

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 10am.

Present: Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Caroline Parkins.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher, PCSO Bishop and 2 members of the public.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 10.00.

3020 Apologies.

Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn and Cllr McAra sent their apologies which were accepted.

Cllr Hunt took the Chair in the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair.

3021 Steven Rose's Resignation as Clerk and Appointment of Sal Robinson as Temporary Clerk.

RESOLVED to accept Steven Rose's resignation as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, dated 15 December 2023, with a 1-month notice period.

Proposed by Cllr Parkins, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

RETROSPECIVELY RESOLVED to place Steven Rose on paid "gardening leave" to 14 January 2024, as agreed by all councillors by e-mail.

Proposed by Cllr Parkins, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to appoint Sal Robinson as Temporary Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on NJC scale point 6.

Proposed by Cllr Downes, seconded by Cllr Parkins, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to sign the contract of employment for Sal Robinson.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

3022 Grants of Dispensations.

None received.

3023 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None.

3024 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 28 November 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Parkins, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

b) Agreed to defer the motion to make retrospective corrections to the minutes for the meetings held on 27 June 2023, 25 July 2023, 26 September 2023, and 31 October 2023 till the next meeting on 27 February.

3025 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) PCSO Bishop.

PCSO Bishop had nothing to report for the Chideock area.

b) Cllr Simon Christopher:

- In 1997 the Labour Government made changes to Advance Corporation Tax which affected Buy to Let and was one of the factors behind the increase in house prices.
- On 12 February Dorset Council will consider additional council tax on second homes.
- Dorset Council's Budget arrangements are moving forward, and the situation appears better than that of Somerset Council. No service cuts are planned. Dorset Council has been given £4m (out of a total pot of £500m) for Social Services.
- Devolution (with other south west councils) is on the back burner.
- It is important that the Dorset Council area does not become marginalised.
- The Dorset Council budget will be set at a full council meeting on Tuesday 13 February. The meeting will be available on-line in real time and he recommends that people watch.
- He is meeting with Simon Hoare, Government Minister for Local Government.
- Dorset Council's reserves are diminishing but are still adequate.
- He pointed out that the rules for the minimum number of letting days for holiday lets have changed.

- He agreed that legislation allowing holiday lets to be registered as businesses is wrong in that most then qualify for SMM Business Relief and pay nothing. He has raised this with Chris Loder, MP for West Dorset.
- He noted that Dorset Council is addressing the flooding issues in upper Sea Hill Lane.
- A Chideock resident asked why Dorset Council does not undertake preventative maintenance on the many lanes which are in a very poor condition. Cllr Christopher asked for details to be e-mailed to him so that he can take the matter up formally. The resident said that he would do that.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

3026 Democratic Period.

Mrs Lyn Crisp reported that Dorset Council has delivered more sandbags and that they have been put in the store in the Clock House car park. She said that she has asked the landlord of the George pub if the store could be moved to the pub car park – he is checking with Palmers Brewery. The store can remain at the Clock House for the time being but, as it is up for sale, a new location will be required once a new “bin” has been purchased.

She also said that the village noticeboard at Seatown needs new posts – Richard Benjamin is working on this and needs to check with Palmers Brewery, as the board is on their land. Mrs Crisp reminded everyone that the notice boards are maintained by the Chideock Society. She said that there is a spare noticeboard in her garage. Mr Richard Benjamin said that the replies to his questions, regarding whether due diligence had taken place when purchasing the trampoline for Clapps Mead, had not resolved his issues. He specifically asked the following question: -

“Has the council conducted a full health & safety risk assessment for this piece of equipment taking into account all of the recommendations of RoSPA for the use of trampolines?”.

Some discussion followed and the Clerk said she would contact RoSPA and ask for their opinion, giving them full details of the location, specification, and supplier. Councillors agreed that there should be a notice specifying that only 1 child should use the trampoline at a time.

Standing Orders were resumed.

3027 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 2 and 4 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Cllr Downes reported significant tree works by West Dorset Leisure Holidays along Bridleway 18. Clerk to check whether permission from Dorset Council is needed.

