

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Chideock on Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 10 am.

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

**Present:** Cllr Vanessa Glenn, Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr David Rogers., Cllr Coates.

**In attendance:** The Clerk and 1 member of the public.

**2452 Apologies.**

Cllr Tony Peacock sent his apologies which were accepted.  
PCSO Bishop and Dorset Ward Cllr Christopher sent their apologies.

**2453 Grants of Dispensations.**

None.

**2454 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.**

None declared.

**2455 Minutes.**

**RESOLVED** to accept and sign, as a true record,

- a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3 March 2020  
Proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr George Dunn, carried unanimously.
- b) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 31 August 2020  
Proposed by Cllr Coates, seconded by Rogers, carried unanimously.

**2456 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.**

- a) PCSO Bishop had reported by e-mail as follows: -
  - At this time, we are still not offering face to face engagements, so I will send apologies and a report as follows, though there is not much to report anyway.
  - Fortunately, there is little in the way of crimes to report over the last month.
  - However, I would like to advise residents that we have seen four thefts of quad bikes over the Beaminster patch during the summer months and I advise you to be vigilant, particularly if you own a quad bike. Please review your security and if you would like further security advice, please contact me. Please also be vigilant with any suspicious activity and contact us on 101 (or 999 if you believe a crime is being committed). You can also report incidents that have already occurred on [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk).
- b) Cllr Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor, had reported by e-mail as follows: -
  - I continue to press for improvements for Chideock residents in terms of road safety by corresponding with the Chief Executive of Dorset Council. I have also told our MP that improvements need to be delivered these include improved pavements, more pedestrian crossings and a dedicated pathway cycleway We need to have trailway equivalent to Bridport so offering pedestrian and cycle traffic free safe access to Bridport.
  - I continue to talk about new crossings and improved pavements with Highways England
  - I will once more speak with our MP at a meeting scheduled for later this week and once more impress on him the need for proposals to come forward as we cannot carry on with the level of traffic in the heart of the village that we have seen this year without the prospect of a solution . In short, we need the Government to come forward with proposals to help Chideock residents
  - I have previously asked that our member of Parliament and our Dorset Council chief executive to visit Chideock to consider highways and pollution matters
  - I have challenged the transport and highways Portfolio holder to provide a better level of bus services both for the Bridport to Yeovil route and also on the A35 I have corresponded with Mr Driscoll of WATAG in our common aim to improve matters
  - With respect to the Councils finances these are in a dire state leading to drawing on finite reserves notwithstanding previous additional support from the Government
  - The Dorset Council Cabinet will on 6 October consider amongst other items an initial

high level draft budget for 2021/2 and the medium term financial plan for 2023 to 2026. When you start reading the cabinet reports do not be apprehensive at the thought of having to digest the contents of 786 pages!

- I will now layout the background to budget considerations
- This year's budget setting exercise takes place against a national background of extreme pressure for councils as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the inability of every similar Council to contain the impact of Covid 19 within the additional funding provided by the Government. You should be under no illusion that Dorset Council is facing a budget shortfall of more than £60million before grants and reliefs from Government reduce the net impact of this to around £35 million. The Council has since March 2020 provided additional urgent support to more vulnerable residents in the wake of lockdown and shielding
- This background I am providing very early in the budget forming cycle. There are a huge number of uncertainties, but what we are aware of is reduced income from many sources and considerable increases in expenditure to keep people safe.
- The final set of budget proposals for the year ended 31 March 2022 will be considered in February 2021
- The consultation for the new Dorset development plan has been pushed back from this autumn to January 2021
- Dorset Council members have been briefed on Government plans to change the planning system with local authorities having consideration of 3 different categories of land namely growth, renewal and protected, respectively. This has been commented on as increasing the importance of local plans and might be seen as a sea change away from planning committees/ outline planning stages
- Similarly, we will see a move from concentration on a five year land supply to housing delivery tests. Many will reflect that in a typical year for every 3 houses for which permission is given only 2 are built
- Finally, with respect to broadband I have corresponded with relevant Council officers on the need to improve broadband coverage
- If parish council members yourself or residents have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.*

#### **2457 Democratic Period.**

Mr Maskell spoke gave an update on what he is doing to promote the need for an all-weather path between Chideock and Symondsbury for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, mobility scooters.

- Symondsbury Parish Council discussed the project at the September meeting and asked for more information, which has been sent.
- He has had a helpful and informative meeting with Mr. & Mrs. Phillip and Lisa Bell of Frogmore Farm.
  - No prospect of an all-weather / all-purpose trail beyond entrance to farm – terrain drops down into a re-entrant making very steep exit route to Eype Down road.
  - Styles on the permissive path re being replaced by Dorset Council with new user friendly self-closing gates are being provided by Dorset Council.
- Met with Rob Flanders who has provided a very useful letter of support which highlights why more than a 'footpath' is required.
- Contact made with Richard Walton of SW Coast Path - Very positive, wants more detail, route, other bodies involved, funding etc. Mr Maskell have given more details of the possible route and explained that funding cannot be sought until a route has been determined.
- Possible backstop plan if Symondsbury landowner is not supportive –
  - Proceed with route to top of hill – Cyclists, heading East, are now in a slightly safer section (debatable). Not much joy for cyclists heading West, slightly better if they arrive via Eype Down Road.
  - Walkers – could cross to Eype Down Road or go along Quarr Lane. Not good – deposits users at the, not ideal, Junction of A35/Quarr Lane/Eype Down Road.
  - A footpath along the hedge inside the field could be an alternative, better than nothing, option.
- He asked if there is any possibility of "Beware Walkers / Cyclists" signs on the A35 both sides of Quarr Cross crossroad. The Clerk will ask Highways England.

