



Chideock Parish Council

**MINUTES OF CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held at CHIDEOCK VILLAGE HALL on 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024 at 10am**

Initials	Councillors	Initials	Councillors
CP	Cllr Caroline Parkins (Chair)	PB	Cllr Paul Barnett
RB	Cllr Richard A Benjamin (Vice Chair)	AB	Cllr Aidan Biggins
TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)	NW	Neil Wedge
Also Invited: Cllr Simon Christopher			

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
	<p><b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND ELIGIBILITY:</b></p> <p>The Clerk reminded parish councillors of the Code of Conduct and the need for declarations of interest to be declared.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Neil Wedge, Chief Executive of the DAPTC (Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils) to the meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>APOLOGIES:</b></p> <p>None</p>	
1	<p><b>REPORTS FROM DORSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS AND/OR POLICE REPORTS:</b></p> <p>Alex (Community Policeman) addressed the council and referred to a rise in vehicle thefts (mainly in Dorchester – but spreading out towards Bridport and surrounding areas.)</p> <p>Alex also reported a series of attempted burglaries from homes and outbuildings. Alex offered his help and advice on home security measures.</p>	

*Cllr Caroline Parkins*

Minutes agreed on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
2	<p><b>DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR</b></p> <p>Resident MD referred to the state of the street lights outside his property in Chideock and to the fact that they were not working – he has reported this via the National Highways Portal.</p> <p>Cllr AB asked for a little time to read out a ‘personal statement’ that he had prepared earlier – mainly in response to the many emailed and written complaints that had been received by the parish council since his co-option. This statement is reproduced as Appendix A to these minutes (page 8 below)</p> <p>Resident LC complained about the lack of time for democratic half hour and cited specifically time provided for the Dorset Councillor (Cllr Christopher). The Clerk explained that Cllr Christopher’s role at the meeting is as a representative from Dorset Council and his main address should be to provide feedback to the parish from Dorset Council. She complained that she had not received a response to her letter sent in September (the Clerk confirmed that an acknowledgement had been sent), however LC said that the issues she raised had not been dealt with.</p> <p>Resident VMcA referred to the A35 and to crates outside the Clock Inn public house that have sunk. She mentioned that both ditches in Clapps Mead are fully overgrown, and that there is a risk of flooding in that area. She referred to the Air Quality Group, and to the changing of the tubes by Bristol University. She referred to the old non-working air monitoring box that is still in situ and said she had heard nothing from Dorset Council since March regarding its removal. Cllr RAB said that the parish council have already contacted Dorset Council about this and advised that action has been documented within the General Purposes Working Group minutes located on the council’s website.</p> <p>Resident Paul Ramsden (WRAG) referred to the recent testing of the Winniford around North Chideock which found high levels of E.coli at Brighthay Lane, this will need further testing to establish the source of contamination. He said that Wessex Water are still waiting for Ofwat to authorise spending for 2025-30 which should include Chideock sewage treatment plant and Seatown pumping station upgrades.</p> <p>Residents AD and GD again voiced their complaints about the workings of the General Purpose Working Group meetings and AD voiced complaints about the way the parish council was spending money.</p> <p>NW from DAPTC provided advice to residents throughout the democratic period and politely asked that they desist from complaining to the parish council about the same things. He said that with only four councillors and a part time clerk it is difficult for the council to conduct its business if so much time is spent dealing with complaints.</p> <p>NW suggested a small meeting with LC/AD/Cllrs RAB / AB to discuss the ongoing issue with regard the trampoline. This was agreed by all parties.</p>	

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2	<p><b>DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR (continued)</b></p> <p>NW explained that he had attended the meeting as a result of a request for help from the parish councillors who are feeling overwhelmed by the volley of complaints from a small number of residents.</p> <p>He also explained the assistance that he would be giving to the parish council, including suggesting a third party (independent review) could take place in order to look into the trampoline issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the initial purchase of the trampoline</li> <li>– the installation (including the unpaid invoice),</li> <li>– the lack of insurability of the trampoline and,</li> <li>– the Clapps Mead legal issues (Grafton Bequest).</li> </ul> <p>The parish council welcomes the help and advice offered by DAPTC as a way forward from the present situation.</p> <p>During the meeting LC approached the Clerk with the paperwork relating to the trampoline, most of which the Clerk already had. However, it transpired that a key document relating to the installation of the trampoline was amongst these papers. The parish council is very surprised to see this Hand Over document, as Cllr RAB had asked the previous Clerk several times about the whereabouts of this document which had not been forthcoming.</p> <p>The Clerk to photocopy and distribute.</p> <p>Dorset Cllr SC confirmed that he had received many emails regarding the trampoline and insurance problems and stated that he does not wish to act as a mediator.</p>	Clerk
3	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of 24<sup>h</sup> September 2024, having been agreed via email during the month have been placed on the parish council website.</p>	
4	<p><b>REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS:</b></p> <p>BLAP Liaison – Cllr CP is the representative from the Parish Council. She referred to the Miles Cross Roundabout and said that the latest news she had was that the junction will be controlled by traffic lights that will restrict one lane of traffic at a time; meaning that only one lane of traffic will be moving in each direction. She referred to the delays in starting the project which will mean that the disruption will be within the summer months causing long tail backs of traffic.</p> <p>DAPTC – Cllr CP is the representative from the Parish Council. The DAPTC AGM is on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am online via Zoom and Cllr CP confirmed her attendance.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>PLANNING</u></b></p> <p>(All planning applications are sent to councillors on the date they are received by the Clerk. Councillors respond and the corporate view is provided to Dorset Council via their Planning Portal).</p>	

