

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10am**.

Present: Cllr McAra, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Downes, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Coates, and Cllr Peacock.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Christopher, PCSO Bishop and 4 members of the public.

2687 Apologies.

Cllr Anna Dunn had sent her apologies, which were accepted..

2688 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2671 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2689 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 25 January 2022.

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

2690 Chideock Parish Council's written response to matters raised by an elector of the parish at the meeting held on 25 January 2022.

Cllr McAra read out the letter, which is appended to the minutes.

2691 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

a) Police Report. PCSO Bishop spoke as follows:-

Crime has been very low in the area.

The weekend was very busy for all agencies due to the storm winds, especially in the lanes with fallen trees and powerlines.

He asked people to take extra care when driving and to check tyres and fluid levels before setting out.

He said that as yet he had seen no effects from the revised Highway Code, which gives priority to pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians.

Incidents of speeding / dangerous driving should be reported with a registration number and, if a commercial vehicle, the company name. Incidents can be reported via the Dorset Road Safe website.

Cllr Coates asked about Speed Watch schemes in Dorset. PCSO Bishop said that there are many schemes in place.

Cllr McAra asked about night-time speeding. PCSO Bishop said that Speed Watch can only operate during certain hours and not at night.

Cllr Dunn asked why the Chideock Speed Watch group can't operate given that the eastbound speed camera is absent. PCSO Bishop said that in that case it may be possible for it to be restarted.

Cllr Peacock suggested that the Chideock Speed Watch group could be re-formed to report and photograph, incidents of speeding, poor driving, etc. for reporting to the Police.

PCSO Bishop suggested asking the Highways Authority for "speed strips" to monitor speed through the village.

Cllr Christopher asked if the Police become involved when fly-tipping occurs – this is a serious problem for the Local Authority. PCSO Bishop said that the police are involved

if there are clear lines of enquiry, as is the Environment Agency. This is similar to the police's involvement in dog related offences.

b) Cllr's Christopher's spoke as follows: -

- The storm events of the past weekend demonstrated that West Dorset is particularly vulnerable as many areas are isolated. He was impressed by resident's resilience.
- Local MPs Chris Loder and Richard Drax have raised the issue of underfunding of Dorset Police in parliament.
- He has had no response to the various question raised by Chideock Parish Council to Cllr Ray Bryan.
- A face-to-face Dorset Council meeting was held last Tuesday and a Cabinet meeting will be held next Tuesday.
- He continues to do all he can for Chideock and commented that East Dorset looks to Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council.

Cllr Downes said that whilst Dorset Council is separate from BCP it is BCP which appears to hold sway in Dorset as a county. The Dorset Police cover both authority areas and the majority of speed cameras are located in BCP at the expense of the Dorset Council area, particularly Chideock. Also, the Dorset Council area has a much higher proportion of elderly people than BCP, which means Dorset Council has a much higher cost burden.

Cllr McAra said that Dorset Council receives a negative Revenue Support Grant from Central Government. Many urban / city areas have a significantly lower rate of Council Tax. The government's "Fairer Funding" review appears to be on the shelf because of COVID. Local Authorities which are significantly rural are treated differently to areas such as that covered by BCP.

Cllr Christopher said that he totally agreed.

Cllr McAra said that in addition most of the members of the Dorset Council Cabinet are from East Dorset.

Cllr Christopher said that Cllr Jill Haynes, Chalk Valley Ward, champions the west and he himself does his best to get West Dorset's needs made clear.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2692 Democratic Period.

a) Mr Richard Benjamin, Chair of the Village Hall Committee: -

- He has seen the response to the elector's complaint (minute 2690 above) and, in his opinion, the original complaint was not defamatory.
- The elector took time and effort to attend meetings and should not be criticised
- The Chair could have raised a "point of order" and asked for clarification of the remarks
- There were no accusations contained in the statement.

Cllr McAra said that the Parish Council always supports and allows public participation.

b) The elector in question read a pre-prepared statement which is appended to these minutes.