**CC**

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

**2458 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors, and Updates to the Correspondence List.**

Items 1 to 18 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Item 8 and 8A – Casual Vacancy.** The Clerk explained the procedure which has to be followed to co-opt to fill the Vacancy. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the Chideock News, on the Community and Parish Council websites and on the Parish Council noticeboard. Assuming that at least 1 person comes forward co-option will be on the Agenda for the November meeting.

**Items 9 to 15 – Communication with Chris Loder MP.** **AGREED** that it is necessary to overcome the current communication blockage. Clerk to investigate the possibility of 2 councillors attending Chris Loder's constituency "surgery". **CC**

**Items 17 and 18 – Poor Bus Services in West Dorset.** **AGREED** that Cllr Anna Dunn drafts a letter to Chris Loder MP asking him to press the government to allow the new Government funding allocation to be used to improve commercially run as well as subsidised services. **AD**

**2459 A35 Matters, and Updates to the Correspondence List.**

Items 19 - 51 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Items 31 to 33 –Advice on Public Health Issues.** **AGREED** that the Clerk asks Dorset Cllr Knox for public domain information on asthma clusters in Chideock held by Public Health Dorset. **CC**

**Item 35 – Bridport A35 Working Group meeting date.** **AGREED** to wait for the agenda for the meeting to be published before taking any action.

**Item 34 – Air Quality Monitoring - Zephyr monitors.** **AGREED** to investigate the possibility of a university research centre conducting particulate matter monitoring – delegated to Cllr Peacock. **TP**

**Other.**

Outstanding 2019 and 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Reports (as required by DEFRA), progress on the new Air Quality Management Plan as required by DEFRA following the 2018 ASR, and air quality monitoring data – Clerk to request an update **CC**

Works on Chideock Hill eastbound to remedy the bank slippage – Clerk to request an update on progress and estimated completion date. **CC**

**2460 Motions Received with Notice.**

None.

**2461 Planning Matters.**

a) **Applications.** None.

b) **Determinations.** None.

c) **Appeals.** None.

d) **Other Planning Matters.**

e) **AONB / Lighting & Dark Skies, Dorset National Park, Conservation Areas.**  
No updates.

f) **Enforcement and Retrospective Planning Applications.**  
No updates.

g) **Mill Lane / Bridleway 18.**  
No updates.

h) **Bullen's Lane / Bridleway 20 at Junction with A35.**  
No update.

i) **All Weather Path between Chideock and Eype / Symondsburry.**  
Item 52 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.  
See Democratic Period.

j) **Seatown.**  
No updates.

k) **Additional Matters.**  
Item 54 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**

## 2462 Finances.

Items 54 – 59 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

### a) Payments.

**RESOLVED** to make the following payments: -

- |      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
| i.   | Clerk's Salary and Expenses for September            | £ 404.55 |
| ii.  | PAYE for July, August, and September                 | £193.80  |
| iii. | Chideock Village Hall Hire – September               | £27.00   |
| iv.  | Chideock Covid-19 Support Group                      | £404.55  |
| v.   | Dorset Community Foundation - unspent COVID-19 Grant | £231.38  |

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

### b) Updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

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

### c) Code of Conduct.

The Clerk advised that adoption of a new or revised Code of Conduct should be deferred until the current review by the Local Government Association is complete. This review follows the Committee on Standards in Public Life report to the Prime Minister on improving ethical standards in local government. Councillors **AGREED**.

### d) Foss Orchard Car Park.

The following resolutions were on the Agenda for the meeting of 31 March 2020, which was cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

**RESOLVED** to retrospectively

- a) authorise the signing of the Contract for electric car charging equipment at Foss Orchard Car Park, which will be paid for and maintained by Highways England.
- b) agree that the 3 spaces current allocated to the Village Shop be allocated for 2 electric car charging points, and that the 2 spaces behind the bus shelter plus one other are allocated to the shop.

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

Cllr Glenn is meeting with the car park garden volunteer this week.

Clerk and Cllr Coates will arrange to empty the car park ticket machine and to check that it is set for the end of Day Light Saving before 26 October.

Clerk to find out when it is anticipated that the electric car charging machines will be connected to electricity and become "live".

VG

CC

CC

## 2463 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Items 60 and 61A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** to accept Bridport Town Council's Lenghtsman quotation for clearance of the ditch on the northern and western boundaries of Clapp's Mead Playing Field.

- For clearing and chipping up all the brambles along the ditch line £570.00, ex VAT
- To then assess what needs to be done with the ditch, which could require a digger to clear the ditch at a cost of £420.00 to dig out and remove spoil from site.

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

**RESOLVED** to enter into a contract with Mr. Kenneth Hussey to carry out quarterly Safety & Maintenance inspections at Clapps Mead play area and provide a written report & risk assessment, with minor maintenance repairs included, at a cost of £47.50 per inspection (equals £190 per annum). This arrangement will remove the need for an annual RoSPA inspection to be carried out by PlaySafety, which cost approximately £100 per inspection.

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

**RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £25 for repairs to the basket swing, to be carried out by Mr. Kenneth Hussey.

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

Cllr George Dunn reported that the picnic bench will be delivered to Mr & Mrs Mudford prior to installation. He also reported that Mr Kelson has purchased wood to repair the play area fence

## 2464 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

Item 61 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

## 2465 Current Consultations.

Items 62 - 64 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Consultation on proposals for reform of the planning system in England. **AGREED** that councillors will send comments to the Clerk for consolidation and submission.

**All  
CC**

**2466 Correspondence.**

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

**2467 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.**

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 27 October 2020.

The meeting closed at **11.40 am**.