Cllr Downes reported on the state of the surface on Bridleway 18 (within the Golden Cap holiday park), particularly the presence of flint stones. Clerk to query this with West Dorset Leisure Holidays.

3028 A35 Matters.

Items 6 to 12 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Items 12 – Notes of meeting with National Highways. Clerk to follow up on the request for agreement to the notes taken.

Clerk to report sunken drain cover on eastbound side of A25 going up Furches Hill.

Cllr Downes said that the hydrant outside Broadmead is again leaking. He said that he will report it to Wessex Water.

3029 River Winniford and Water Pollution Issues.

a) Dorset Council.

No updates.

b) Wessex Water.

No updates.

c) Winniford River Action Group.

No updates.

3030 Motions Received with Notice. None.

3031 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

None.

b) Determinations.

P/FUL/2023/05475 Filcombe Farm Muddyford Lane - Repair and upgrade existing forestry track to facilitate management of Filcombe Wood. **GRANTED.**

P/LBC/2023/05996 Three Ways Hell Lane - Replace windows with 'Heritage' Slimline double glazed units, matching existing style, character, numbers and locations. **WITHDRAWN.**

P/TRC/2023/05913 Appletree Thatch Main Street - Yew - Lightly prune up to 2 metres overall to appropriate growth points to facilitate a more upright crown shape. Certain limbs overhang car parking area. **GRANTED.**

P/FUL/2023/05731 Seatown Sea Front - Proposed Change of Use of Seafront Hardstanding and siting of temporary mobile business/catering and a Sauna unit. **REFUSED.**

c) **Appeals.** No new appeals lodged.

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.

3032 Finances.

a) **Payments.**

i.	Steven Rose Salary and Expenses for December	£349.10
ii.	Steven Rose Salary for January	£396.30
iii.	Sal Robinson Salary and Expenses for January	£490.79
iv.	Chideock Village Hall Hire for January	£22.00
v.	Ken Hussey for Clapps Mead Inspection	£47.50
vi.	DAPTC – Changing Chairs training 20 July -original cheque lost	£27.00
vii.	Luke Bennett for Bus Shelter Cleaning	£40.00

Proposed by Cllr Parkins, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

As no cheque signatories were present the Clerk will get the cheques signed outside the meeting, as soon as possible.

b) **Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 31 December 2023.**

The Accounts and Budget monitoring were **NOTED**. The Clerk reported that she does not foresee any significant overspend at Financial Year End.

c) **Website.**

AGREED that the Clerk investigates Voice (which is currently free) as an alternative to HugoFox (which now charges £11.99 (inc. VAT) per month) and report back to the Council at a later date. The Clerk will make the monthly payment to HugoFox and reclaim it via expenses.

d) **Final Draft of Budget for 2024 – 2025 - document attached.**

Item 14 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

The Clerk reported that the amount budgeted for HugoFox for the website is incorrect. The value given is £120, which is the cost net of VAT. It should be £144 as VAT is accounted for separately. **RESOLVED** to amend the amount budgeted for this item to £144, which has a minimal effect on the overall Budget and Precept.

Proposed by Cllr Parkins, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to set the budget for 2024 - 2025 at £18,745.48 and to request a Precept of £16,885, which equates to a Band D decrease of £0.02 per year.

Proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Downes, carried unanimously.

The finalised Budget and Precept is appended to the minutes.

e) **TSB Bank Accounts.**

Councillors **AGREED** that changes to signatories should be deferred until after the Parish Council elections on 2 May 2024.

f) **Foss Orchard Car Park.**

Items 15 and 16 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** and discussed in more detail.

AGREED to accept S. Lee's £210 ex VAT, £252 inc. VAT to cut the river side of the Foss Orchard Car Park hedge.

AGREED to defer discussion on raising the cost of car park season tickets as so few councillors were present.

3033 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

a) **Playing Field Update.**

Items 17 to 23 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

The latest inspection report does not highlight any need for action at present.

The Clerk read out a statement regarding the ownership and management of Clapps Mead Playing Field, which is appended to the minutes.

b) **Friends of Clapps Mead.**

Nothing to report.

3034 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

a) **Rights of Way.**

Items 24 to 31 on the Actions and Information List was **NOTED**.

