

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 7 pm.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 7pm.

Present: Cllr McAra, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Downes, Cllr Peter Hunt,

In attendance: The Clerk.

2738 Election of Chair and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

Cllr McAra was nominated by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr Hunt, and elected unanimously.

Cllr McAra signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

2739 Apologies.

Cllr Coates had sent her apologies, which were accepted.

2740 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2741 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2742 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 26 April 2022.

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

b) the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3 May 2022.

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

The minutes of the Annual Village Meeting of 10 May 2022 were noted after removal of the last sentence of the final paragraph – “It was agreed that the Parish Council take this forward.”.

2743 Election of Vice-Chair and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair.

Cllr George Dunn was proposed by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Anna Dunn, and elected unanimously.

Cllr George Dunn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office a Vice Chair.

2744 Election of Councillors to Committees.

AGREED that all councillors are members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and of the Planning Committee.

2745 Appointment of Representatives, who do not have to be Councillors.

a) Rights of Way matters – all councillors

b) Village Hall representative – Cllr Hunt

c) Environmental and Air Quality matters – Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn amd Cllr McAra.

d) All other matters pertaining to the A35 Trunk Road Dorset – all councillors

e) Dorset Council Highways Matters – all councillors.

f) Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) Steering Group – Cllr Coates.

g) Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) – Cllr Anna Dunn

h) Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC) – Western Area Committee – Clerk

i) Community Flood Group representative – Cllr Downes

- j) Clapp's Mead Playing Field Maintenance co-ordinator – Cllr George Dunn.
- k) Parish Liaison Meeting representative – Cllr George Dunn and Cllr McAra.
- l) All-Purpose All-Weather Footpath representatives - Cllr Coates. Mr Grafton, and Mr Maskell.

2746 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports. Neither was present.
Cllr Christopher's e-mail report said that National Highways will meet with the Parish Council provided that the Parish Council provides an agenda. **AGREED** that the provision of Average Speed Cameras must be one item. The Clerk asked councillors to e-mail her with other suggestions. **ALL**

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2747 Democratic Period. No members of the public were present.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2748 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 4 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 2A – Casual Vacancy. Dorset Council has not received any request to date. Today is the last date these can be received and Dorset Council will confirm tomorrow. The next step is to invite electors to come forward for co-option. To allow time for this to be advertised in the July Chideock News it is anticipated that co-option will take place at the meeting on Tuesday 26 July. It will be advertised this week on the Parish Council noticeboard, website, and Facebook page. **CC**

Item 2B – “No Dogs” signs for Seatown – AGREED to purchase 6 more signs which will be put up wherever possible, given that Palmers Brewery will not allow additional signage in their car park. **CC**

Item 4 – Removal of BT Landlines. Cllr Anna Dunn said that there was a week-long outage of BT availability recently which meant to internet availability. Clerk to inform Cllr Christopher of this. **CC**

2749 A35 Matters.

Items 5 - 15 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 6 – Air Quality Improvement Suggestions to Dorset Council. Clerk to request an update from Cllr Christopher. **CC**

Item 7 – A35 Communities Initiative. **AGREED** to invite the parishes that have responded to a meeting in September. **CC**

Items 14 & 15 – Speed Cameras. The Clerk confirmed that both speed cameras are now working.

Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner re the A35 on 21 June. **AGREED** that the Parish Council will produce the agenda for this meeting and ask Char Valley PC for input. **ALL**

2750 Motions Received with Notice. None.

2751 Planning Matters.

Items 23 to 24B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

a) **Applications.** None.

b) **Determinations.**

P/TRC/2022/02142 Clapp's Mead Playing, Field Mill Lane - T1 Oak - Remove all deadwood; T13 Ash - Remove all defective branches including limb over property, leaving a 4m stub & remove all deadwood; T16 Oak - Remove all deadwood; T17 Ash - Fell - basal rot. **GRANTED.**

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.

AGREED to write to West Dorset Leisure Holidays asking the purpose of the various works being undertaken within the Golden Cap Holiday Park site which do not appear to be covered by a planning application.

iii. Other.

Items 16 - 21 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2752 Finances.

Items 22 - 27 on the Actions and Information List were **NOTED**.

a) **Payments.**

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i.	Clerk's Salary and Expenses for May	£371.60
ii.	Village Hall Hire – 3, 10 and 24 May	£42.00
iii.	Mr Ian Wigglesworth for Internal Audit	£60.00
iv.	Re-issue Bridport Leisure Centre Grant cheque	£100.00
v.	DAPTC Subscription	£224.02

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

b) **Internal Audit & Annual Governance and Accountability Return.**

RESOLVED to accept the Internal Auditor's Report.

