

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting dated the 31st October 2023.

2990. Co-option of Parish Councillor.

The chair welcomed Richard Benjamin to the meeting and explained that Richard had put himself forward for a second time as a prospective co-opted member of the Parish council. The chair stated that he would follow the same procedure that had taken place in the previous Parish council in September. The chair invited Richard to add anything extra to the information that he had received and shared with the Parish councillors previously. Richard declined. The chair invited Cllrs to ask Richard any questions. Cllr Hunt asked Richard what skills and abilities that he might have to add to the current skills and abilities held within the current Parish council. Richard shared a full and comprehensive background of his skills and abilities including his employment history, his time within the police, his role within St. Giles and his current role as the chair of the village hall. Richard enquired of Cllr Hunt, if that was sufficient information. Cllr Hunt responded by Thanking Richard and saying that this was okay.

The matter then moved to the vote. Three Cllrs voted for Richard to be coopted (Cllr McAra/ Cllr Meridith /Cllr Downes) and three Cllrs voted against (Cllr Anna Dunn/Cllr Hunt/Cllr George Dunn. The vote was evenly split and Cllr George Dunn, as the chair used his casting vote to not support Richard Benjamin being co-opted.

From the floor, Cllr Meridith raised her concerns about the vote and challenged the Chair on the basis that at the previous meeting, Richard Benjamin had been encouraged to reapply.

The chair stated that the co-option vote is over and moved onto the next part of the agenda.

2991. **Apologies.** The clerk (currently unwell).

2992. **In attendance.**

Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn (Chair); Cllr Vanessa McAra (deputy chair and taking the minutes in the clerk's absence); Cllr Mick Downes; Cllr Caroline Meridith; Cllr Peter Hunt; Dorset Cllr Christopher and Una Christopher; Lee Ramsden and Richard Benjamin.

The Parish council meeting commenced at 10.00am.

2993. **Grants of dispensation.** None.

2994. **Declarations of defined pecuniary interest.** None.

2995. **Minutes of the Last meeting.**

(1) The chair had discussed the previous minutes with the clerk and it was understood that if Item four was resolved, then this in itself is a resolution to correct the minutes regarding the figures quoted.

Cllr Peter Hunt proposed the matter resolved. Cllr Anna Dunn seconded and the vote was unanimous.

(2) Resolve and accept and sign the minutes of the 26th September 2023. -proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn and seconded by Cllr Mick Downes. The vote was unanimous.

2996. Dorset Cllr and Police reports.

No report received from the Police.

Cllr Christopher shared his perspective on the current situation in Dorset council. (list of items sent by Cllr Christopher prior to the meeting). Cllr Christopher encouraged the CPC to include him in discussions with Dorset council regarding road safety.

2997. Democratic period.

Three issues were raised in the democratic period. They were-;

- Concerns about why Richard Benjamin had not been voted in as a co-opted Parish Cllr and a request for specific reasons to be given by those Cllrs who had not agreed. Three Cllrs addressed the matter by speaking in support of Richard Benjamin and recognising the contribution that he has made to the village. However, the Chair directed that individual Cllrs do not have to give their reasons why they support or do not support an individual, all they are required to do is vote.
- Concerns were raised about the way in which Clapps Mead are supported by the Parish council regarding funding and claiming VAT. Cllr Hunt explained that Clapp's Mead is owned by the Parish council having been gifted to the children of the village in 1938. It is not a private business and the Parish council do not have a responsibility for the village hall. The need to update play equipment and maintenance is set down in the original contract set up by the family. In addition, the majority of fundraising for play equipment is led by the Friends of Clapps mead and benefits all of the children who use the play area, as well as the wider community who attend the fundraising events.
- Richard Benjamin raised his strong objections to the proposed pop up at Seatown currently awaiting consideration in the planning section.

