

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.03 am**.

**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, Cllr Simon Christopher and 3 members of the public.

**2533 Apologies.**

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

**2534 Grants of Dispensations.**

None.

**2535 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.**

None declared.

**2536 Minutes.**

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

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 23 February 2021.

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

**2537 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.**

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

- On Saturday 6th March, at approx. 4am, a member of public was driving through Chideock and saw two males in dark clothing walking along the road and into an alley. It was reported as a suspicious incident and Officers attended and searched the area but found no trace.
- Whilst there is nothing to suggest this has occurred in Chideock, there have been a couple of thefts of catalytic converters from Honda vehicles, across the Bridport section over the last months or so. The last occurred in Melplash, where offenders had been heard using an angle grinder but had left before Police could be called. This is likely part of an increase in this type of theft across the Nation. Catalytic converters contain valuable materials that fetch a high scrap price. I have been advised that Honda's and other Japanese makes are often a favoured target. I do not want to panic users of these vehicles, as these incidents are not common in this area (touch wood!), but I would advise people to be vigilant, review your security and where/how you park vehicles, consider using alert methods, such as doorbell cameras/cctv with alert functions and report any suspicious activity to us on 101, at the time. If you believe a crime is in progress, call 999.

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

The Clerk asked if Seatown would be included in Dorset Council's plans for an influx of visitors now that Covid restrictions are being loosened, starting over Easter. He said that it is, along with many other Dorset locations.

Cllr Anna Dunn asked what definite plans Dorset Council has for the ex-St. Mary's school building near Sherbourne which has been purchased for £10 million pounds. Cllr Christopher said it will be used to provide much needed facilities for Dorset children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It will be run by Dorset Council, not outsourced. There are ample modern buildings available on the site, including accommodation.

Cllr Glenn suggested that, as there is much public interest following such a large expenditure, Dorset Council should make as many people as possible aware of how the building will be used and should provide regular updates. Cllr Christopher asked Cllr Glenn to send him an e-mail outlining her ideas

**VG**

*Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.*

**2538 Democratic Period.**

Mrs Alison Ward spoke about her planning application WD/D/21/000023, which was due for discussion by councillors prior to a comment being made to Dorset Council.

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

*Councillors agreed to bring Agenda Item 10 - Planning forward so that members of the public present did not have to wait.*

**2539 Planning Matters.**

**a) Applications.**

**WD/D/21/000077** The Old Creamery Ridwood Erect side extension  
*Chideock Parish Council objects to this application.*

*The proposed use of render is unsympathetic to the existing dwelling.*

**WD/D/21/000023** Home Farm Cottage Brighthay Lane Constructing double storey rear extension, balcony, solar panels and the rearranging of doors and windows and moving of porch.

*Chideock Parish Council has no objection.*

**WD/D/21/000082** 3 Carters Lane Morcombelake Erection of Porch and single storey extension (Adjoining Parish).

*Chideock Parish Council has no objection.*

**b) Determinations.**

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

**WD/D/20/002782** 5 BILBERRY CLOSE Raise height of the flat roof to the front of the property to include rooflights and installation of window in the front elevation (Amended) **GRANTED**. *Changes suggested by the Conservation Officer were made to the plans prior to approval.*

**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.**

No updates.

**iii. Mill Lane / Bridleway 18.**

No updates.

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

No update.

**v. Additional Matters.**

None.

**Affordable Housing in Chideock.** **AGREED** that the Clerk asks Paul Derrion, Dorset Council Housing Enabling Officer, for the numbers of people with a Chideock connection on the housing list. **CC**

**2540 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.**

Items 1 to 19 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Items 1 - 3 – All-Weather All-Purpose Path.** Cllr Coates said that she was very disappointed that Tara Hansford, a Dorset Council officer, had not responded to her e-mail sent on 13 March 2021.

**Item 14 – Additional Litter and Poo Binds.**

The Clerk pointed out that both litter and poo bins must be located so that they can be accessed by vehicles for emptying. Cllr George Dunn said that it is the western area of the village which needs additional bins. North Road was suggested.

The Clerk asked councillors to e-mail her with suggested locations and pictures to prove the need for bins. **ALL**

**Social Media Presence.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** that there should be a public Chideock Parish Council Facebook page, administered by the Clerk. Usage will be monitored and if abused it may be necessary to change to a closed group. **CC**

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

**Dorset Council Community Severance Review.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contacts Char Valley and Symondsburry Parish Councils for their views on the following boundary changes: **CC**

- Top of Quarr Hill, south side of A35 – first house going eastbound is Turnpike Cottage which is in Chideock Parish but logically should be in Symondsbury
- Ryall Road – first house on western side after Carter's Lane – Hit n Miss / Hazel Bower / Hazyview is in Chideock parish but logically should be in Char Valley
- Venn Farm, Warmstall Farm and North End Farm are in North Chideock but, because the river forms the parish boundary at that point, they are in Symondsbury Parish – however they can only be accessed from Chideock

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

The Clerk will find out at what point the residents of these houses will be consulted.

