

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 7 pm.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 7pm.

Present: Cllr McAra, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Hunt.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher and 3 members of the public..

2791 Apologies.

Cllr Coates had sent her apologies, which were accepted.
PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

2792 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2793 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2794 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

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

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

2795 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) **Cllr Christopher** was not present at this point in the meeting.

b) **PSCO Bishop.**

PCSO Bishop's e-mailed report was **NOTED**.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2796 Democratic Period.

Mr and Mrs Woodbury introduced themselves and said that they are interested in being part of the proposed River Winniford community project but that at least 8 volunteers would be required for this to be a viable proposition. Cllr McAra said that there are 2 others who are interested. A discussion as to how this could be achieved followed, for example contact secondary schools, village groups, business owners, etc., giving information as to the aim of the project and what it may involve, collecting information on the current state of the river; determining what needs to be monitored and how. This could lead to an action plan if action is required. A public meeting is another possibility.

CC

Mention was made of the water vole population which was identified on the Winniford a few years ago – the Clerk will ask the Dorset Wildlife Trust for an update.

CC

A member of the public asked what action had been taken regarding the safety of pedestrians on Duck Street – Cllr McAra said this was on the agenda under Dorset Highways.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2797 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 19 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 10 – Dog Signs. AGREED that the Clerk will find out if Mystic Signs can print “on the beach” on the signs from Dorset Council, which only give the dates when dogs are banned, not where.

2798 A35 Matters.

Items 20 to 33 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 33 – Meeting with Dorset Council Environmental Health re Air Quality.

Cllr McAra gave a brief report on the meeting. Cllr George Dunn has produced notes from the meeting which will be sent to Dorset Council for approval and will then be published on the website.

CC

2799 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

Cllr Christopher arrived at 7:35pm, during the previous item..

He reported as follows:-

- He suggested that Sam Crowe, Dorset Council Interim Director for Public Health, be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting **CC**
- He has been in contact with Chris Loder MP regarding the outstanding repairs to Chideock Bridge. Chris Loder says he will liaise with Ben Hampson, National Highways. Cllr George Dunn said that he has spoken to local builders who may be able to identify and supply the type of stone required. **AGREED** that the Clerk passes this information on to Cllr Christopher, Chris Loder, National Highways and Connect Balfour-Beatty. **CC**
- The next A-Road Task Force meeting, chaired by Chris Loder, is in November.
- Cllr Christopher will attend the A35 meeting which is being organised by Widworthy and Kilmington Parish Councils.

2800 Motions Received with Notice. None.

2801 Planning Matters.

Item 33A on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

a) Applications.

P/FUL/2022/05521 Hell Farmhouse, Hell Barn Holiday Cottages Hell Lane - Install Solar/PV Array on south elevation of holiday cottages.

Chideock Parish Council supports the application.

P/LBC/2022/05522 Hell Farmhouse, Hell Barn Holiday Cottages Hell Lane - Install Solar/PV Array on south elevation of holiday cottages.

Chideock Parish Council supports the application, subject to the Conservation Officer's recommendation.

P/HOU/2022/05735 Underhill Main Street Erect extensions and replacement garage

Chideock Parish Council supports the application.

P/HOU/2022/05812 - Rozelle Main Street - Erect Carport/Store

Chideock Parish Council supports the application.

b) Determinations.

P/VOC/2021/02516 Golden Cap Holiday Park – variation to approved plans for leisure building. **GRANTED.**

P/CLP/2022/03854 St Mary's, Pettycrate Lane - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed: The demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage. **REFUSED**

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.

Items 34 to 38 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

2802 Finances.

a) Payments

i.	Clerk's Salary and Expenses for September	£379.61
ii.	Village Hall Hire – 26 and 27 September	£40.00
iii.	Reimbursement for season ticket paid twice (FT10HLZ)	£20.00
iv.	Clerk – reimbursement for lawn mower (Foss Orchard) (to be paid from the Foss Orchard Maintenance Reserve)	£187.95
v.	Dorset Council for Duck Street road sign (to be paid from the Highways Contingency Reserve of £1,500)	£288.14
vi.	Luke Bennett for bus shelter cleaning	£40.00
vii.	Ken Hussey – Inspection + Repairs	£277.50
viii.	St. Giles PCC – Grant for Cemetery Grass Cutting	£675.00
ix.	John Bright's - Clapp's Mead fencing (to be paid from the Clapp's Mead Maintenance budgeted amount)	£1850.00
x.	Dorset Council - Clapp's Mead tree work (to be paid from the Clapp's Mead Maintenance budgeted amount)	£780.00
xi.	HMRC - PAYE July, August, September	£187.60

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

2803 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

a) Playing Field Update.