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5	<p><b><u>PLANNING</u> (Continued)</b></p> <p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>P/LBC/2024/05852</b>  <b>2 Park Cottages Main Street DT6 6HZ</b>  A NEUTRAL response was made to Dorset Council via their planning portal.</p> <p><b>P/FUL/2024/05626</b>  <b>Doghouse Farm Camp Site</b>  <b>Doghouse Lane Chideock DT6 6HY</b></p> <p>Chideock Poll to be conducted (see item 7 below)</p> <p><b>PLANNING APPEAL NOTICES</b>  None</p> <p><b>OTHER PLANNING MATTERS</b>  None</p>	
6	<p><b><u>FINANCE AND BUDGET</u></b></p> <p>The Bank Statement(s) to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were provided to Councillors for their perusal, the Bank Statement was signed by the Chairman and handed to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Cash Flow Forecast up to October 2024 was sent to Councillors for their review and approval.</p> <p><b>THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WERE APPROVED AND/OR AGREED, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Statement and Invoice Cover Sheet (Approved and signed by the Chairman)</li> <li>• Cash Flow Forecast – approved by Councillors.</li> <li>• Authorisation of Clerk Salary and Expenses</li> </ul> <p>INVOICE COVER SHEET AT APPENDIX B TO THESE MINUTES (page 9 below)</p>	
7	<p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>General Purpose</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council has formed a General Purpose Working Group with no direct responsibilities. Its role is to provide advice, support and recommended actions to the Main Committee. Also see ToRs on Parish Council website.</p>	See General Purpose

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7	<p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS (Continued)</u></b></p> <p><b>THE GENERAL PURPOSE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS from 7<sup>th</sup> October meeting:</b></p> <p><b>THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE MAIN COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That help and assistance is sought from <b>DAPTC</b> to include legal and other professional advice, including the acceptance of the DAPTC recovery plan.</li> <li>2. That <b>Speed Pole and Signage</b> options are sought including 3 quotes for replacement. There was some discussion between resident MD and Cllr RAB as to the possibility of re-charging the existing sign and this will be investigated further.</li> <li>3. That the Report from <b>Playground Inspections Ltd</b> be accepted and reviewed in due course at a forthcoming Clapps Mead Working Group meeting.</li> <li>4. The purchase of a <b>new litter bin and dog bins</b> to include the negotiation of a call-off contract with Bridport Town Council to empty the bins.</li> <li>5. Cllr RAB is authorised to find a contractor to install the new <b>sandbag bin</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>THE GENERAL PURPOSE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS from 15<sup>th</sup> October meeting:</b></p> <p><b>THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE MAIN COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Clerk investigates the availability of <b>grant funding for new play equipment</b>. The Chair confirmed that funding could be available and more work would need to be done in the future on this.</li> <li>2. <b>Planning Matter P/LBC/2024/05852 - 2 Park Cottages Main Street DT6 6HZ</b> – The Chair confirmed that a Neutral Response had been posted to the Dorset Council Portal.</li> </ol> <p><b>THE GENERAL PURPOSE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS from 22<sup>nd</sup> October meeting:</b></p> <p><b>THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE MAIN COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <b>Playground Inspections Ltd</b> report. See 3 above.</li> </ol>	<p>See General Purpose Minutes on parish council website</p>

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
7	<p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS (Continued)</u></b></p> <p>2 Planning Matter P/FUL/2024/05626 – Doghouse Farm Camp Site, Doghouse Lane, Chideock DT6 6HY</p> <p><b>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC POLL:</b> A citizen’s poll is carried out to gauge public opinion on the Doghouse Farm Camp planning application. Cut-off date 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.</p> <p>There was some discussion around this, including an observation from MD that the campsite would only be extended by two pitches. He said that the way the poll read could be interpreted as an additional 7 pitches. Cllr AB said that the FB App did not allow for changes to a post once it had been posted, he confirmed he will leave a comment to alert people to this. However, he did say that the Dorset Council and/or Agents working for the applicant did not make it clear on the planning application that the application related only to two additional pitches, and that if it had said this, the poll would have reflected this fact.</p> <p>3 With regard the <b>Speed Pole and Signage</b>, see 2 above.</p> <p>4 That the Clerk contact Bridport Town Council to negotiate a <b>New Maintenance call-off contract</b>.</p> <p>5 That Shreddit be contacted for bags to enable the <b>Shredding of confidential waste</b></p>	See General Purpose Minutes
8	<p><b><u>POLICY REVIEW</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk had sent various <b>COUNCIL POLICIES</b> to Councillors for review and approval, these are documented in the Agenda.</p> <p><b>ALL POLICIES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED</b> and the Clerk confirmed they will be uploaded to the Parish Council website.</p>	Clerk
9	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <p>The correspondence in the period was noted.</p>	
10	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <p>DAPTC advised that the AOB section of the Main Committee Agenda should be removed. The Clerk to remove the AOB section of the Agenda.</p>	Clerk
	The meeting ended at 12.15pm	