AGREED to endorse Mr Maskell's letter asking National Highways for funding towards surfacing the new Bridleway running along the northern side of the A35

b) Dorset Highways.

Items 32 to 40 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

c) Flood Management.

Items 41 to 46 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

AGREED to defer discussion of the location for a replacement sand bag store as so few councillors were present.

3035 Consultations.

Dorset Council – Local Transport Plan 4, initial consultation end date Sunday 3 March. Events will be held across the country, including Bridport Library on Saturday 17th February from 10am - 2pm.

3036 Parish Council Election 2 May 2024.

Nomination papers are available but cannot be submitted to Dorset Council until after the Notice of Election is published on 11 March 2024. The last day for submitting nomination forms is 5 April 2024, before 4pm. Submission must be in person at County Hall and be pre-booked.

Further information can be found in the Election Toolkit provided by Dorset Council via DAPTC. This is available on the website under the "Council Elections 2/5/2024" tab.

3037 Advertising for a New Clerk.

The Clerk stated that she is willing to remain as Clerk for at least 6 months to

- a) complete all Financial Year End tasks, including the Annual Governance and Accountability Report
- b) cover the transition to the "new" council following the election on 2 May 2024.

Date of Annual Village Meeting and Annual Council Meeting.

3038 **AGREED** that the Annual Village Meeting is deferred until after the Parish Council elections on 2 May 2024, but it must be held before 1 June 2024.

The Annual Parish Meeting must, as this is an Election year, be held between 13 and 23 May inclusive. The May Parish Council meeting is currently scheduled for 28 May 2024.

The Clerk suggested that these 2 meetings be combined (as is usual in a non-election year) and held on 21 May.

3039 Correspondence.

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

3040 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10am on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

The meeting closed at **12.05 pm**.

Action	Responsible individual	Item	Notes
Contact RoSPA re trampoline safety issues.	Clerk	3015	Complete
Report BW18 surface issues to WDLH	Clerk	3027	Done 22/2/2024
Report sunken drain on Furches Hill	Clerk	3028	Done 22/2/2024
Investigate whether felling of trees by WDLH required permission from Dorset Council.	Clerk	3027	Investigated.
Report leaking hydrant outside Bilberry Close	Cllr Downes	3028	Complete
Investigate Voice as a replacement host for website	Clerk	3032 c)	Outstanding
Submit Precept request to Dorset Council	Clerk	3032 d)	Done 31/1/2024
Accept quote for Foss Orchard hedge	Clerk	3032 f)	Done 4/2/2024
Date of Annual Village Meeting and Annual Council Meeting.	Clerk	3038	4/2/2024. Hall booked for 21 May 10am for Annual Parish Council meeting + usual monthly meeting. Hall booked for 28 May 7pm for Annual Village Meeting.
Endorse Mr Maskell's letter to National Highways et al + Connect.	Clerk	3034 a)	Drafted – awaiting approval

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report – 29 January 2024.

Help shape travel and transport across Dorset.

Dorset Council are working with BCP Council to gather views on transport and travel across the whole of Dorset, and we have put together a briefing note for you with further details.

Residents, businesses, and visitors are being invited to share their views on what they consider to be the big transport issues across the whole of Dorset. This work plays an essential role in helping the councils understand the different transport needs of our diverse communities.

Dorset Council are encouraging people to fill in our online survey, or they can ask their local library for a paper copy of the questionnaire.

Events are also taking place where people can share ideas and find out more, with an online event also planned for February (more details to follow).

If you have any questions regarding the survey or the Local Transport Plan, please do get in touch with the team by email at ltp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dorset Council Budget.

Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year, 2024-25. The proposals will see essential frontline council services continuing to be provided to residents and businesses and protected from cuts.

The proposed budget means that in the coming year the council will spend £376m on its residents, an 8 per cent increase in funding for essential services. Around 60 per cent of the budget will support vulnerable children, families, older people, and those with disabilities. In total, Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents, including adults and children's social care, road maintenance, waste collection, housing support and libraries.

This year's budget setting exercise once more takes place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and the continued growth in need for social care services because of the ageing population.