Items 40 to 42 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

AGREED that there are no new items of concern raised in the Inspection Report.

The Clerk thanked Cllr George Dunn and Mr Nick Mudford for repairing the Bridge with Hut.

b) Friends of Clapp's Mead.

Cllr Anna Dunn read out the following statement: -

"I was asked at the Summer Fete by a villager how the money being raised by FOCM was to be spent.

So for clarity and openness I wish to record in this meeting that all the money raised (to date standing at almost £3,000) will go the purchase of new play equipment as this becomes necessary.

And possibly some minor expenditure in the field itself for example picnic benches or the rubbish bins purchased last year.

Naturally with the high cost of such equipment the fund needs to grow a little further yet."

She reported that the FOCM accounts have been audited and will be published in the Chideock News.

2804 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

a) Rights of Way.

Items 43 to 46 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Clerk to chase up the lack of response to the complaint against Countryside Management, which is overdue and could now be escalated to a Level 2 complaint. **CC**

b) Dorset Highways.

Items 47 - 49 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

AGREED to ask Dorset Highways for a site visit to Duck Street and North Road to discuss the dangers to pedestrians and possible mitigation measures. **CC**

c) Flood Management.

Items 50 to 53 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Clerk to ask for an update re flooding in the upper part of Seahill Lane following the site meeting and subsequent e-mails. **CC**

2805 Current Consultations. None.

2806 Correspondence.

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

2807 Meeting Start Time April to September.

AGREED that all future meetings will start at 10am as changing to 7pm for the summer months has not resulted in increased public participation.

2808 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10am on Tuesday 25 October 2022.

The meeting closed at **8.36pm**.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

Una and I shared the deep sadness felt by everyone in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and the whole world, at the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

The Queen was a steadfast champion of the British countryside and rural way of life.

It is also with sincere gratitude that we remember her tireless service to our nation and its rural community.

In an ever-changing world, the Queen was a constant. Her devotion and sense of duty was an inspiration .

I continue the battle to see that Chideock Bridge is repaired and am exasperated as to how long this is taking.

On Friday 22 September 2022 the new Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his financial statement in the House of Commons .

I will be pleased to discuss the statement at length but for now will concentrate on discussion of the new proposed Investment Zones and provide you with a message from Dorset Council leader Spencer Flower :

“Dorset Council has been in conversation with Government officials where we expressed our interest to be a part of the Investment Zone programme which the Chancellor has announced today as part of the mini-Budget. At this stage we have little detail of the policy other than this is intended to drive investment and economic growth. This is an opportunity for Dorset and sits well with our economic objectives set out in the Council Plan and Economic Development Strategy. For this reason, I have informed Government that we would be interested to participate in the programme. We await further detail and if we are confirmed as an Investment Zone location we expect to be working closely with officials. I will keep you posted on this matter through my regular updates to you.”

Cost of living help

The link below will connect you to a site which will sign-post residents to webpages which we hope will help people impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. . <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/cost-of-living-help> .

Dorset Council secures funding to improve electric vehicle infrastructure in rural areas

Dorset has been announced as one of just nine areas in England to receive funding from a new government scheme which aims to improve electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The funding comes from the new Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme, through which we have managed to secure £2.7million to increase the number of EV charge points in the council area

The project will serve a broad range of users, primarily targeting residents without access to off-street parking, while also meeting demand for en-route charging to support our tourism trade.

The project aims to place charge points in up to 150 locations around the county for the convenience of residents and to encourage the take up of electric vehicles. This will involve the council working with local community landowners to install charging infrastructure in accessible locations which might include car parks, community halls, pubs, café's, and shops, as well as possible on-street locations where suitable.

This pilot will also include a small number rapid or ultra-rapid (50 kW to 150 kW DC) chargers on or near main roads to support enroute charging. Some charge points will be located at popular tourist locations where both residents and visitors can access them.