CC

## 2541 A35 Matters.

Items 20 – 27 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

### Item 20 – Air Quality updates from Dorset Council.

Cllr Christopher said that he has taken up the issue of Chideock air quality with Dorset Council's Legal Department.

### Items 22A – 22B – “Chideock Slip”.

Cllr Coates said that Chideock Manor has not received any information on this matter.

**Item 23 - Chris Loder MP - determination of 3 priority items.** After discussion it was agreed that the 3 items are

- 1) The A35
- 2) Safety and Severance in Chideock
- 3) Rural Transport.

**AGREED** that Cllr Glenn will inform Chris Loder of this and will request a speedy answer to the e-mail sent to him on 14 March 2021 (Item 13 on the A&I List). **VG**

## 2542 Motions Received with Notice.

None.

## 2543 Finances.

Items 29 - 30 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

### a) Payments.

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

i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for March	£265.99
ii. PAYE – Jan, Feb, and Mar	£184.40
iii. Mr Kenneth Hussey for Quarterly Play Equipment Inspection	£47.50
iv. Mrs Lyn Crip for grass seed for Clapp's Mead Playing Field	£9.99

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

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

### b) Budget Monitoring Year End Projections.

**NOTED**, with a projected underspend of approximately £589, largely due to not using the Village Hall due to COVID. The Clerk said that the VAT Refund may not be received before the end of March but that as it has been applied for it will be given as an outstanding amount due.

### c) Actions to be taken at Financial Year End.

**RESOLVED** that the following financial actions to be taken at Financial Year End.

- Clapp's Mead Brook Maintenance budget of £500 and Clapp's Mead Playing Field Reserve budget of £600 to be transferred to the Clapp's Mead Reserve Fund
- Foss Orchard Car Park Resurfacing budget of £1,100 to be transferred to Foss Orchard Car Park Maintenance Fund
- Foss Orchard Riverbank budget of £1,000 to be transferred to Foss Orchard Riverbank Fund
- Community Fund budget of £500 to be transferred to the Community Fund
- Village Clock Service budget of £210 be transferred to a restricted fund for payment of the clock service contract for 2020 – 2022, under the power granted by the Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2.
- Any budget underspend to be transferred to the Clapp's Mead Reserve Fund.

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

### d) Grants to external bodies, to be paid at Financial Year End.

**RESOLVED** to make the following grants

CC

- £200 to Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau under the power granted by the Local Government Act 1972 section 142.
- £200 to the Chideock News under the power granted by the Local Government Act 1972, s.142
- £100 to Bridport Leisure Centre under the power granted by Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19.
- a Village Hall Repair Grant of £700 to the Village Hall Committee under the power granted by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 19, with the proviso that it is only used towards major repairs i.e., is held as a restricted fund

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

- e) **As per Audit requirements, RESOLVED** to reaffirm acceptance of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and the Risk Register. The Risk Register will be reviewed at the end of May when the insurance is renewed.

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

- f) **Responsible Financial Officer.**

**RESOLVED** to re-appoint the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

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

- g) **Foss Orchard Car Park.**

Items 31 - 35 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

#### 2544 **Clapps Mead Playing Field.**

Items 36 - 44 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Item 39 – Friends of Clapps Mead.** Cllr Anna Dunn said that she will go forward with forming this group – first find interested people for a committee, then adopt a constitution, then open a bank account. These steps are needed if grants are to be sought. She said that at least one Chideock resident is interested in providing a memorial bench for Clapp's Mead. It was informally agreed that donors would be asked to pay for installation unless the bench was replacing an existing one and therefore the necessary base was already in place. **AD**

**Item 41 – Grass Re-seeding.** Cllr Anna Dunn offered to help with this.

Mr Rob Murray has offered a home-grown oak sapling for Clapp's Mead. Councillors **AGREED** to **NOT** accept this offer. **CC**

#### 2545 **Dorset Highways and Flood Management.**

Items 45 – 52A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Item 45A – Mill Lane / Sea Hill Lane signage.** **AGREED** that the Clerk investigates this suggestion. **CC**

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to purchase an additional green grit bin at a cost of £149 ex VAT, £178.80 inc. VAT with free delivery, to be placed on the green verge to the north of the junction of North Road and St Gilles Close, subject to approval from Dorset Highways. **CC**

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

#### 2546 **Current Consultations.**

- Dorset Local Plan. Response submitted 14 March 2021.

