

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 25 June at 10am.

Present: Cllr Paul Barnett, Cllr Richard Benjamin, Cllr Caroline Parkins (Chair), Cllr Christine Watson.

In attendance: The Clerk, Dorset Ward Cllr Christopher, PCSO Bishop, and 6 members of the public.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 10.00.

3119 Apologies. None..

3120 Grants of Dispensations.
None received.

3121 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.
None made at this point in the meeting.

3122 Minutes.
RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21 May 2024.
Proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Benjamin, carried unanimously.

3123 Co-option and Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Aidan Biggins was proposed by Cllr Benjamin and seconded by Cllr ?????. Aidan Biggins was co-opted unanimously and signed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3124 Appointment of Representatives, who do not have to be Councillors.

- a) Rights of Way matters – Vanessa McAra.
- b) Village Hall representative – Cllr Benjamin.
- c) Chideock Air Quality working Group – Cllr Watson.
- d) Environmental matters excluding Air Quality – Cllr Watson..
- e) All other matters pertaining to the A35 Trunk Road Dorset - Cllr Parkins and Mick Downes.
- f) Dorset Council Highways Matters – Cllr Parkins and Mick Downes..
- g) Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) Steering Group – Cllr Parkins and Cllr Biggins..
- h) Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) – Anna Dunn.
- i) Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC) – Western Area Committee – quarterly meetings held via Zoom - Cllr Benjamin and Cllr Parkins.
- j) Clapps Mead Committee of Management – Cllr Benjamin and Cllr Biggins
- k) Clapps Mead Playing Field Working Group – Cllr Benjamin and Cllr Biggins..
- l) BLAP Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllr Parkins.
- m) New Bridleway – Mr Maskell, health permitting.
- n) Flood Incidents- Mick Downes.
- o) A35 Communities – Cllr Parkins and Vanessa McAra.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

60 Democratic Period.
Vanessa McAra has reported an incident of a suspicious car in Winniford Close via 101. PCSO Bishop confirmed that the report had been investigated.
Vanessa reported that a meeting has been held with Bristol University to consider the next steps to be taken in investigating particulate matter. They will install small battery powered monitors scattered as far as Seatown by the end of July. These will give an overview of the situation prior to larger monitors being installed later. These need electricity. Volunteers have already come forward.
The Chair suggested that this information be put in the Chideock News.

Paul Ramsden reported that the Environment Agency and the Wessex Water Stream Clean Team visited the area last Monday. 11 sites were tested for ammonia and dissolved oxygen, and all came out OK. The supports for the sewer over the river at Clapps Mead are collapsing – reported by Wessex Water for repair.

There is a wooden pole with concrete at Clapps Mead which needs removing.

Vanessa McAra said that a car sump has been dumped in the North Road area causing oil pollution - she said she will report this to Dorset Council.

Paul said that the private sewer on West Dorset Leisure land will be repaired at the end of the holiday season. No details are available yet.

Lyn Crisp reported that muddy water was observed in the River Winniford, probably caused by the opening of the sluice gates at the Manor. It was noted that this requires prior permission.

Lyn questioned how West Dorset Leisure will interpret the government allowing 60 days of camping without need for a licence / planning permission. They had permission for 39 days camping in 16 Acre field (aka Big Berries), Does the new permission allow 60- or 99-days camping? The camping has already caused gridlock on Mill Lane. She also observed that toilets must be provided but there is no stipulation as to the ratio of toilets to campers. She said that Bridport Town Council is also concerned about the new 60 day 'rule'.

Vanessa said that Chideock Parish Council has many times raised the issue of compliance over 16 Acre with Dorset Council, but no action has been taken.

It was noted that Dorset Council's 'relaxed' enforcement policy has been raised at BLAP Parish Liaison meetings.

Lyn asked about the whereabouts of the papers dedicating Footpath 40 – the Clerk said that she has them.

Anna Dunn said that the Risk Register says that a) volunteers must be under 80 years age and b) the Clark has delegated authority to authorise up to £500 for Clapps Mead emergency repairs. The Clark said that this must be investigated, and the Risk Register amended if necessary..

Cllr Watson asked if the police had any advice pertaining to "Nottingham Knockers" who had been in the area recently and had threatened people.

Standing Orders were resumed.

3126 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

Police.

PCSO Bishop said that the police had received a lot of reports of the "Nottingham Knockers" and the advice was to take details from the Peddlers License which they are required to have and if possible to not be outside alone with them.. The police have conducted unsuccessful area searches and will speak to them if possible..