In addition the elector refuted some of the points made in the Parish Council response.

c) An elector spoke as follows:-

- Following on from his request at the last meeting for a definition of a "local" in relation to a bypass, please will the Parish Council provide this to him.

Cllr McAra said this would be done.

- What progress has been made regarding flooding in Duck Street, which he spoke about at the last meeting. needs to be taken up with Dorset Council:-

The Clerk said that she is not making any progress with Dorset Highways regarding a site meeting and the Dorset Council Flood Management officer has informed her that he can only investigate if there as be flooding of property.

Cllr Christopher asked for details of this issue to be sent to him and he will see if he can get action initiated.

ALL

CC

Standing Orders were resumed.

2693 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 11 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Chideock Resilience Planning.

AGREED that more information is required as to the scope of such a plan before any decision is made.

The Clerk will investigate and report back for the next meeting.

CC

2694 A35 Matters.

Items 12 to 24B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 12 and 13 – A35 Communities. AGREED that the Clerk will write to all parishes which were part of the original A35 Communities Group suggesting that this is resumed.

CC

2695 Motions Received with Notice.

None.

2696 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

P/FUL/2021/03251 LAND NORTH OF NORTHdene, NORTH ROAD Erect 1.no dwelling and access.

Chideock Parish Council objects to this application.

- *The land is within the AONB and the North Chideock Conservation Area*
- *The proposed dwelling is not in keeping with the other dwellings in the area*
- *The proposed dwelling is unacceptably large*
- *The plans supplied are of a poor standard – in particular, they do not properly show positions of trees, making it impossible to determine what effect the building will have on existing trees*
- *There is a large septic tank within the site, with an associated soak-away, which are not owned by the landowner. Neither is shown on the plans and no mention is made of their existence. It is impossible to judge the impact of the development on these features.*
- *The site takes much water run-off from land to the west of North Road. There is no mention of how this will be managed.*
- *There are Dorset Council drainage tanks and culverts on the land (see attached Dorset Explorer map). These will require access for maintenance. As they are not shown on the plans the impact of the development on these features cannot be assessed.*
- *The orange shaded area within the site boundary (as shown on the same map) is subject to an agreement with Dorset Highways – this is where the new vehicular access will be located – is this acceptable to Dorset Highways?*

P/HOU/2022/00749 Turnpike Cottage West Road Demolition of lean-to extension & summer house & erection of two-storey side extension, including raised decking area & external steps.

"Chideock Parish Council has no objection in principle to this application, subject to the conservation Officer's recommendations regarding the following points: -

- *The prominent location is within the Dorset AONB and the Heritage Coast and is visible from many footpaths.*
- *The proposed development will increase the building's footprint by at least 100%*
- *There is considerable potential for light pollution from both internal and external light sources."*

CC

b) Determinations.

P/LBC/2022/00409 Montyike North Road - Installation of electric storage heaters.
WITHDRAWN.

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

Item 33 - P/VOC/2021/02516 Golden Cap Holiday Park – the Clerk will arrange a Planning Committee meeting when the revised plans are available for consultation.

2697 Finances.

Items 34 to 34C on the Actions and Information List were **NOTED**.

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

- | | |
|--|---------|
| i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for February | £411.48 |
| ii. Village Hall Hire – 22 February | £14.00 |
| iii. Reimburse Clerk for Grass Seed for Clapp's Mead | £39.50 |

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

b) Change to TSB Bank Cheque Signatories.

RESOLVED to remove Roger Carey, David Rogers, and Laurie Elliot and to add Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Peter Hunt and Cllr Tony Peacock.

Proposed by Cllr Peacock, seconded by Cllr Coates, carried unanimously.

b) Budget Monitoring Prediction to 31 March 2022.

Noted.

c) Grants to be paid at Financial Year End..

AGREED in principle to make the following grants to external bodies at the end of March 2022: -

- Bridport Citizen's Advice £200
- The Chideock News £200
- Bridport Leisure Centre £100.