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

RESOLVED to sign the Declaration of Exemption from External Audit, given that both income and expenditure for 2021-2022 are less than £25,000.

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

RESOLVED to accept and sign page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-2022.

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

RESOLVED to accept and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-2022, page 6.

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

c) **Asset Register and Insurance Renewal.**

The Clerk is satisfied that all Assets are listed and insured as required. Items with a value less than £250 are not insured due to the insurance policy excess of £250.

AGREED to remove the Vehicle Activated Sign from the insurance.

RESOLVED to renew the Parish Council insurance cover with Pen Underwriting Limited for the period 1 June 2022 – 31 May 2023, with the VAS removed.

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

d) **Reserves.**

RESOLVED that the following amounts be moved from Restricted Reserves to the Clapp's Mead Maintenance Fund:-

•	Playing Field Maintenance	£48.09
•	Mower Hire	£70.00

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

e) **Foss Orchard Car Park.**

RESOLVED to approve that work be carried out by the Bridport Lengthsmen to tidy up the garden area at Foss Orchard Car Park at a cost of £90 ex VAT = £105 inc. VAT.

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

Foss Orchard River Bank – the Clerk said that she is ;looking for an alternative contractor **CC**
for this work.

2753 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Items 28 - 33 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Actions from the April ROSPA Inspection.

- Cllr George Dunn reported that the 2 gates into the play area have been fixed
- **AGREED** that the small rubbish bin fixed to the fence inside the play area be removed **GD**
- **AGREED** to ask Mr Hussey to investigate obtaining a new the bracket assembly for the car "Springer" to prolong its life. **CC**
- Cllr George Dunn agreed to treat the goal posts with "Hammerite" paint **GD**

- Cllr McAra will purchase tent pegs for the football nets
- **AGREED** to investigate costs of new goal posts and nets with a view to replacing the existing ones over the winter months.
- The new “pick up dog poo” and dogs / leads signs have been fixed in suitable locations by Cllr George Dunn and the 2 COVID-19 signs have been removed and are “in store” in case they are needed in the future.

VM
CC

RESOLVED to accept the fencing quotation from John Bright, even though only 2 quotes have been received.

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

Friends of Clapp’s Mead.

Cllr Anna Dunn gave the Clerk a cheque for £125 as repayment of the grant made for the entertainer for the cancelled children’s party.

2754 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

a) Rights of Way.

Item 34 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

b) Dorset Highways.

Items 35 to 37 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

c) Flood Management.

Nothing to report.

The Clerk reported that progress is being made on the formal complaints to Dorset Council regarding the extremely poor service received from Dorset Highways and Rights of Way in relation to reported problems.

2755 Current Consultations.

- a) DEFRA Consultation on preventing charges for DIY waste at household waste recycling centres** and call for evidence on booking systems at household waste recycling centres. **AGREED** that councillors will make individual responses.

ALL

2756 Correspondence.

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

2757 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

The meeting closed at **8.37pm**.

Cllr Christopher arrived just after the meeting ended, having been at the Broadwindsor Annual Parish Meeting.

He said that he had recently had a meeting with Rebecca Pow the Environment Minister and others and gave the Clerk a leaflet to be scanned and sent to councillors.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

I note with interest that National Highways are amenable to a further meeting with Chideock Parish Council but meeting agenda must be forthcoming first!

I further note with interest that the desire of HMG to help those in smaller properties to receive £150 payments to house holders, via local authorities and this appears to be working.

The ever-tightening cost of living caused largely by the war in Ukraine and long-term consequences of the Covid pandemic, and inflationary pressures is fuelling the likelihood of more interest rate rises this year . This will clearly continue to impact on Marshwood Vale residents and Dorset Council. There are great concerns about the UK's energy price cap which climbed in April by 54 per cent . Clearly there are great concerns in rural areas on the future of government decision making. This is most acute where there is for instance no mains gas nor the money , nor the desire to move to heat pumps.

Returning to the question of interest rates and indeed mortgage rates there is also concern about what happens when fixed rate deals end, variable rates have risen .

The most acute cases are where residents are older but still have mortgages and borrowers are seen as a greater risk by lenders .

I will comment on the transition away from Farming subsidies and the basic payment scheme later , at this stage I would comment as follows:

I would like after 3 years to comment on Team Christopher, as I like to call it , involvement , with the Farming Community Network.

Last Friday when I was meeting the environment minister (see below) Una attended a meeting organised by the Farming Community Network in circumstances where you can not be in two places at one time .

As many of you know I have previous involvement with the Farming Community Involvement and have assisted farmers in tragic circumstances whether involving welfare issues, tax credits , farming after the suicide of a partner or having received a notice to quit and animal welfare issues etc.

Dorset Farm Community Network is aided by Neil Martin of Dorset Council Trading Standards (Also a director of Dorset County Show) and local vets . It is well worth our support.

For your information, The Farming Community Network telephone number is 03000 111 999. The Farming Community Network offers the opportunity to talk to a sympathetic person who truly understands farmers and rural life .

Telephone number 03000 111 999

By way of contrast RABI, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution offers financial support practice care and guidance to farming people of all ages, including farmers, farm workers and dependents 0808 281 9490 .

I am pleased to report that the RPA are to make interim payments in respect of the basic payment this summer.

I have been invited to meet with Rt hon George Eustace MP Secretary Of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs next month .

Nutrient neutrality and implications for development:

I recently received the following from the head of planning at Dorset Council,

Dear Councillor,

You may be aware that Natural England has recently issued new advice to local planning authorities whose areas include catchments for freshwater/estuarine habitats where development proposals have the potential to affect water quality as a consequence of adverse nutrient impacts. Nutrient deposition can arise from agriculture but also from the treatment and disposal of wastewater arising from residential development. Dorset Council is affected by 5 catchments in total:

- Poole Harbour catchment
- Somerset Levels and Moors
- River Avon
- Chesil and The Fleet
- River Axe

Dorset Council has been working with Natural England and other partners in developing nutrient mitigation strategies for affected catchments, but where development proposals in affected catchments are unable to demonstrate that they are able to mitigate adverse effects, planning permission will be refused.

Further clarification is being sought from Natural England on various details, in particular around the suitability of current nutrient mitigation strategies in the Poole Harbour catchment for dealing with the impact of phosphorus. In the meantime, planning permission will only be granted if Dorset Council can be satisfied that it will not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity of a protected habitat as a consequence of the impact of nutrient enrichment upon water quality.

My report coincides with the third anniversary of the formation of Dorset Council and the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency.

I report as below:

How well are we addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency?

A recently published progress report has revealed how well Dorset Council is performing in its efforts to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE).

Dorset Council declared a CEE in May 2019 and, following extensive development and consultation, Full Council adopted their Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) and action plan last July, with an agreement to report progress twice a year.

The CEES is a long-term strategy which sets out 41 objectives under nine topic headings. It sets carbon targets and identifies key areas where the council can both reduce its own carbon footprint and support the whole of Dorset to become carbon neutral.

Key headlines from the progress report include (but are not limited to): –

- Significant budget commitment by Dorset Council, with £10 million capital climate change budget and over £50 million in external funding to support activities that address the CEE
- Over 40 solar panel arrays installed on schools and other council-owned buildings, with an additional 50 arrays due for installation shortly
- Estimated investment through the Dorset County Pension Fund in high carbon activities reduced from £128 million to £41 million since 2019 (1.2% of total investment)
- Low Carbon Dorset programme awarded £5.4 million grants to businesses wishing to go greener. Projects should lead to £16.1m of investment in low-carbon projects in Dorset and an annual reduction of 9,400 tonnes of carbon
- 60% waste recycling achieved. Dorset Council is now the eighth best performing council in England and the third best unitary council in England for recycling and composting
- Pro-active lobbying of Government for powers and funding to support strategy delivery through direct representation to government, letters to, and lobbying of, MPs and representation through national groups
- Majority of streetlights upgraded to efficient lighting
- Strategy under development to shift Council vehicle fleet away from use of fossil fuels, with trials of electric vehicles (e.g., road sweepers and refuse vehicles) and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel for use in heavy vehicles
- Use of primary highway surfacing material reduced by 30%, replaced with recycled products. 15% of surfacing materials made of material recovered from Dorset's former roads
- Expanded our Cut and Collect practices on roadside verges to cover more areas of Dorset. Space management for biodiversity benefit increased by 350km²
- 42 electric vehicle charging sockets/bays installed at 21 locations. Next phase to deliver 51 more underway
- Healthy Homes Dorset supported over 130 homes with energy efficiency and improvement measures, with many more receiving Green Homes Grants to install insulation, ventilation, and solar panels
- Dorset Green H2 project to install 5MW solar farm and electrolyser to produce green hydrogen.

The progress report outlines the Council's key progress, but also includes the next steps to be taken under each of the nine topics. The full progress report can be found on the Dorset Council website.

Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said:

"It's important to make sure everyone is kept up to date with how we're getting on delivering our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan, and I'm especially pleased that Dorset residents will be able to see that these works are gaining real momentum now.

As a local authority, we must deal with many competing priorities, but our commitment to delivering on our CEES ambitions remains steadfast. Much has already been delivered, both by Dorset Council

directly but also working with a multitude of partners. There is no one single point of success or failure defining whether we will be successful; the journey to a decarbonised Dorset will involve us all.

We will continue to work towards our goal to become a carbon-neutral council and putting in place the necessary actions and partnerships to accelerate the journey towards a carbon neutral Dorset. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with all interested parties what their views are on concrete steps that can realistically help us accelerate our ambitions, balancing the social and economic needs of all residents, especially the most vulnerable. I am absolutely committed to making Dorset the best in class, and I know that we have all of the ingenuity, passion, and capabilities to achieve this.”

On a personal note and having worked with various past editors of the Ecologist magazine I must stress how serious agenda items climate and ecological pressures are for me

Dorset Council awards £90,000 to support food schemes in the county

In a bid to support residents with rising living costs, Dorset Council has awarded £90K from the Government's 2021 Household Support Fund to various food schemes over the last five months.

20 food projects – ranging from foodbanks to social supermarkets – received dedicated funding as part of the Governments' plan to help those with limited disposable income across the winter period.

The funding has enabled community groups and charities to continue to supply food and essential items to residents.

The Household Support Fund (HSF) was launched in December last year to help residents, including vulnerable families, with the cost of food, heating, and other essentials across the winter months from central government funding and has recently been extended to 30 September.

Chris Lee, Chair of Trustees from Verwood Foodbank, said:

“The Verwood food bank provides emergency food to those in need and signposts clients to organisations that can help them out of poverty. The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis continue to create a huge level of demand for our help. Help from Dorset Council through the Household support fund has helped us to support many of those in need.”

Dr Neil Hardisty, Director of The Nest Weymouth, said:

“The Household Support Fund is proving a real blessing to both The Westham Nest and the new Littlemoor Nest. It means that we are not having to search out grants to ensure that our members are able to access a good selection of nutritious foods. As the cost-of-living crisis starts to bite we are seeing more people coming through our doors seeking help and support.”

Cllr Laura Miller, Cabinet member for Culture, Communities and Customer Services, said:

“We know that a significant number of households are experiencing hardship due to rise in basic living costs.

“The Household Support Fund is there to provide rapid short-term financial support to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food, energy, water bills, and other related essentials.

“I am really pleased we've been able to help so many local people over the winter months and I would urge any individual, or household to check out what help is available if they are experiencing financial hardship.”

More information is available for residents who struggle with access to food on the council website.

For more information about the Household Support Fund, check out details online

Further announcements on the 2022 Household Support Fund will be available from 1 June.

Since we last met I have had meeting with various Members of Parliament at various locations across Dorset and Devon:

Simon Hoare MP

Luke Hall MP

Rt hon Theresa Coffey MP

Ian Liddell Grainger MP

Felicity Buchan MP

Rebecca Pow MP

and Chris Loder virtual meeting .

I will highlight in particular the work of Rebecca Pow the Environment Minister

Rebecca has overseen the passing the Environment Act which she sees as being an example of the Rest of the World to follow

The Act seeks to clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats and increase nature, reduce waste, and make better use of our resources. Crucially, it will help the decline in species by 2030 helping to reverse the fall in population of British species.

Her literature talks about new legally binding environmental targets and enforced by a new, independent Office for Environmental Protection which will hold government and public bodies to account on their environmental obligations.

The Environment Act provided long term targets to improve air quality water and waste reduction and resource efficiency

It further talks of a target on PM2.5 concentration the most harmful pollutant to human health .

It also refers to effective collaboration between water companies through statutory water management plans Drainage and sewerage management planning a statutory duty.

And the final of many bullet points I picked up on: - Require local authorities to tackle air quality !!!

Clearly the meeting with Rebecca Pow the environment minister was also particularly interesting as we move to Environmental Land Management Scheme .

ELM aims to reward environmental activity.

While the first tier of this the sustainable farming incentive should be available to all farmers, there is some discussion whether 2 of the other components of ELMs create problems for the tenanted sector:

The Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery elements of ELM have at least a partial reliance on taking land out of agricultural production and use it to enhance nature, the environment and bio diversity instead.

Clearly tenants will look at their own position, whether Agricultural Holdings Act Tenancy (AHA or Farm Business Tenancy . Similarly , owner occupiers and landlords should take professional advice in respect of the possible loss of Capital Taxes reliefs.

All of this is taking place at a time when food security is a genuine concern and when we are living through price inflation unprecedented in recent times.

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher
Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale
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