



Chideock Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Chideock Parish Council
held on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7.00pm
Chideock Village Hall, Main Street, Chideock DT6 6JW**

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Richard Benjamin (*Chair*)
Cllr Aidan Biggins (*Vice Chair*)
Cllr Natalie Gladman
Cllr Paul Barnett
Cllr Vanessa McAra

Ward Councillor: Cllr Simon Christopher (*Dorset Council*)

Officer: Jo Hughes (*Locum Clerk*)

Public: 11

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence from Council members

None.

2. Disclosure of Interests

To receive declarations of interest and grants of dispensation

None.

3. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1st July and 17th July 2025 and sign the same

Proposed Cllr Biggins

Seconded Cllr McAra

Resolved

4. Co-Options

To consider the co-options of Anna Dunn and George Dunn

Anna Dunn was proposed by Cllr McAra and seconded by Cllr Gladman. Put to the vote, two Councillors voted in favour of co-opting Anna Dunn and three Councillors voted against co-opting Anna Dunn.

Outcome – Anna Dunn was not co-opted onto Chideock Parish Council.

George Dunn was proposed by Cllr McAra and seconded by Cllr Gladman. Put to the vote, three Councillors voted in favour of co-opting George Dunn and two Councillors voted against co-opting George Dunn.

Outcome – George Dunn was co-opted onto Chideock Parish Council and moved forward to join Councillors at the table.

5. Public Participation

Two residents raised their hand to speak.

The first resident raised the following queries:

- Why are the 2024/25 accounts not showing car park ticket monies. Cllr Biggins confirmed that the ticket machine had not been emptied as it was only half full when checked but now that the summer season is over, it will be emptied.
- Why were there lots of payments made to DAPTC in 2024/25. The Clerk confirmed that these payments related to new Councillor training.
- Where is the trampoline report that was promised by the DAPTC. Cllr Benjamin advised that an update on the trampoline would be provided later in the meeting.

The second resident raised the following queries:

- Where is the promised trampoline report from the DAPTC. Cllr Benjamin had already advised that an update on the trampoline would be provided later in the meeting.
- Where is the baby swing replacement that was requested in June. Cllr Biggins advised that other work needs doing in the play area including the replacement of other equipment so it was felt that village involvement should be central to this to find out what people want to ensure works are carried out as cost effectively as possible.

6. Dorset Council Matters

Cllr Christopher drew Councillors attention to two matters:

- The Dorset Council Local Plan – Cllr Christopher encouraged Councillors and residents to look at the plan.
- Buses – the recent WATAG meeting highlighted that West Dorset is not getting funding for buses which goes to Weymouth and Bournemouth.

7. Dorset Police Matters

PCSO Alex Bishop had sent his apologies but provided the following report:

- Around 10.30pm, Friday 8th August, we had a call from a resident saying that an unknown male had knocked their door, asking if they could leave their rucksack with them for a short while. This was declined and the male left. There have been no further reports of any other suspicious activity at this address.
- Between the evening of Monday 11th August and morning of Tuesday 12th, the wing mirrors of a vehicle parked in the area near the Clock Inn were damaged. The cause/reason is unknown, but if anyone has any information about this, please contact us and use reference number 55250119671.
- We have been receiving reports of a Dolphin in Lyme Bay for the last few months. It has also recently been spotted in the area of Seatown. It appears to be a lone Dolphin and very happy to interact with swimmers/paddle boarders, etc. We would advise all that whilst this may seem fun, some people have reported getting into problems with it as it can get rough and attack people. Likewise, people have reported swimmers harassing the Dolphin. Please bear in mind this is a marine mammal in its own environment and whilst it may seem fun, it is best to leave it alone, which may discourage it. I am aware that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are keeping tabs on the Dolphin and have been running awareness courses in Lyme Regis, as well as patrolling the beach to share information and discourage contact with it.
- On the 31st August, we had a report of an abandoned vehicle in Winniford Close. It is no longer there and is registered and insured to a local keeper.

It was also noted that Foss Orchard car park has experienced increased rubbish and being used as a comfort stop following the closure of Eype Picnic Area. Agreed for Cllr Dunn to draft a letter to send to Jonny Hill at National Highways.

8. Financial Matters

i. To note the conclusion of the 2024/25 AGAR

The Clerk confirmed that BDO LLP had completed the Annual Review for 2024/25 which highlighted minor scope for improvement in two areas:

- The authority does not use a generic email address hosted by an authority owned domain. This is becoming an explicit requirement for 2025-26 and will require a positive confirmation of compliance by way of a new Assertion 10 'Digital and data compliance' within Section 1 of the AGAR. We recommend the council reviews paragraph 1.47 onwards of the Practitioners Guide 2025 for further information and guidance.
- The inspection period for the exercise of public rights was more than 30 working days. The regulations are specific and providing too many days should be avoided.