N.B. This excludes the Village Hall - a grant of £700 has been explicitly set aside in the 2021 – 2022 Budget.

d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Item 34D and 34E on the Actions and Information List – **Foss Orchard River Bank.**

The Clerk reported that Mr Barnes will provide an estimate of work required to the eastern bank of the River Winniford – he has provided a verbal estimate for the work of between £3,500 and £4,000. The Clerk reminded councillors that money is held in reserve for this work..

2698 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Item 35 on the Actions and Information List – **Quotation for fencing.**

A decision was deferred to enable all councillors to visit Clapp's Mead to see the fencing need. The site visit with John Bright was attended only by the Clerk, Cllr George Dunn, and Cllr Downes. **CC**

Friends of Clapps Mead.

Cllr Dunn has sent an e-mail report to all councillors.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration - Village groups are all willing to make a financial contribution towards costs, which will be in the region of £2,500.

At the moment there is a shortfall of £500 which the Friends of Clapps Mead asks the Parish Council to fund. **CC**

The Event is free – people bring can bring their own food and drink.

The Friends of Clapp's Mead committee may run a burger bar, as they did at the Fete last August.

A Fete is planned for 20 August 2022. 10% of proceeds will be donated to the Parish Council's Community Fund. The Friend's ask the Parish Council for their permission for this to be held. **CC**

2699 Dorset Rights of Way, Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

a) Rights of Way.

Items 36 to 41 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

The Clerk further reported that the issue with the closure of FP14 at Golden Cap Holiday Park has been reported to Planning Enforcement as no action has been taken by Dorset Countryside Rangers.

b) Dorset Highways.

Items 42 to 49B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**

c) Flood Management.

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

2700 Current Consultations.

Items 54 and 55 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**

2701 Correspondence.

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

2702 Annual Village Meeting.

AGREED that this will be held on at 7pm on Tuesday 10 May 2022, and that Bristol University will be invited to speak about the monitoring project on particulate matter which they are conducting in Chideock.

2703 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 29 March 2022.

The meeting closed at **12.57 pm.**

Chideock Parish Council's written response to matters raised by an elector of the parish at the meeting held on 25 January 2022.

Dear [REDACTED]

Chideock Parish Council wishes to formally respond to the allegations made by you, both in writing and verbally, at the Parish Council meeting held on 25 January 2022.

Much of what you said and wrote is defamatory..

Leaving aside the matter of relations with the Village Hall, the Parish Council makes the following response to your accusations.

1. You state that the Village Hall is not receiving a grant this year. This is incorrect – a grant of £700 will be made in March 2022, from the 2021 – 2022 budget, and the Village Hall will be invited, along with other village groups, to apply for a grant in subsequent years.
2. Councillor Anna Dunn is not “a very experienced long standing elected councillor”, having only been elected in May 2019. See also 3 below.
3. You state that “The Parish Council is made up – with one exception – of a tightly knit group of Bypass supporters. Two / three of them have been co-opted by the others and are not elected”.

This is the make-up of the current Parish Council, together with when and how elected / co-opted: -

- Cllr Deirdre Coates – elected at the contested election May 2019
- Cllr Mick Downes – co-opted to fill a casual vacancy (2 candidates came forward) - December 2020.
- Cllr Anna Dunn – elected at the contested election May 2019
- Cllr George Dunn – co-opted to fill a casual vacancy November 2018 (2 candidates came forward), elected at the contested election May 2019
- Cllr Peter Hunt – co-opted October 2016 to fill a casual vacancy; failed to be elected in the contested election May 2019, co-opted in fill a casual vacancy January 2020 (3 candidates came forward)
- Cllr Vanessa McAra – elected at the contested election to fill a casual vacancy September 2017, elected at the contested election May 2019
- Cllr Tony Peacock – elected at the contested election to fill a casual vacancy – January 2021

Only two serving councillors have been co-opted by the current Parish Council.

Three councillors are members of the Chideock Bypass Working Group – all of whom have been elected by an official poll of electors.

By law, any casual vacancies which occur more than 6 months before an “ordinary” election must be advertised and a notice posted asking electors if they wish an election to be held to fill the vacancy. If ten or more electors request an election, then nominations are called for. If the number of nominations equals the number of vacancies, then those nominated are deemed to be elected. If there are more nominations than vacancies then a formal election is held. However, if there are no nominations or no election is called for, a parish council must fill the vacancy by co-option. This process is a legal requirement as laid down in the Local Government Act 1972.

For your information, this process is carried out the Local Authority (West Dorset District Council prior to April 2019, Dorset Council thereafter) NOT by the Parish Council, except, of course, for any co-option.

Where co-option is required the Parish Council asks people to come forward and councillors vote, in public, to “elect” the new councillor. The council can, of course, chose not to appoint any of those coming forward, in which case a new invitation is made. A parish council can operate without the full

number of councillors as long as there is a quorum at all meetings - in Chideock's case this means 3 councillors out of a total of 7.

All casual vacancies within Chideock Parish Council have been dealt with in this way.

4. You state, "No committee member should use their membership to pursue a personal vendetta". Firstly, a Parish Council is NOT a "committee", it is a corporate body, first constituted under the Local Government Act 1894 and governed by the Local Government Act 1972. Secondly, what evidence can you produce to back up this insulting and defamatory accusation?
5. The statement attributed to Cllr Anna Dunn is partially correct – however she said this in the context of items towards the end of the agenda, not the entire meeting. This comment was an "aside" and therefore not minuted or discussed.
6. Chideock Parish Council takes action on matters other than the A35 and will continue in its efforts to represent the diverse opinions within the village.
7. All decisions are taken on a majority vote, with the Chair having a casting vote in the case of a "tied" result. This is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
8. Finally, in addition to your statements explicitly defaming the Parish Council, you have implicitly defamed the Clerk who is responsible for ensuring that the Parish Council acts within the law.

The Parish Council expects you to publicly retract your statements.

Please note that this letter has been approved by councillors and is sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

Highways received reports of over 450 fallen trees and responded to these.

Dorset Police have praised the response from both unitary authorities, including tree and highway clearance, and customer services.

I look forward to the up/update meeting with yourselves and National Highways i.e. their route manager Ben Hampson, On 24 February.

I look forward to the meeting on 26 February to discuss the much needed All- weather/All-purpose trail so allowing for a safe, traffic free route, east of Chideock.

It is good to see so many events at local village halls. Now for some really important thoughts that concern mental health and community events:

It is I believe ,very important to reflect on, and act on, the impact of Covid on mental health.

Age UK conducted a survey of what the Charity described as older people, being people aged over 60. Some 27 per cent of people said they speak less to their family now.

The Charity reports that millions have lost the confidence to go out and 41 per cent described feeling lonely. Memory loss disturbed sleep and anxiety are some of the symptoms being reported by older people in what Age UK has called an "alarming" mental health crisis The Charity is urging friends and family of older people, to what it describes as "reach out for a chat. Good mental health of residents of Dorset is good news for the NHS and Dorset Council. It is no wonder that I am a keen supporter of our local halls, community shops , faith groups, clubs, and societies . My work also encompasses lobbying for better public transport, road and rail for the benefits that can be derived for the residents of the Marshwood Vale ward. My lobbying also continues for better pavement provision ,reduced and indeed consistent speed limits .

Latest updates on COVID-19 in Dorset, Published: 18 February 2022

[This week's overview](#)

We have continued to see a fall in confirmed case rates in the Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council areas over the past week. There have been changes to testing behaviour in recent weeks due to policy changes so we continue to use a range of data to understand and respond to the pandemic. There are now over 100 people in Dorset hospitals with COVID-19.

There are still plenty of opportunities to get vaccinated in Dorset, visit [COVID-19 vaccinations in Dorset – NHS Dorset CCG](#) for more information. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness caused by COVID-19.

[Latest data summary](#)

Summary of the most recent data:

- 7-day case rates per 100,000
 - BCP: 747.1 (compared to 919.4 in last update on 11 February)
 - Dorset: 699.3 (compared to 884.2 in last update on 11 February)
- Confirmed cases in last 7 days
 - BCP: 2,966 (compared to 3,650 in last update on 11 February)
 - Dorset: 2,656 (compared to 3,358 in last update on 11 February)
- Current COVID-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset: 103 (compared to 92 in last update on 11 February)

Dorset Council Budget.

We have increased our budget for the 2022-23 financial year to £331.6 million, from £312.4 million the previous year. The annual budget pays for all the services the council provides to residents, communities, and businesses.

[Council budget approved](#)

The council's budget for next financial year (2022-23) was approved at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday this week.

This budget includes:

- a 10% increase for adult social care – to fund the rising need for social care in the local population and the rising costs of providing this care
- a 4% increase for children's services – to fund improvements to support children in care and children with special educational needs and disabilities
- £10m capital investment over the next 5 years to help fund the delivery of the council's climate and ecological emergency action plan
- an extra £0.75 million for housing to support the development of more new homes with our Registered Providers and the supply of better value temporary accommodation from the private rented sector.

Council tax will increase by just under 3%, of which 1% is the adult social care precept. This is equivalent to £1.02 extra per week for a Band D property.

Impact of COVID-19

Like most councils across the country, we faced significant financial pressure due to extra expenditure related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included support for vulnerable residents through a range of services such as adult social care, housing, and mental health.

We also incurred extra expenditure on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-secure arrangements. The financial impact of the pandemic continues. For example, when people who have been seriously ill due to COVID-19 are discharged from hospital, they often require support from us, with adaptations to their home, occupational therapy, and adult social care.

Local communities asked to highlight their local heritage

Residents across the whole of Dorset will now be able to nominate locally important buildings, structures, designed landscapes, sites and places to be considered on new Local Heritage Lists.

The idea is to make it easy for everyone to nominate and celebrate the heritage that is important to their local area. Dorset's economy relies on the historic towns, seaside resorts, villages, and landscapes to draw hundreds of thousands of tourists every year – this heritage is a big part of what makes our county so special.

This is a joint project between Dorset Council and BCP Council using a grant of £70,000, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Local Heritage Lists will provide a free publicly accessible record of non-designated heritage assets, whose conservation will then be a material consideration in planning decisions.

Land Use Consultants (LUC), working on behalf of the councils, will consider the public nominations using a set of criteria to create a baseline Local Heritage List for each authority. These will be regularly updated with new additions in the future, with the records of all assets being added to Dorset's Historic Environment Record.

Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council's Portfolio holder for Planning, said:

“It is very important that we help to promote and protect local heritage and forge stronger connections between people and their local areas.

“And no one knows the area better than local people, so it is vital that everyone is able to add to our Local Heritage List.

“I encourage everyone to nominate the local heritage they love and wish to be preserved in their local areas.”

I understand that following Mr Daryl Turner moving to Wales, the Dorset Councillor Lyme Regis and Charmouth ward by election will be held on 7 April 2022

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher

Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale

077988 33715

Statement from an elector.

DEMOCRATIC PERIOD. CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2022

I received your letter of 9 February. This was full of bluster and utterly failed to address my main point of concern that I made to you at Januarys meeting - which was - the Parish Councils' deteriorating relationship with the Village Hall committee.

Why for instance did you agree to stop making a grant to them?

In the minutes of the Parish Council meeting in October (Page 3 item 2647) it states that Councillor Hunt seconded by Councillor Peacock proposed that no grant should be given. This was apparently "carried unanimously"

Why?

I am very happy to find that there has been a change of heart over this and a grant will now be paid to the committee who are making such progress with the Village Hall

But my question remains - why would the Parish Council wish to fall out with the Village Hall Committee

Have both of you not got the good of the Village as your first priority? .

What is it that seems to make the Parish Council so vindictive towards the Village Hall?

would you for instance fall out with the WI or the Chideock Chatters or any other village group in this way?

I don't think so and I wish that you would look honestly at this question amongst yourselves because it is not a pretty sight to see such small-minded behaviour in what should be an all-encompassing good-hearted group with nothing but goodwill towards all the groups who do such good work in Chideock and make the village such a vibrant and happy place to live.