The council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 3 per cent and to levy the adult social care precept of 2 per cent. The increase would be equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property.

Cllr Gary Suttle, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy, said:

"We have carefully developed proposals to deliver a balanced budget, in a national context of significant financial challenge for councils. Our overriding aim is to protect the essential frontline council services on which local residents and businesses rely.

"Throughout the life of this administration, and in contrast with a number of councils across the country, we have set a balanced budget every year with no cuts to frontline services."

Facebook LIVE Q&A – Dorset Council budget explained - Thursday 8 February – 6pm

Dorset Council are inviting residents to ask questions about the council budget during our next Facebook LIVE Q&A on Thursday 8 February at 6pm.

The panel for the Q&A is:

1. Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council
2. Cllr Gary Suttle, Portfolio holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
3. Cllr Laura Beddow, Portfolio holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
4. Aidan Dunn, Executive Director for Corporate Development

Residents are being invited to submit questions in advance by emailing comms@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. The panel will also take questions live on the night in the comments of our live stream on Facebook.

If you miss it live, you will be able to watch it back on YouTube.

Energy saving materials VAT relief extended from February 2024

Businesses that install qualifying energy-saving materials (ESMs), and customers that have ESMs installed, in residential accommodation and certain charity buildings in the United Kingdom (UK).

General description of the measure

Installations of ESMs in residential accommodation currently benefit from a temporary VAT zero rate until 31 March 2027, after which they revert to the reduced rate of VAT at 5%.

This measure extends the relief to installations of ESMs in buildings used solely for relevant charitable purposes, such as village halls or similar recreational facilities for a local community.

It also expands the scope of the relief to the following technologies:

- electrical batteries that store electricity generated by certain ESMs and from the National Grid (the grid)
- water-source heat pumps
- diverters that enable excess electricity from certain ESMs to be used within a building in which it is generated rather than exported to the grid.

It also adds certain preparatory groundworks that are necessary for the installation of ground- and water-source heat pumps.

Policy objective

The policy objective is to incentivise the installation of ESMs across the UK to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Background to the measure

The government has made a commitment to support improvements in energy efficiency across the economy to bring down bills for households, businesses, and the public sector. In addition, improving the energy efficiency of the UK's housing stock and increasing the proportion of energy provided from low-carbon, renewable energy sources will be a key part of meeting our legally binding commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

At Spring Statement 2022, the government announced an expansion of the VAT relief for the installation of ESMs in residential accommodation in Great Britain. The changes reinstated the relief for wind and water turbines and removed complex eligibility criteria. They also introduced a temporary VAT zero rate until 31 March 2027 (after which installations will revert to the reduced rate of VAT at 5%). The Windsor Framework enabled these changes to be extended to Northern Ireland with effect from 1 May 2023.

While the expansion of the VAT relief was welcomed, there were requests for further changes to make the relief more effective and easier to access. At Spring Budget 2023, the government therefore published a Call for Evidence (CfE) seeking views on potential areas for reform and published a summary of responses to this CfE on 11 December 2023. This measure implements reforms that the government has judged best meet the objectives of the relief as set out in the CfE, namely:

- Improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions
- cost effectiveness
- alignment with broader VAT principles

National Living Wage Increase.

The hospitality industry I note with interest has criticised the government's announcement that it will increase the National Living Wage by almost 10% from next April.

It will increase from £10.42 to £11.44 from 1 April 2024.

The Treasury said it was the largest ever increase in the minimum wage in cash terms and the first time it had risen by more than £1. The government added the rise will benefit an estimated 2.7m workers.

But I note the news has left many in the sector warning the government that such a rise could shut down many venues and businesses, particularly smaller operators, in an already struggling sector.

Some business organisations are calling for a permanent reduction in VAT for accommodation and attractions enterprises to boost rural tourism, ahead of the spring budget.