2998. Reports updates by the clerk (read by the chair in the clerk's absence).

- Social media policy-deferred to next meeting.
- Armed services covenant -deferred to next meeting.
- DAPTC restructure -deferred to next meeting.
- 23rd November at 2.00pm-meeting with David Sidwick and Dorset Road safe.
ACTION FOR CLERK -village hall to be booked and draft agenda sent.
- The BLAP steering group is looking for a," group/organisation to take up the BLAP members slot of the Steering group. The next meeting is the 7th December 2023. group. It was agreed that this is not something that the CPC wish to pursue.
- **ACTION FOR THE CLERK. BLAP -increase in financial contribution sought from CPC, slight increase to £76.00-will bring to next meeting. Cllr Meridith agreed to deputise for Cllr George Dunn.**

2999. A35 matters.

- **ACTION FOR CLERK.** Feedback provided by Cllrs Dunn on the A35 Parishes initiative. **In principal agreement to fund a percentage of costs to the lead admin who will support the new initiative. Unanimous in principal agreement from within the CPC.**
- **ACTION CLERK-Clarification to be sought re Traffic orders-have they happened and when?**
- **ACTION FOR CLERK.** Discussion about average speed cameras following Cllr George Dunn's feedback on the BLAP meeting, where Jonny Hill, National Highways

manager gave a NH presentation. Cllr George Dunn stated that the presentation would be distributed.

3000. WRAG.

- Cllr Downes reported that on a recent walk about with WRAG, it was noted that there may be issues concerning a drain on one of the caravan sites in Dog House Farm Road. Cllrs Downes agreed to draft a letter to the relevant authorities to determine the status of the drain and any potential pollution issues. It was agreed that DC Cllr Laura Beddows should be copied into the correspondence.
- **ACTION; Cllr Downes to draft letter as agreed previously.**
- **Cllr Downes agreed to be CPC representative on WRAG.**
- **Action; Cllr George Dunn to follow up date for meeting with DC environmental team.**

3001. Motions received with notice.

This motion is to request that Chideock parish council form a Clapps Mead Playing field committee in accordance with the conditions and obligations of the Grafton bequest in the 1938 schedule under Section C Paragraph 1.

A comprehensive explanation was given by the Cllr Anna Dunn. The motion was proposed by Cllr McAra and seconded by Cllr Meridith. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

3002. Planning meeting.

All three separate applications were discussed and considered.

Application no; P/FUL/2023/05731.

Unanimous agreement -however two additional measures would be required –

1. That this agreement does not lead to permanent structures on the proposed site.
2. That due to the significant concerns that have been raised about the additional litter both on the road and on the beach, that a requirement should be put in place that the pop-up businesses have litter management process in place which leaves the surrounding area and the beach free of the additional litter during the period that they are operating.

Application No. P/FUL/2023/05475.

Agreed unanimously.

Application NO. P/LBC/2023/05996

Agreed unanimously.

3003. Finance.

- The following were resolved, proposed by CLLR George Dunn and seconded by Cllr Peter Hunt-;
 - Clerk's salary and expenses for October 2023 (£360.40).
 - Village hall hire 31st September 2023 (£20.00).
 - Ken Hussey -TBA at the point of installation but agreement in principle (£985).
 - DAPTC -Clerks conference (£22.50).
 - Hucks nets -£5062.50 in principle)
 - Proposed Payment for training and development budget sessions for the clerk

All other discussion regarding the overall budget to be carried forward to the November CPC meeting, when the clerk will be present.

3004. Clapp's Mead.

Nets will be erected when bad weather subsides. There is no further update other than the lengths man will be clearing the ditches.

3005. **Consultations.** None

3006. **Correspondence.**

- Website issues to be discussed at next month's CPC.
- Bristol University report-still awaited.
- The chair confirmed that all correspondence must be circulated to the CPC and timeliness of responses ensured.

3007. Date and time of the next meeting -28th November at 10.am at Chideock Village Hall.

3008. AOB -none.