#### 2547 **Correspondence.**

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

#### 2548 **Dates for the Annual Village Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.**

Under the 2020 Coronavirus legislation, virtual meetings are not allowed after 5 May 2021 and face-to-face meetings are not possible until 21 June 2021 at the earliest. This leads to a dilemma for all levels of local government – in particular, for Towns and Parishes, how can the Annual Town / Parish / Village Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting (both required under the Local Government Act 1972 SCHEDULE 12) be conducted?

DAPTC has issued the following statement: -

"Our advice is to bring the Annual Council Meeting forward of 7th May to get essential business concluded and hold fire on the Parish Meeting as although that normally has to be done between 1st March and 1st June, there aren't any meaningful consequences of falling outside of that, so this could be delayed until social distancing is eased.

The Clerk **RECOMMENDED** that, unless the government allows virtual meetings for the interim period, the Annual Parish Council meeting (at which the Chair and Vice Chair are elected, membership of committees and representatives to external bodies decided, etc..) be held virtually on 27 April and that the Annual Village Meeting be held whenever it becomes possible to hold in-person meetings.

Councillors **AGREED** the recommendation.

**2549 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 April 2021.

Co-option to the Casual Vacancy will take place and this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at **12.27 pm**.

**Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.**

I thought I would begin by thanking you for your kind invitation to speak with you earlier this month. This was really helpful.

We are now over a year since the first lockdown, and I think it is fair that the essential high profile care services and indeed environment services i.e., waste collection has continued to be well delivered despite all the challenges

It is however fair to say there is concern , and indeed justified concern re delays in dealing with planning applications and local land charges searches which is disturbing for residents who are suffering genuine difficulties as a result and that this is having an impact on professional firms linked to the property market

With respect to Highways, we look forward to receiving the thoughts of Highways England on matters such as pavements and crossings and the issue of speeding motorists.

There is I would reiterate a meeting of Dorset Councillors who represent wards impacted by the A35 in April .I will keep you informed . In the meantime, I would like to thank those who have written to me with thoughts and pollution issues which I have relayed to appropriate officers and other politicians . I have invited Transport Minister Chris Heaton Harris to visit us

I welcome the Governments desire to see increased spending on rural bus services .I also welcome portfolio holder Ray Bryan's commitment to Dorset Council deploying more electric vehicles. Ray Bryan has expressed his pleasure about the Dorset Council commitment to roll out increasing numbers of electric charging points.

Dorset Council chief executive Matt Prosser has congratulated Our MP Chris Loder for all his efforts leading Dorset MPs in the demand for better connectivity . This has led to Dorset being announced in the middle of March as one of the first Council areas to participate from additional £5 billion of HM Government funds. The funds are from Project Gigabit and aims to bring the fastest broadband to the most rural of areas.

I have contacted Dorset Council officers to encourage them to investigate the state of Mill Lane. After inspection I discussed this with a number of Chideock residents who also voiced their concerns. While I also talk with a number of residents who have businesses who will benefit from a busy summer there is perhaps a dominating current local concern . That concern focuses on how busy Dorset will be with increased number of tourists , whether staying here or passing through. These concerns have quite rightly been picked up by the Senior Leadership Team and Dorset Police.

Last week a meeting was held with the local Police Superintendent who explained that training had been undertaken to simulate difficult events which may take place this summer that the emergency services would have to deal with. In the very short term, we have the Easter weekend . The superintendent appreciated my question as to the need to uphold the law as tourists will not be able to stay legally in the area over the weekend. Last Easter I had a number of concerned residents contact me about tourists flouting the lockdown and the need to contact the police . You appreciate that some local residents are more volatile than others when they perceive the tourists are flouting the law when their own lives have naturally been restricted for over a year. There are genuine concerns about possible unruly behaviour drunkenness bad driving and crime generally together with increased littering. With respect to the littering the Council has already started a community exercise in dissuading people from littering

The consultations have now concluded in respect of the following

The draft local plan

The Climate and Ecological Emergency

St Mary's School site Shaftesbury with the aims to include that of improving the delivery of education for SEND children and young people (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

The responses to the consultations will now be considered

I must stress that we are still living in a time of great uncertainty where it is not known how the economy will be placed in a post summer post furlough environment .In the short term we do not know which community events will take place . I understand that the Directors of the Melpash will take a decision this week as to whether a show will be held in August

I have not commented on the impact of the new changes to support for farmers as a result of changes to be made in payments from the Rural Payments agency . There is current consideration of a new sustainable farming incentive . I will attempt to answer any questions at the meeting

Finally, at the meeting I would be pleased to give my thoughts on the possible closure of the Dorset Council offices at South Walks House in Dorchester and the impact on the County Town. I know that there are concerns given the closure of shops in the town, particularly chain stores

With best wishes

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher  
Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale