3674.09 ¹			
3 Year Village Clock Servicing Grant	£230.00	£230.00	0.00%	£218.40 in Reserve + £230 in 2021-2022 Budget			
Cemetery Grass Cutting Grant / Maintenance	£650.00	£700.00	7.69%				
External Grants	£500.00	£1,835.00	267.00%	Includes possible VH Grant.			
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£100.00	£200.00	100.00%	Awaiting quote			
Salt/Grit for Winter	£0.00	£200.00	N/A	Reserve = £136.81			
Village Hall Repair Grant	£700.00	£0.00	-100.00%				
Recharge of Parish Council Election Costs	£2,500.00	£500.00	-80.00%	£183.45 in Reserve + £2,500 in 2021-2022 Budget			
War Memorial Maintenance	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%				
Contribution to Bridport Local Area Partnership	-	£69.00	N/A				
TOTAL PREDICTED EXPENDITURE	£18,146.90	£18,397.00	1.38%	250.10			
ALL EXPENDITURE MARKED V INCLUDES VAT WHICH CAN BE RECLAIMED AND IS SHOWN UNDER PREDICTED INCOME							
Treasurer's Reserve at 31/09/2020	£14,609.96						
		of which £12533.39 is Restricted Reserve,					
		leaving £2076.57 as General Reserve, of which £600 is Cash Flow Reserve					
Note 1 - Fund values as at 30/9/2021, before any "grants" from 2021/22 precept applied							

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

We meet as Covid restrictions are being further lifted again.

I thought I would start this report by noting that I attended this afternoon (Saturday), the funeral service for Francis Patrick Weeks known to many as Paddy.

Paddy was an ex Royal Marine who I knew well for some 40 years and would, amongst other things dish out much humour and advice while drinking and reading his newspaper at the Clock. Paddy would join in on a quiz and when really pushed support the Castle Ruins skittles team , whose home alley was at the old Castle Pub . Paddy lived just outside of the Chideock Parish council boundary but was known by many throughout West Dorset. What was unusual about the service, aside from the detailed arrangements that Paddy had set out including the Royal Marines providing music inside the Church at Whitchurch, was that it was also effectively a memorial service for Paddy's wife Pat who died in April 2020. Pat had been cremated at the height of the lockdown without such mourners present, due to the tightest of restrictions on public gatherings. We must remember those who have endured the most draconian of restrictions at the darkest of times.

I received a communication from Ben Hampson of National Highways
It reads as follows:

“Hello Simon,

I have asked our team to prepare a meeting with the parish council in February, I expect an invitation to be sent out in the next week with some available dates.

We will look to discuss the severance issues and the air quality issues as well as an update on our safety scheme.”

Kind Regards,

Ben Hampson

Route Manager

South West Operations

I have received confirmation that after a period of some pressing on my part , Mr Graham Duggan Dorset Council Head of Community and Public Protection will be meeting with you as parish Councillors early next month.

Dorset Council issued a draft Air Quality Action Plan, I understand your concern and I imagine this is your unanimous concern, it fails to address the Chideock specific pollution problems. Clearly where the Marshwood Vale Ward contains some 25 villages or so, pollution is worse and concern is greater than elsewhere in the ward. That may be a reasonable statement, except we do not know how far A35 pollution travels . Clearly Chideock is a special case and therefore requires special measures and why I have been so committed in my desire for you to meet with Mr Duggan Face to face . I have of course attempted to see that more senior politicians and high-ranking Dorset Council officers meet with you face to face to discuss amongst other things A35, access to Seatown , Hell Lane, other UCR s Cycle paths etc..

Our present Prime Minister is said to be a fan of the words of Churchill who died 57 years ago this week on.24 January 1965 . Perhaps I would do very well to remember some of the words of Churchill i.e. "never flinch, never weary never despair", in my attempt to get those with greater influence to meet with you.

To perhaps reiterate from previous, I am aware that the current Parish Council, and past Councils, have for many years asked for an updated Air Quality Action Plan to address the very serious issues arising from the high levels of pollution in this specific village. I appreciate your frustration and your comment that the plan appears to not be Chideock specific and instead reads as a 45-page policy statement addressing the issue of pollution across the whole of Dorset. I appreciate what is described as injustice, where you see the document claims that funding will be available for several transport improvements of benefit to Chideock. and your argument that it is disingenuous given the evidence is that all funding to date has been for the East. It could be argued actually for the North and the East parts of Dorset.