Key recommendations to help level up the rural economy and deliver the government's net zero objectives include:

- To support the rural tourism sector, there needs to be a permanent reduction in VAT to 12.5% for accommodation and attractions enterprises.
- To support the decarbonisation of owner-occupied and rented homes, more people should be able to qualify for the zero-rate of VAT on energy-saving materials. This can be done by extending relief to the purchase of energy-saving materials as well as their installation.
- Simplify the tax system and encourage investment in agricultural buildings, equipment, and infrastructure which will ultimately modernise the sector and drive productivity growth. This means, in particular: extending the full expensing regime to unincorporated businesses; and extending the annual investment allowance and the writing down allowances to include buildings and structures.
- Provide certainty for landowners wishing to deliver environment land management or ecosystem services by confirming at the Budget that it will proceed with legislation to ensure that land used for environmental delivery/ecosystem services is not subject to inheritance tax.
- Keep the framework of capital taxes stable to give confidence to those planning the reorganisation of substantial but illiquid capital assets, given land is a significant input to their businesses.

As an accountant I recognise that the coming year seems likely to be the one when the reality of post-CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) farm support hits home on many farms. In England, Basic payments i.e. area-based payments will be down to at least half of their historic levels - more for larger farms. The offer under Environmental Land Management i.e. ELMS will be further developed, but farmers will need to do more to access this money than under area payments.

This should crystallise producers' thoughts about having to farm profitably with

less financial assistance from Government. A thriving agricultural sector requires a significant improvement in overall productivity in the next decade. Technology will undoubtedly have a part to play in addressing the issue, but there is also need for high-quality people whether in Dorset or elsewhere, both management and staff will be equally, if not more, important.

For most farmers, food production will remain the core of their businesses. However, maximising income from all aspects of the farm will be vital. This encompasses traditional 'diversification' activities as well as newer income streams from selling environmental services, and this will be a focus area for land agents. The point that I hear most commonly made is that it does not appear environmentally friendly to import food that could be produced in the UK.

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher
The Dorset Councillor for the Marshwood Vale Ward
077988 33715

Budget 2024 – 2025.

INCOME	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	% change	Increase / Decrease	2023/24 Band D	2024/25 Band D	
Precept	£16,751.76	£16,884.63	0.79%	£132.86	Tax Base = 336.2	Tax Base = 339	
Vat Refund	£1,043.33	£840.33	-19.46%		Band D Precept amount	Band D Precept amount	
Rent for Flow Meter	£140.00	£187.18	33.70%		£49.83	£49.81	
Rent for Electric Car Charging Point	£833.34	£833.34	0.00%				
						Decrease for the year	
TOTAL PREDICTED INCOME	£18,768.44	£18,745.48	-0.12%			£0.02	
EXPENDITURE							
Clerk's Salary (Gross)	£5,950.44	£5,200.00	-12.61%	See over			
Clerk's Travel	£100.00	£150.00	50.00%				
Councillor's Travel / Phone calls etc	£50.00	£50.00	0.00%				
Clerk's Office Allowance	£84.00	£84.00	0.00%				
Postage/Phone	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%				
Stationery (V)	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%				
Stationery - print cartridges etc (V)	£80.00	£100.00	25.00%	Inflation			
Training - Clerk & Councillors	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	£329 in Reserve - though some will be used during 2023/4			
Internal Audit	£150.00	£60.00	-60.00%	Confirmed by Cliff Allen			
Insurance	£630.00	£700.00	11.11%	Assumption of 18% increase to £590 premium in 2023			
Room Hire	£520.00	£506.00	-2.69%	See over			
Subscriptions	£310.00	£290.00	-6.45%	See over			
Quarterly Playing Field Inspections	£190.00	£190.00	0.00%	Confirmed by Ken Hussey			
Routine Playing Field Maintenance (V)	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	0.00%	Ditch, brook and culvert clearing + repairs			
Clapps Mead Mowing (V)	£1,620.00	£1,782.00	10.00%	Confirmed by BTC			
Clapp's Mead Reserve	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	0.00%	Fund = £2233.95 + £1,000 in 2023-2024 Budget, less cost of goal posts (Note 1)			
Foss Orchard Car Park Resurfacing / Maintenance	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%	Fund = £17374.14 + £250 in 2023-2024 Budget (Note 1)			
Foss Orchard Car Park River Bank Maintenance	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%	Fund = £13081.39 + £250 in 2023-2024 Budget (Note 1)			
Community Fund Grant	£500.00	£0.00	-100.00%	Fund = £4679.69 + £250 in 2023-2024 Budget (Note 1)			
3 Year Village Clock Servicing Grant	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%				
Cemetery Grass Cutting Grant / Maintenance	£700.00	£725.00	3.57%	Confirmed amount			
Grants Contingency	£0.00	£500.00	N/A				
External Grants	£1,835.00	£2,360.00	28.61%				
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£160.00	£160.00	0.00%	4 @ £40			
Salt/Grit for Winter	£200.00	£0.00	-100.00%	£336 in reserve + £200 in 2023-2024 Budget			
Recharge of Parish Council Election Costs	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%				
War Memorial Maintenance (V)	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%	Reserve = £750 + £250 in 2023-2024 Budget			
Contribution to Bridport Local Area Partnership	£69.00	£74.48	7.94%	New value provided by BLAP			
HugoFox for Website (V)	£0.00	£144.00	N/A				
DAPTC for e-mail account	£0.00	£50.00	N/A	Per DAPTC advice			
TOTAL PREDICTED EXPENDITURE	£18,768.44	£18,745.48	-0.12%				
ALL EXPENDITURE MARKED V INCLUDES VAT WHICH CAN BE RECLAIMED AND IS SHOWN UNDER PREDICTED INCOME							
Treasurer's Reserve at 30/09/2023	£18,428.17	of which £16,043.66 is Restricted Reserve,					
		leaving £2384.51 as General Reserve, of which £600 is Cash Flow Reserve					
Note 1 - Fund values as at 31/12/2023							