Cllr McAra thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council for all her hard work in dealing with the 2024/25 AGAR.

ii. To consider the finance reports and payments list for approval – September 2025

BDO LLP – External Audit	£252.00
D Smith – Grounds Maintenance	£499.20
Chideock Village Hall – Hall Hire June/July	£34.00
J Hughes – Clerks Salary August	£655.27
Chideock Village Hall – Hall Hire August	£11.00
J Hughes – Clerks Expenses	£32.75
Lloyds Bank – Service Charge	£4.25
Chideock Village Hall – Hall Hire September	£23.00
J Hughes – Clerks Salary September	£655.27
J Hughes – Clerks Expenses	£39.50
D Smith – Grounds Maintenance	£499.20
PCC – Church Clock Servicing Grant 2024	£294.00

Proposed Cllr Benjamin

Seconded Cllr Biggins

Resolved

iii. To approve the bank reconciliation - 30th September 2025

Community Account

Balance B/F	£11,163.43
Add: Total Income	£12,710.00
Less: Total Expenditure	£ 2,999.44
Balance C/F	£20,873.90

Instant Access Account

Total Funds	£66,317.57
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Proposed Cllr Benjamin

Seconded Cllr Biggins

Resolved

9. Planning Matters

To consider any planning applications, appeals or enforcements in circulation

- P/FUL/2025/04561 – Brighthay Farm, Brighthay Lane, North Chideock DT6 6JZ – Erect cover to area of hardstanding to act as dry storage for farm equipment – comments by 7th October 2025. Councillors agreed to support this application.
- P/HOU/2025/03639 – Farmers Arms Mill Lane Chideock DT6 6JS – Extend existing garage and convert into ancillary accommodation – update. The Clerk confirmed that this application is still under officer consideration.
- P/HOU/2025/03337 – St Marys Pettycrate Lane Chideock DT6 6LB – Erect an extension to garage – update. The Clerk confirmed that this application was granted permission on 9th September 2025.

10. Parish Council Property

To consider and agree any actions in relation to Parish Council property

i. Clapps Mead Playing Field – trampoline insurance

Cllr Benjamin provided a brief background on the trampoline advising that the trampoline had been taken out of service on the advice of Gallaghers Insurance as it was only insured for fire theft and damage and not for its intended use. Concerns had also been raised regarding the installation of the trampoline. Both the Parish Council and the Friends of Clapps Mead have been working with the DAPTC to find a resolution to both issues. The DAPTC have advised that insurance cover has now been found with Zurich Insurance, and a recreation company have agreed to carry out an inspection of the trampoline installation quoted at £400+VAT. Councillors agreed to proceed with the quoted inspection. Cllr Barnett abstained from voting. Councillors also agreed for the Clerk to look at the cost of the required twice yearly inspections of the trampoline bed.

Proposed Cllr McAra

Seconded Cllr Biggins

Resolved

ii. Clapps Mead Playing Field – Grafton Bequest and Management Committee

Cllr Benjamin had obtained a copy of the Grafton Bequest document which details the management requirements of Clapps Mead Playing Field. Clerk to send a copy of the Grafton Bequest to all Councillors to enable a full understanding of the document before agreeing a way forward.

lii Foss Orchard Car Park – emptying of ticket machine

Cllr Biggins confirmed that arrangements will be made to empty and bank the Foss Orchard car park ticket machine money.

11. Other Parish Council Matters

To consider and agree any actions in relation to other council matters

i. Parish Council 2025/26 meeting dates

The meeting dates for 2025/26 were agreed and a copy will be included in the Chideock News.

ii. Parish Council email address – 2025/25 AGAR requirement to have an appropriate email domain

Agreed for Clerk to proceed with obtaining quotes.

lii PCC – village clock annual servicing

An apology to the Parish Council had been received from Revd Fi Budden on behalf of St Giles Parochial Church Council (PCC) regarding the confusion that had occurred over the methodology for the payment of the maintenance of the clock due to an incorrect understanding held by the current PCC. Research of the historical archive highlighted this mistaken understanding of the payment process on the discovery of an agreement between the PCC and Chideock Parish Council dated 30th July 2009. Moving forward, the PCC would like to review the current situation in partnership with the Parish Council to deliver an updated agreement that is both cost effective and reflects the best interests of the village and the village clock. Cllr Benjamin advised that the existing agreement between the PCC and the Parish Council has worked well based on three-year servicing agreements with Smith of Derby and he proposed that that PCC renew their three-year servicing agreement with Smith of Derby. After further discussion, Cllr Gladman proposed that the Parish Council should meet with the PCC to understand what is being suggested by the PCC. Cllr Benjamin and Cllr Barnett voted against the proposal.

Proposed Cllr Gladman

Seconded Cllr Dunn

Resolved

8.20pm Cllr Benjamin and Cllr Barnett left the meeting. Cllr Biggins as Vice Chair stood in as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

12. Consultations

To consider and agree the Parish Council's response in relation to current consultations

i. Dorset Council Local Plan

Cllr McAra advised that she has completed the Local Plan as an individual and would share her

responses to Councillors as a starting point for discussions to aid submitting a response as a corporate body.

ii. Dorset Council Local Transport Plan

Cllr McAra advised that she has completed the Transport Plan as an individual and would share her responses to Councillors as a starting point for discussions to aid submitting a response as a corporate body.

iii DAPTC Parish Council Survey

Clerk to circulate survey link to Councillors for completion as individuals with a corporate response being agreed at the October Parish Council meeting.

13. Correspondence Received

To consider and agree any actions in relation to correspondence received

i. Email from Smith of Derby regarding annual servicing of the church clock

Clerk to send a holding response to Smith of Derby awaiting outcome of meeting with the PCC

ii Email from Revd' Fi Budden, Golden Cap Churches regarding servicing agreement for the clock
See minute reference 11iii

14. Items for Chideock News, Website and Facebook

Cllr Dunn agreed to provide a 'useful information' section for inclusion in the Chideock News.

15. To note agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting

Trampoline, Grafton Bequest, PCC meeting

16. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28th October at 7.00pm in Chideock Village Hall

17. Motion from the Chair

To resolve that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed Cllr Biggins

Seconded by: Cllr Gladman

Resolved

** All members of the public, Cllr Christopher and the Clerk left the meeting and the meeting moved to closed session **

Signed: V McAra

Date: 28.10.2025