I will discuss this further at the meeting and indeed the e mail from Chris Loder MP to Chideock Parish Council on 6 January 2022.

I look forward to discussing matters relating to second homes/ holiday let's following your recent request for information from Dorset Council Revenues Service and would welcome the opportunity to speak about this in some detail.

Now for some other points.

BUSES

Work on the Enhanced Partnership is continuing though there is no definite date by which the Department for Transport will respond to the request for £92million of funding both capital and revenue within the submitted BSIP .

The Enhanced Partnership Plan high level vision will have objectives which is expected to closely follow the Bus Service Improvement Plan. It is expected that the Enhanced Partnership scheme will set out the precise details of how the Bus Service Improvement Plan vision and objectives will be achieved . These details will include any commitment made by the Local Transport Authority and standards to be met by bus operators.

The legal framework mentioned in (2) above will include governance and user representation.

While Town and Parish councils were invited to stakeholder meetings taking place last week

I will be pleased to discuss this further.

RIVERS

Neighbouring Char Valley Parish Council commissioned Dorset AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust to prepare an initial report on the State of the River Char and Monkton Wyld Stream. The Community project has stated aims to clean, revive, and restore the River Char .

I am pleased to say that following the report being published I along with many Char Valley Parish Councillors and members of the public attended the launch of the River Char Community Project on Saturday 11th December with a short talk about the report and the setting out of plans for working parties and other actions in 2022. This was followed by an informal riverside walk commencing from Becklands Organic Farm. Speakers included :

Ian Rees, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Dorset AONB)

Nick Gray, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT)

This week there was a virtual meeting convened by Char Valley Parish Council for the provision of further information by the above and to allow further question and answers in relation to how the health of the River Char could be improved.

FARMING

There is a concern that tenant farmers should not be excluded from receiving agri-environmental subsidies. I will elaborate further , there is a concern that safeguards that exist for those who rent under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 should extend to Farm Business Tenancies, such that tenants will not be prevented by landlords from accessing the schemes .

I will detail the concern .There are three proposed ELM (Environmental Land Management) schemes and in respect of the first 2 of them there are uncertainties as to the extent to which tenant farmers will benefit. The reasons for the uncertainties with respect to the first 2 schemes involve :

1) The Local Nature Recovery Scheme, which will not be widely available until 2024, that amongst other things, encourages farmers to create new habitats and plant trees

2) The Landscape Recovery Scheme which seeks a more dramatic approach assisting farmers and land owners who manage 500 to 5000 hectares (and note hectares not acres) and so only benefiting larger agricultural concerns

3) The sustainable Farming Incentive which will fund sustainable farming practices and should be widely available

You may wish to contact your Member of Parliament to address any particular concern you may have for the future of the countryside and indeed family farms. There are a great many who are uncertain about the future prospects for farming and would welcome clarification of eligibility, rules, and payment rates for schemes 1 and 2 above .

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher

Dorset Councillor Simon Christopher

07798833715

Statement from an elector.

NOTES ON NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

It is hard to escape the fact that a schism has developed between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee

I think I could safely say that there is unanimous appreciation in the Village for the hard work that has gone into the complete refurbishment of the Hall in which we now sit.

The Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee, sadly does not appear to share the village appreciation judging by what occurred at the AGM of the Village Hall Committee and subsequently.

I would like to point out to Councillors that there is a risk of losing the goodwill of the group who look after our Hall so well. Adding to the difficulties created by the Parish Council representative There is also the fact that the Village Hall received no grant from the Parish Council this year.

To move on quickly - at about 11.30 during the November meeting there was mention of hoping to finish the meeting by mid-day. At this point Councillor Dunn made a statement she said - 'I sometimes think we don't discuss things properly.'

This - from a very experienced long standing elected Councillor - yet NOT ONE PERSON picked up on what she said and it was not minuted. I offer that up to you because clearly no one else heard it which I find alarming

However not as alarming as the vote to leave the word 'local' describing bypass in a Highways England document which followed on that remark Did the village not vote democratically that it did not want a local bypass

This Parish Council is made up -with one exception of a tightly knit group of By-pass supporters.

Two/three of them - including the Councillor who has upset the Village Hall - have been co-opted by the others and are not elected.

In circumstances like these the Committee is presumably aware that it lays itself open to being undemocratic in its dealings.

No committee member should use their membership to pursue a personal vendetta.

Like Caesars wife you must be above suspicion!