Clark's Statement regarding the Ownership and Management of Clapps Mead Playing Field.

1. Chideock Parish Council's position regarding Clapps Mead.

Clapps Mead was gifted to the Parish Council on 8 February 1938 in memory of Annie C Grafton by her husband Walter P Grafton and their children Eric A Grafton and Rowena Grafton.

The bequest conveys Clapps Mead to the Parish Council to hold in fee simple as public ground under the Recreation Grounds Act 1859 to be used in perpetuity as a Playing Field and Recreation Ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish, subject to a schedule of 23 conditions.

The conditions within the conveyance state that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the area and has the power to provide seats and "childrens appliances for recreation".

Interestingly "Clapps" is used rather than "Clapp's".

The area was registered with the Land Register in 2013 under title number DT382025.

The Parish Council owns all items within the field, all items are listed on the Asset Register and, where appropriate, all items are insured.

Public Liability insurance is in place.

All repairs are paid for by the Parish Council.

All equipment is purchased and owned by the Parish Council.

Quarterly safety inspections are conducted by a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents qualified person, paid for by the Parish Council.

Two weekly visual inspections are conducted by a rota of councillors.

Minor repairs are conducted by volunteers under the authority of the Parish Council.

Major repairs to equipment are conducted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents qualified person, paid for by the Parish Council.

Other major repairs / replacements e.g. fencing, tree work, are conducted by qualified tradesman.

2. The Committee of Management

Condition 1 of the 1938 conveyance states that: -

"The management of the premises to be in the hands of a Committee of Management"

However, given that the Parish Council owns Clapps Mead and the conditions state that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the area the Committee of Management cannot act without authority from the Parish Council.

The Committee of Management is not a Parish Council committee but must have at least one Parish Councillor member.

3. The Friends of Clapps Mead.

The Friends of Clapps Mead was set up in 2022 with the specific purpose of raising funds towards the maintenance and enhancement of Clapps Mead by the Parish Council.

It is independent of the Parish Council.

4. Purchase of a ground level trampoline.

In March 2023 the Parish Council agreed to purchase a ground level trampoline.

Subsequently a Lottery Awards for All grant was applied for, but this was unsuccessful.

The Friends of Clapps Mead suggested that they could grant money to the Parish Council for the cost (ex. VAT) of a smaller ground level trampoline. This was accepted at the September Parish Council meeting.

The minutes are incorrect (minute number 2984 d) - the trampoline has been purchased by Chideock Parish Council not by the Friends of Clapps Mead.