He reported that a visitor had nails put in the side wall of a car tyre on 28 May and that a visitor had a handbag stolen from a car at Langdon on 30 May.

He said that posters warning of the danger of theft were taken down.

The police have contacted the National Trust as to measures which could be taken.

Lyn Crisp suggested that a local event could be held with the police. This could be held by the WI or the Community Café or a similar group.

Ward Councillor.

Cllr Christopher said that as this is the pre-election period (General Election 4 July) shortly following the pre-election period for local elections (2 May) there is little to report.

He suggested a future meeting with residents to discuss local issues and practical solutions. This could involve the Police and Crime Commissioner (David Sidgwick) / the police.

Standing Orders were resumed.

3127 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 2 the Actions & Information List were **NOTED.**

3128 A35 Matters.

Items 2 to 9B the Actions & Information List was **NOTED.**

The draft letters produced by Vanasa McAra were approved – proposed by Cllr Benjamin, seconded by Cllr Barnett, carried unanimously.

It was noted that there has been a lack of communication regarding the A35 overnight closures Monday to Friday from 24 June to 18 July for Axminster to Bridport. The Clerk will draft a letter of complaint.

Terms of Reference for the Air Quality Working Group.

Acceptance proposed by Cllr Benjamin, seconded by Cllr Watson, carried unanimously.

3129 River Winniford and Water Pollution Issues.

a. Dorset Council.

No updates.

b. Wessex Water.

No updates.

c. Winniford River Action Group.

Items 7 to 8 on the Actions and Information List were **NOTED**.

Paul Ramsen had provided an update in the Democratic Period.

3130 Motions Received with Notice. None.

3131 Planning Matters

a) Application.

P/TRC/2024/03396 - Beezars Ruins Lane - T1 - Oak Quercus - Prune back to where it was last pruned, reducing to suitable growth points (reduction of 2m). T2 - Ash Fraxinus – Remove.

As councillors had not had time to look at this it was deemed for consultation via e-mail.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve the comments made after e-mail consultation for the following applications: Proposed by Cllr Benjamin, seconded by Cllr Watson, carried unanimously.

P/FUL/2024/02805 Midlands Farm Duck Street - Change of use from office to holiday accommodation (Retained)

“Chideock Parish Council supports the application as given but is concerned that there is not adequate parking available for the proposed holiday let.”

b) Determinations. None.

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.

Clerk of ask Dorset Council Rights of Way team when Mill Lane Bridleway 18 will be sent to the planning inspector.

3132 Finances.

Items 9 on the Actions and Information List was **NOTED**.

No payments can be made from the Parish Council current bank account (TSB) until at least 2 signatories have been set up. Invoices can be approved for future payment.

a. RESOLVED to approve the following payments: -

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for May (includes PAYE) - £523.20

ii. Village Hall Hire – May - £22.00

iii. Ken Hussey - Installation of Trampoline - £985.00

Proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Benjamin, carried unanimously.

b. Internal Audit & Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

RESOLVED to accept the Internal Auditor's Report.

Proposed by Cllr Biggins, seconded by Cllr Benjamin, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to sign the Declaration of Exemption from External Audit, given that both income and expenditure for 2023-2024 are less than £25,000.

Proposed by Cllr Benjamin, seconded by Cllr Biggins, carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to accept and sign page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-2024.

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

RESOLVED to accept and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-2024, page 6.

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

c. Insurance Renewal and Asset Register.

Retrospectively **RESOLVED** to renew the Parish Council insurance cover with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited for the period 1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025 (Premium = £617.34, £700 budgeted), with payment being made when cheque signatories have been added to the account. The insured values of existing insured items have increased by 6%.

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

d) Risk Register. Deferred as significant matters have been identified (see Democratic Period.

e) Foss Orchard Car Park. Nothing to report.

3133 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

a) Playing Field Update.

The Terms of Reference for the Clapps Mead Committee of Management and the Clapps Mead Work Group were deferred.

3134 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

a) Rights of Way.

Nothing to report.

b) Dorset Highways.

Nothing to report.

c) Flood Management.

Nothing to report.

3135 Chideock News, Facebook, and Website.

Deferred.

3126 Consultations. None.

3137 Correspondence.

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

3188 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 30 July 2024.

The meeting closed at **11.40 am.**

Responsible individual	Item	Notes
Clerk	3128	Lack of information re A35 closures
All	3131 a)	Councillors to look at and let Clerk know of decision
All	3132 c)	Review Risk Register
All	3133	Review Terms of Reference