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Chideock Village Hall, 10am

Previous council minutes can be found on [www.chideockparishcouncil.com](http://www.chideockparishcouncil.com)

### SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Action	Owner	Page
Clerk to photocopy and distribute Hand Over document	Clerk	3
Upload approved policies to the website	Clerk	6
Remove AOB from future agenda	Clerk	6

#### **External Organisations - Acronyms:**

WATAG – West Dorset – Western Area Transport Action Group

BLAP – Bridport Local Area Partnership

DAPTC – Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils

NALC – National Association of Local Councils

WRAG – Winniford River Action Group

#### **External Organisations - Councillor representatives:**

BLAP – Cllr Caroline Parkins

DAPTC – Cllr Caroline Parkins & Cllr Richard Benjamin

## APPENDIX A – PERSONAL STATEMENT BY CLLR AB

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As both a new resident of Chideock and a fresh face on this Parish Council, I stand here proudly, with my family's future in mind. My wife and I chose Chideock as the place where we want to raise our three young children, a place where we hope they will grow up with a strong, connected, and positive community around them.

When I joined this council, I came with the intention to serve, to foster community, and to create a place where all villagers felt heard, respected, and supported. But as I've settled in, I've been disheartened to find that many of the issues facing the council today — issues passed down by those who sat here before us — have cast a cloud of frustration and division over our work. This was made clear to me from day one of moving in and before I decided to be involved in the parish council: when I (and wife separately) spoke to other villagers, many expressed a profound disconnect with the council, often referring to years of difficulties, decisions made without proper procedure, and a feeling of exclusion. For all of us here, this should be a call to action to restore trust and address these issues with openness and clarity.

I have witnessed the repercussions of procedures that were not followed properly or unknowingly. Ironically, some former council members who previously held this responsibility now criticize our efforts to correct these issues. For example, the installation of the trampoline — while undoubtedly well-intentioned — did not follow due procedure, leaving us unable to insure it for safe use. Instead of support, we have been met with accusations of intending to dismantle this effort, despite our attempts to find solutions. I was personally advised by DAPTC that removal may be the only course forward. It's frustrating, not only for us as councillors trying to fix these situations but also as members of this community who care deeply about Chideock's well-being.

Another point I feel compelled to address is the use of social media. There is no value in using online platforms to cast blame or air personal grievances. These little jibes may feel satisfying to post, but they undermine the respect we owe each other and only deepen community division. If anyone has concerns or differing opinions, I, for one, am more than willing to sit down and have a constructive conversation. In fact, I welcome it. Our meetings should be a place for real discussion and positive action, not a battleground for old grudges or finger-pointing.

I don't claim to have all the answers, and I value the input and insights of our community. That's why I advocate for measures like planning application polls to gauge the opinions of those we represent. But we can only achieve real progress if we address issues with transparency and integrity — not by rehashing past mistakes or fostering mistrust.

I'm here for one purpose: to help this village thrive. I'm not here to serve an agenda or engage in petty arguments. Like many of you, I care deeply about Chideock, and I want this council to stand for something more than complaints or criticisms. I want it to represent unity, hope, and action.

It's time for all of us to ask ourselves what kind of legacy we want to leave. Are we here to further a culture of blame, or are we here to lead by example, setting a standard that the next generation can look up to? For my part, I want to see this hall filled with engaged villagers who feel heard, respected, and motivated to improve our community.

Let's make this council a place of integrity and vision. Let's work through our differences respectfully, build on each other's ideas, and leave a better Chideock than any of us inherited. This is our responsibility, and it's our gift to the future of this village.



Thank you.

**APPENDIX B – INVOICES IN PERIOD TO END OCTOBER 2024**

All invoices pre-authorised and paid prior to the meeting

Date	C B	Gross	VAT	Payee
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 24	√	32.00		Chideock Village Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 24	√	3.35		Post
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 24	√	30.00		Printing
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 24	√	9.00		Printing
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 24	√	24.00		DAPTC
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 24	√	60.00		DAPTC
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	46.99	7.83	Double D Computers
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	6.50	1.08	Footprints
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	46.99	7.83	Double D Computers
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	5.95	1.78	Footprints
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	35.00		DAPTC
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	3.80		Cllr Exp
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	7.95		Cllr Exp
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	7.95		Cllr Exp
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24	√	8.00		Cllr Exp
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 24	√	6.60		Post Office
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 24		12.75		Filofax