To overcome user concerns over payment methods, all charge points will have alternative access with a minimum payment method (a non-proprietary and non-phone payment method, such as contactless) installed.

Need more landlords

There are several initiatives which aim to work with landlords to provide much-needed housing to families across the Dorset Council area. The housing service is appealing to willing landlords to partner the council and benefit from the assistance the council can give. Please look at the Dorset website for further information.

Foster with Dorset Council

A note from a foster carer

“If anyone is thinking about fostering, I'd say don't hesitate to investigate it, don't be put off making that initial phone call. Just be open with things that you're worried about as they probably won't stop you being a foster

carer. Just pick up the phone and make that enquiry. “Every circumstance is different from one person to another, but the process is so thorough that if you have the slightest inkling that this might be what you want to do then give it a go.”

Our fostering service puts the children who need loving, local foster homes at the heart of everything we do. The key focus is on keeping local children close to their schools, friends, and birth families. Our foster carers transform the lives of children and young people by opening their hearts and homes to those who need it the most. At present, demand for foster carers in Dorset is high – especially for teenagers and sibling groups.

Find out more about fostering with Dorset Council and register your interest today. Keep up to date with the latest fostering news and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter. If you'd like to find out more in-person, the fostering team hold regular fostering drop-in events across Dorset.

The Dorset Parent Carer Council annual information event is back! Dorset SEND

Free Information Event - 4 October

This FREE event is for parents and carers of children aged pre-school to 14, who are disabled or have additional needs. The event brings together a wide variety of services and information all in one place. Teams and organisations from across education, health, and social care and the community sector will be attending to provide a fantastic opportunity for families to see what work is currently underway to improve services in the future.

Tuesday 4th October; 10am till 2pm; Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester, DT2 8PX

Free parking, free entry, free refreshments. No booking required.

Dorset County Farms

Dorset Council owns 41 farms (and has owned them for quite some time). These are currently managed in accordance with the County Farm Estate Management Plan of which the principal objectives are to:

- Provide a provide an initial gateway into agriculture for persons to farm on their own account whilst ensuring a financial return to us.
- Provide us with a direct interest in the land management of the county, promoting the integration of good environmental and farming practices as well as best practice and innovation in estate management and agriculture.
- Sustain rural communities whilst providing opportunities for greater public access and understanding of agriculture and the countryside
-

The estate is currently run on a two-tier system, with smaller 'starter' units providing a point of entry into the agricultural industry and larger 'promotion' units to allow for career progression. Farms on the estate are predominantly livestock based, with both dairy and stock farms.

The review of the Management Plan was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but is now in progress. In addition to the current objectives, we are considering how the estate can create additional economic, social, and environmental value to help meet the priorities identified in the Council Plan. In particular, conversations are ongoing internally in relation to the role the Estate can plan in helping to support the Council's climate and ecological emergency which was declared in 2019. The estate is currently run on a two-tier system, with smaller 'starter' units providing a point of entry into the agricultural industry and larger 'promotion' units to allow for career progression. Farms on the estate are predominantly livestock based, with both dairy and stock farms.

Dorset Council's Road maintenance method reduce carbon emissions

As part of Dorset Council's 'green' approach to highways maintenance, road retexturing is contributing to a reduction in emissions, the council has refreshed 67,000sqm of road surface this year – raising skid resistance to improve the safety of highway. Where appropriate, the sustainable solution used eliminates the need to resurface a road and instead uses one of two techniques to blast the road surface to regain its skid resistance to the same – or better – level of resistance it had when the material was first laid. Depending on the individual site, the road will either have small steel shots fired at the surface to improve the texture or will have water blasted at the surface to remove excess binder.

This road retexturing has helped reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced by over 335,000kg, and saved around 6,700 tonnes of virgin aggregates from being used, It also has financial savings of over £1.2m compared to using conventional resurfacing methods to provide a new textured surface.

Dorset Council Commissioning for a Better Life for Older People with Support Needs In Dorset 2022-2027

You will continue to read about the ageing Dorset Population.

It is recognised that Dorset has a higher over 65 population than anywhere else in the Country and as such it is especially important that Dorset Council provides the opportunity for a great quality of life for older people.

Dorset Council documentation that I have seen, indicates that typically “older people” refers to those who are no longer of working age, so traditionally 65 plus.

However with increased life expectancy an increasing number of people find themselves either having to work or wanting to work beyond what was traditionally retirement age.

In England there are 295 older people per 1000 working age population

In Dorset there are 527 older people per 1000 working age population

Currently there are 31,000 people over 80 in Dorset

Council Leader Spencer Flower has written earlier this month to the new Prime Minister seeking funding from H. M. Government for Social Care to reflect cost pressures facing Dorset Council as a result of the figures quoted above and inflationary pressures.

Clearly there is a lot going on in agricultural policy terms:

Farmers are concerned about the move from the Basic Payment Scheme with the Agricultural Transition . In 2022 direct payments will be at least 20 per cent lower than in 2020 . Where 50 % of the 2022 BPS was paid in the Summer the payment being received this December will be dramatically reduced from the usual figure and will impact on cash flow considerations for all farmers, whether County Farm tenants or not .The range of Environment Land Schemes designed to replace BPS are only slowly appearing with the Old Countryside Stewardship scheme filling the gap.

What might be called productivity/efficiency or generally incentivising schemes are being directed at farmers. DEFRA is keen to improve the competitiveness and productivity of Farming in England, a key part of this is capital grants for equipment and infrastructure :

- 40 per cent capital grants under the Farming and Investment Fund (FIF)
- Farming Equipment Technology Fund fixed payment for 120 specified items on line application minimum grant ,maximum grant £25,000
- Farming Technology Fund larger grants £35,000 to £500,000 covering 3 areas water manage to , productivity and added value .

Finally many are pondering the Slurry Investment Scheme envisaged from this Autumn . This is understood to be 50 per cent grant minimum £25,000maximum £250,000 for a minimum of 6 months storage .

My final comment is that I understand that a new round of farm advice under the Farm Resilience scheme will be available from October .

The UK Government has announced a set of measures designed to boost the rural economy in England

This has had a great deal of coverage in the farming National and indeed local press

DEFRA's Delivering for Rural England report, which includes £110m of funding to boost economic activity in the countryside,

The CLA's campaign has become increasingly influential over the UK Government's rural policymaking through 2022, particularly following the launch of a major report into the rural economy earlier this year.

DEFRA's policy changes were published in the final days of Boris Johnson's premiership, but are expected to be enacted by the new Prime Minister regardless.

The changes include:

- Ringfencing of rural productivity funding through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) worth £110m. Funding will be available for a wide range of activities, including converting buildings for business use, supporting diversification projects, and delivering digital infrastructure
- Streamlining the process to convert disused agricultural buildings into housing in designated areas
- A commitment to ensure the needs of the rural economy are reflected in the levelling up agenda

As one of my friends and indeed a fellow Chartered Accountant has said:

"UK Government is showing some ambition for the countryside. Improving productivity in the rural economy could add up to £43bn in GVA – so this fund is money well spent"

"We now need to see the true detail. Rural business owners are working hard to succeed, determined to create prosperity across our communities. But we need this report to deliver genuine planning reform, full connectivity and a cross-departmental policy framework from government that reflects the sheer potential of the rural economy."

"In the midst of an economic crisis, we need a robust and ambitious plan to create economic growth in the countryside. The UK Government has today taken its first steps towards delivering it."

DEFRA's report has heavily been influenced by a report published earlier this year by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Rural Powerhouse, entitled 'Levelling Up the rural economy.' The report followed a year-long inquiry that took evidence from a number of organisations representing the rural economy. and including those where I am an active member.

During the Summer I received the following communication from Vicky Abbott Health Programme Advisor | Locality Link for West Dorset at Public Health Dorset

“Colleagues in the communications team at PHD are about to embark on a promoting positive mental health for rural locations project in the West Dorset (and North Dorset) locality; Broadwindsor (including Marshwood and other surrounding villages) being the focus area for West Dorset. They are particularly looking at working with the community settings in Broadwindsor to reach out to the village communities by way of a support network, including identifying when an individual or family may need support.”

This will move forward next month, starting with a free mental health awareness training session, on Monday 3 October 12.45-5pm, at The Comrades Hall, Broadwindsor. I look forward to working with the Parish Council on this.

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher

The Dorset Councillor for the Marshwood Vale Ward

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