

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.10 am**, due to technical issues encountered by members.

Present: Cllr Vanessa Glenn, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr David Rogers, Cllr Coates, Cllr Tony Peacock, Cllr Peter Hunt.

In attendance: The Clerk and Cllr Simon Christopher.

The signing of the Declaration of Office by Peter Hunt was delayed until Agenda Item 4 – Minutes due to a query regarding his election to fill the casual vacancy. He had already has completed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and sent it to the Clerk.

2501 Apologies.

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

2502 Grants of Dispensations.

Cllr Hunt had submitted a request for a Grant of Dispensation to allow consideration of the Budget and Precept – Agenda Item 11 d. This was granted by the Clerk.

All other councillors have an existing Grant of Dispensation to allow consideration of this agenda item.

2503 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2504 Minutes.

The Clerk presented to following statement to councillors.

Cllr Peacock has challenged the minute re voting to fill the casual vacancy.

At this point in the 17 December Zoom meeting, he had audio but no video.

Cllr Glenn initially asked councillors to vote either by thumbs up or verbally as she gave each name, starting with Mick Downes.

Cllr Peacock says he voted for Mick Downes, but this is not audible on the recording and was not audible at the time.

The Clerk suggested that it might be easier to ask each councillor who they were voting for, but Cllr Glenn wished to continue as she had started.

Cllr Glenn then checked that no-one was at that moment voting for Mick Downes. No-one said that they were.

3 people with video voted for Peter Hunt.

2 people with video voted for Kevin Heard.

Cllr Glenn specifically asked Cllr Peacock if he voted for Kevin Heard. Cllr Peacock said "I am voting for Kevin as well".

Given that there appeared to be a tied vote, Cllr Glenn, as Chair, used her casting vote in favour of Peter Hunt.

Cllr Peacock has since said that he voted for both Mick Downes and Kevin Heard.

However, each councillor only has one vote for any proposal.

In conclusion, if Cllr Peacock's initial vote for Mick Downes had been heard and recorded, the voting would have been 1 vote for Mick Downes, 2 votes for Kevin Heard and 3 votes for Peter Hunt.

The result is thus unchanged."

The above statement was accepted by Cllr Peacock and all other councillors who were present at the 17 December meeting.

Cllr Hunt signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk will counter-sign when she receives it and will notify Dorset Council that the Casual Vacancy has been filled by co-option.

Councillors **AGREED** that all future votes at virtual meetings, on any matter, will be conducted verbally, with the Chair asking each member in turn, to prevent any future issues.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

- a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 17 December 2020 with the addition of the above statement.

Proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

2505 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

- a) PSCO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows: -

- Happy New Year to you and the rest of the Parish Council.
- I have very little to report, so please accept my apologies for not joining for the meeting. The only thing to note is an incident of criminal damage to a vehicle at Langdon Woods, which occurred last Tuesday (19th). It appears as though the offenders broke a passenger window to see if anything was hidden in the back of the vehicle. Nothing was stolen. If anyone is out and about and sees any suspicious activity, please call us. 101 if after the event, or if anyone believes a crime is in progress, please call 999.

- b) Cllr Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor, had reported by e-mail and his report is appended to the minutes.

He gave additional information and answered questions.

He spoke further of the issues of road vehicles causing damage to "roads" such as Hell Lane and Shutes Lane and Hardown Hill and many other places in the Marshwood Vale. Dorset Council wants to gather as much evidence as possible. The Clerk suggested that councillors send their observations to her for collation before she sends them to Cllr Christopher for onward transmission to the Legal Team at Dorset Council. The Clerk spoke about the previous Temporary Traffic Regulation Order which was made several years ago and enabled the police to take action. Cllr Christopher pointed out that at the present time such activity by off-roaders is contrary to COVID-19 regulations and therefore the police can be involved.

Cllr Christopher then spoke about the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner election in May and the need to a stronger rural police presence.

The question of the status of the road was also discussed = is it a Byway Open to All Traffic? If not, what is it? Cllr Peacock said his investigations show it is an unclassified county road not a BOAT. Can the status be changed to stop use by all but authorised vehicle users?

Cllr Glenn questioned Cllr Christopher about the proposed 5% increase in the Dorset Council portion of the Council Tax for the coming year, especially given the current financial situation for many residents due to COVID-19. Why does Dorset have one of the highest CT rates in the county and so little help from central government? Bournemouth, Poole, and Christchurch Council is considering a much lower increase. This is because that area has a high economic base and therefore benefits from Business Rate Retention – the Dorset Council area has a low economic base and, in comparison, gets little from Business Rate Retention. The Police and NHS services cover however cover the whole of Dorset i.e., both council areas. Is consideration going to be given to sharing of other services?

Cllr Christopher said that many councils in England are facing financial difficulties and drawing on reserves, including Dorset, which is why Dorset council tax has to be raised by the maximum amount. Dorset has to deliver services in a rural area, which is more costly than services in urban areas.

He asked that comments and observations be sent to him, which he will then discuss with the Dorset Council Leader.

All

CC

All

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2506 Democratic Period.

No members of the public were present.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2507 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 3A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 3 – Zoom meeting with Chris Loder MP, 10 am 5 February 2021. AGREED that all councillors can attend if they wish. **AGREED** that councillors will e-mail agenda suggestions to Cllr Glenn.

ALL

2508 A35 Matters.

Items 4 – 18B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

AGENDA Item – Cllr Glenn’s “note” re the A35 – what has happened in the past, is happening now and future action planned.

AGREED that this should be edited by Cllr Glenn and re-circulated to councillors for approval and that, if possible, it should be made available to the village via the community website and / or the March Chideock News. **VG/ All**

Agenda Item – Cllr Peacock’s “Chideock High Street” document.

After a considerable amount of discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Peacock’s proposals and the public responses should be considered in detail at a separate meeting, which Cllr Glenn will arrange. **VG**

Agenda Item - the Independent Complaints Assessor’s Report for the Stage 3 Complaint to Highways England.

AGREED to continue working on the draft complaint to the Ombudsman and to approach Chris Loder MP to ask him to submit it. This approach to be made either at the meeting on 5 February or after. **GD / All**

2509 Motions Received with Notice.

Cllr George Dunn’s proposed motion

“That when considering draft letters sent by e-mail the presumption should be acceptance unless a councillor amends or rejects the letter within 5 working days of it being sent.”

was duly **RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Anna Dunn, carried unanimously.

2510 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

WD/D/20/002973 Proposal: Installation of gas supply, central heating system and associated works APPLETREE THATCH, MAIN STREET.

The comment agreed by e-mail was ratified.

“Chideock Parish Council has no objection”.

WD/D/20/002782 Raise height of the flat roof to the front of the property to include rooflights and installation of window in the front elevation 5 BILBERRY CLOSE.

“Chideock Parish Council fully endorses the Conservation Officer’s report and has no objection provided that the recommendations in this report are reflected in the decision.”

b) Determinations.

The following determination was **NOTED**.

WD/D/20/002027 Erection of single storey lean to workshop (Retrospective) 10 WINNIFORD CLOSE. **APPROVED**.

c) Appeals. None.

d) Other Planning Matters.

i. AONB / Lighting & Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.

No updates.

ii. Enforcement and Retrospective Planning Applications.

The Clerk reported that a document summarising how planning enforcement is carried out and what it involves has been sent to all councillors.

iii. Mill Lane / Bridleway 18.

No updates.

iv. Bullen’s Lane / Bridleway 20 at Junction with A35.

No update.

v. All Weather Path between Chideock and Eype / Symondsburry.

Items 9 - 13 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

vi. Seatown.

No updates.

vii. Additional Matters.

Items 14 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

CC

2511 Finances.

Item 15 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

i. Clerk’s Salary and Expenses for January £307.53

Proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Clerk will send the cheque to Cllrs Anna and George Dunn for signature.

b) Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 31 December 2021.

NOTED.

c) Draft Budget and Precept for 2021 – 2022.

RESOLVED to set the budget for 2021 - 2022 and to request a Precept of £16,464.00, which equates to a Band D decrease of 0.006% (£0.94) per year.

Proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

CC

The approved Budget and Precept is appended to the minutes.

The Clerk will submit the Precept Request to Dorset Council by the due date of 31 January 2021.

d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Items 16 – 18B on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

The Clerk reported that Mr Barnes is of the opinion that no work is required to the River Winniford bank on the eastern side. Fallen trees were removed earlier in the year when dealing with the tree which had fallen from the western bank on to the car park. He is unable to replace the broken concrete gully as he does not have the necessary insurance.

AGREED that the Clerk will approach the Bridport Town Council Lenghtsman about the gully.

2512 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Item 19A on the Actions & Information List – **Quarterly Clapp's Mead Inspection Report.**

AGREED that the Clerk will prioritise, scope, and cost the recommendations made and report to the February Parish Council meeting.

CC

2513 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Items 20 and 21 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Agenda item – Sandbag Store.

AGREED that the Clerk will make further investigations as to the cost of a new store, preferably wooded or metal.

Agenda item – additional grit bin(s).

AGREED that councillors will consider possible locations and e-mail the Clerk with suggestions. The next step is to identify the landowner and obtain permission for a grit bin to be placed at the required location.

2514 Current Consultations.

- Department for Transport - In Future of Transport: rural strategy – call for evidence. End date 16 February 2021. **AGREED** that councillors will send comments to the Clerk who will collate them for e-mail agreement prior to submission.

ALL

- Dorset Local Plan. End date 15 March 2021. **AGREED** that councillors will send comments to the Clerk who will collate them for e-mail agreement prior to submission.

ALL

2515 Correspondence.

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

2516 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

The meeting closed at **12.30 pm**.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

Dorset Councillor Report 26 January 2021 to Chideock Parish Council

"As you can imagine Council work had been dominated by the Covid Lockdown

Good news! Vaccines have now started and that the roll out of this appears to be progressing well and in a very organised manner. Front line Council staff will receive weekly testing so they can continue their work in a safe way

Similarly, there is a roll of the third phase of payments of grants to closed businesses primarily involving hospitality, retail, and leisure businesses which I understand is also working well. Despite this, there are so many people impacted by the economic consequences of Covid 19 genuine poverty and dependent on assistance from others for food.

History should judge that on balance the population of Dorset reacted well to the Covid difficulties with a great community spirit. Are these just empty words?

I would say no as in a recent discussion with a Bridport florist I was informed that enormous, unprecedented number of flowers being sent at Christmas by those grateful to others for collecting shopping, helping with elderly relatives and a multitude of acts of human kindness

On a contrasting, depressing note across West Dorset there is considerable evidence of damage to protected habitats by off road vehicles at night. If you have any knowledge of who is doing this, please let me know

You have asked about gritting arrangements for the West Dorset area and this query has been dealt with by one of the two lead members for Highways Cherry Brooks detailing the gritting runs and storage of stockpiles. On balance, gritting appears to have included some of our local lanes and there is of course hope that we will not have a prolonged cold spell at a time when people are waiting for vaccines mentioned above

I am pressing Highways England for much needed safety measures in the village.

Similarly, I am leading a campaign for improvements to be made in the Dorchester area encouraging motorists not to use the A35 wherever possible where they are travelling well into Devon and even into Cornwall and bringing with them nothing but pollution for West Dorset and Chideock. This would involve bringing forward improvements to the so-called Monkeys Jump round about and then traffic use being encouraged to use the A37 and A303. At a recent meeting of our MP and very local Dorset Councillors there was a discussion of this idea which has been discussed by others over many years. There was also a discussion on safety on Dorset's roads I continue to press for improvements to footpaths and for better cycleways

The Dorset Local plan consultation has commenced This is a very important consultation and primarily deals with how and importantly where housing and other developments of any real size will take place in a period of some 15 years

Having inspected the sea defence immediately to the south of the Seatown turning area these appears strong safe and stable. The cliffs in and around West Dorset are not. There is a clear concern that there may be people staying, rightly or wrongly, in West Dorset this winter and despite Covid and who may not be aware of the instability of our local cliffs

Finally, you may have noticed that Dorset Council has acquired the site of the former St Mary's School near Shaftesbury. There will be a consultation in respect of the future use of the site, however options include a resource for children with Special Educational needs and to reduce the number of Dorset Children in care many miles from the County

Stay Safe"

Budget and Precept for 2021-2022

INCOME	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2021/22	% change	Increase / Decrease	2020/21 Band D	2021/22 Band D
Precept	£15,962.45	£16,463.56	3.14%	501.11	Tax Base = 332.2	Tax Base = 335.5
Vat Refund	£659.43	£710.00	7.67%		£50.01	£49.07
Rent for Flow Meter	£140.00	£140.00	0.00%			
Rent for Electric Car Charging Point	£0.00	£833.34	N/A			
						Decrease =
TOTAL PREDICTED INCOME	£16,761.88	£18,146.90	8.26%	1,385.02		=0.006%
						£0.94 a year less
EXPENDITURE						
Clerk's Salary (Gross)	£3,766.88	£3,917.56	4.00%	3% increase + 1% contingency for overtime		
Clerk's Salary Contingency (Gross)	£1,000.00	£500.00	-50.00%			
Clerk's Travel	£75.00	£75.00	0.00%			
Councillor's Travel / Phone calls etc	£50.00	£50.00	0.00%			
Clerk's Office Allowance	£72.00	£78.00	8.33%	Last increased April 2018		
Postage/Phone	£30.00	£30.00	0.00%			
Stationery (V)	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%			
Stationery - print cartridges etc (V)	£80.00	£80.00	0.00%			
Training - Clerk & Councillors	£200.00	£0.00	-100.00%	£235 reserve + £200 in 2020-21 budget		
Internal Audit	£60.00	£60.00	0.00%			
Insurance	£510.00	£620.00	21.57%	See over		
Room Hire	£513.00	£513.00	0.00%	See over		
Subscriptions	£265.00	£290.00	9.43%	See over		
ROSPA - Annual Playing Field Inspection (V)	£100.00	£0.00	-100.00%			
Quarterly Playing Field Inspections	-	£190.00	N/A			
Routine Playing Field Maintenance (V)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	0.00%	Ditch, brook and culvert need clearing at least annually		
Clapps Mead Play Area Mowing (V)	£900.00	£900.00	0.00%	See over		
Playing Field Mowing (V)	£720.00	£720.00	0.00%	See over		
Play Area Equipment & Maintenance (V)	£600.00	£1,000.00	66.67%	Fund =£1254.27 ¹		
Foss Orchard Car Park Resurfacing / Maintenance	£1,000.00	£833.34	-16.67%	Fund = £11239.99 ¹		
Foss Orchard Car Park River Bank Maintenance	£1,000.00	£800.00	-20.00%	Fund = £10196.39 ¹		
Community Fund Grant	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%	Fund = £3155.94 ¹		
3 Year Village Clock Servicing Grant	£210.00	£230.00	9.52%	Reserve = £8.40 ¹		
Cemetery Grass Cutting Grant / Maintenance	£500.00	£650.00	30.00%			
General Grants	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%			
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£100.00	£100.00	0.00%			
Salt/Grit for Winter	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	Reserve = £330		
Highways contingency - lenthsmen etc	£0.00	£0.00	N/A	Reserve = £1500		
Village Hall Repair Grant	£700.00	£700.00	0.00%			
Recharge of Parish Council Election Costs	£500.00	£2,500.00	400.00%	Reserve used against Jan 2020 election cost		
Devolution of Services - Contingency	£500.00	£0.00	-100.00%			
War Memorial Maintenance	£250.00	£250.00	0.00%			
TOTAL PREDICTED EXPENDITURE	£16,761.88	£18,146.90	8.26%	1,385.02		
ALL EXPEDITURE MARKED V INCLUDES VAT WHICH CAN BE RECLAIMED AND IS SHOWN UNDER PREDICTED INCOME						
Treasurer's Reserve at 31/09/2020	£13,731.61					
		of which £12175.47 is Restricted Reserve,				
		leaving £1554.14 as General Reserve, of which £600 is Cash Flow Reserve				
Note 1 - Fund values as at 30/9/2020, before any "grants" from 2020/21 precept applied						