

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Chideock Village Hall on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 10 am.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.00 am**.

Present: Cllr Anna Dunn, Cllr George Dunn, Cllr Coates, Cllr Peter Hunt, Cllr Mick Downes, Cllr Peacock.

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher, PCSO Bishop and 1 member of the public.

Cllr George Dunn, Vice Chair, took the chair in the absence of Cllr McAra.

2603 Apologies.

Cllr Vanessa McAra sent her apologies, which were accepted.

2604 Grants of Dispensations.

None.

2605 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.

None declared.

2606 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record,

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 29 June 2021.

The following amendment was requested by Richard Benjamin, Village Hall Committee Chairman: -

Page 2, minute 2592, 4th line – change “A grant has also been obtained” to “It is hoped a grant will be obtained”.

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

2607 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.

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

At the meeting he answered questions from councillors as follows: -

Cllr George Dunn: -

Q. Is there any meeting planned with Chris Loder regarding A35 safety issues?

A. No. Neither are there updates regarding the previous and current Safety Studies e.g. speeding, additional pedestrian crossing(s).

Q. In his report Cllr Christopher quoted Cllr Flower as saying “the Hell Lane discussion has been fully answered from my understanding “ This is news to Chideock Parish Council which has not received any updates on any matter regarding Hell Lane.

A. Cllr Christopher is following this up with Cllr Flower.

Q. Dorset Council’s Climate Emergency Plan does not appear to factor in the other side of the equation – the amount of electricity required for electric cars; battery recycling; the large amounts of materials required to build a wind turbine; etc.

A. In relation to wind turbines, second hand is a possibility

Cllr Dunn said that he is encouraged by Cllr Christopher’s comments about the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Cllr Christopher said that Cllr Ray Brian will be concentrating on this and that a meeting has been held with Bob Driscoll, chair of the Western Area Transport Group (WATAG), with particular emphasis on the number 6 bus (Bridport to Yeovil)

Cllr Anna Dunn: -

Q. the time line for the BSIP is very tight.

A. The Clerk said that the deadlines are imposed by central government. She also commented that there is nothing about project on the Dorset Council website.

Cllr Christopher asked for feedback on the current bus situation to be sent to him. He said that COVID-19 has affected communication because people are working remotely – for example communicating with officers about planning enforcement issues. He asked the Clerk to e-mail him about the lack of website information.

Q. Is there a date for the next meeting of Chris Loders A road group and are there minutes from the first meeting.

A. No known date and no minutes.

Cllrs pointed out that Chris Loder had asked the council to tell him of concerns for these meetings but not getting any feedback in the way of minutes / notes is very unsatisfactory.

Cllr Christopher said that the Parish Council should invite Chris Loder to visit Chideock and meet with them. The Clerk said that several invitations have been made, with no result.

b) PCSO Bishop reported as follows: -

- Whilst there is little crime in the area, thefts from vehicles at beauty spots continues. This is in part due to increased tourism. The Police are targeting such areas. If anyone sees anything suspicious, they should contact the police via 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.
- There are a large number of “scams” of various types: -
 - E-mails offering COVID-19 passports
 - “cold calls” – e.g. Amazon Prime subscription failure
 - Offers of crypto currency
 - Investigations by a police officer, requesting bank information

Always check the number being used for texts and phone calls. Banks and police will never contact by text or phone.

Cllr Downes queried the lack of speed enforcement and the empty eastbound camera.

PCSO Bishop said that a community speed watch cannot operate where there are speed cameras in place. He also said that controlling speed is not just about enforcement.

Cllr Coates spoke about North Road, where the speed limit changes from 30 mph limit to 60 mph at Gate Farm. The road is narrow, with no pavements and is used by many walkers.

PCSO Bishop said that a change in the speed limit is up to Dorset Council who would need to be lobbied on the matter.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

2608 Democratic Period.

Richard Benjamin, Village Hall Committee Chairman, said that free internet access is now available at the Village Hall – a notice detailing how to access it has been put up.

He then spoke about the planning application for a Village Hall car park.

Dorset Council has told the Village Hall Committee to withdraw the application as it will not be granted for the following reasons:-

1. Air Quality concerns expressed by Dorset Council Environmental Health
2. Given that the car park is on private land there is no guarantee that hours of usage would not be increased
3. Inconvenience to other residents
4. Legalities of access across land owned by a third party.

A minimum requirement for resubmission of the application would be traffic and air quality studies, which the Village Hall Committee cannot afford to undertake.

The Village Hall will continue to function despite not being able to achieve the increased usage a car park would bring and the Committee will continue improvements for the use of the hall by the community.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2609 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 12A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Items 1 to 3A 0 All-weather All-purpose Foot path.

Cllr Coates reported that Tara Hansford now has this on her project list for investigation spring / summer 2022. Tara has asked for several items of information to be provided to her – Cllr Coates and Mr Maskell are working on this.

DC

Mr Maskell's draft letter to all residents was **AGREED**, but it was suggested that the "respond by" date is changed from 31 March 2022 to 30 September 2021.

Items 4 to 7 – BBQ disposal. AGREED that The Clerk will a) request permission from the beach owner to site the bin on his land; b) asks West Dorset Leisure Holidays if they would be willing to empty the bin. If WDLH are not willing then it will be emptied periodically by volunteer Councillors into the nearby waste bin.

CC

Item 8b – Bus Service Improvement Plan. AGREED that councillors will send feedback re current and future bus provision to the Clerk as soon as possible for collation and submission..

ALL

Item 8C – DAPTC AGM Motions. The Clerk will send necessary information about motions to councillors. Any councillor who has a suggestion for a motion will communicate this to the Clerk who will formulate the necessary information for approval by all prior to submission..

CC

ALL

Items 10 to 12 – Polluted water at Seatown. Clerk to follow up with the Environment Agency and Dorset Council..

2610 A35 Matters.

Items 13 to 22 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

Item 21A – Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner. AGREED to accept the invitation to meet Mr Sidwick at 10 am on Tuesday 10 August at the Village Hall and to provide a list of topics / questions to him prior to the meeting..

All

Letter, dated 14 June, from Chris Loder MP to Cllr McAra. RESOLVED to not publish the notes of the meeting with Chris Loder held on 5 February. 3 for, 3 against, carried by the chairman's casting vote. The Clerk will revisit the draft response and circulate the amended draft for approval, to possibly include mention of the lack of feed back and notes from the A Road meetings.

CC

2611 Motions Received with Notice.

None.

2612 Planning Matters.

a) Applications.

P/FUL/2021/01509 - Garden Cottage Sea Hill Lane - Erect 1no. dwelling and garage following demolition of existing.

Chideock Parish Council has no objection to the application.

WP/20/00692/DCC - Portland Port, Castletown, Portland DT5 1PP - Construction of an energy recovery facility with ancillary buildings and works including administrative facilities, gatehouse and weighbridge, parking and circulation areas, cable routes to ship berths and existing off-site electrical sub-station, with site access through Portland Port from Castletown.

AGREED that councillors will make individual responses of they so wish.

b) Determinations. None.

c) Appeals. None.

d) Other Planning Matters.

Items 23 to 28A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

2613 Finances.

a) Payments.

RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| i. | Clerk's Salary and Expenses for July | £314.28 |
| ii. | Hall Hire July | £14.00 |
| iii. | Clerk's Salary for August (post-dated cheque) | £675.00 |

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

b) Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 30 June 2021.

The Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 30 June were **NOTED**.

a) Foss Orchard Car Park.

Item 29 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

2614 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Item 30 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

Cllr George Dunn said that he and Mike Kelson will replace the fencing next to the River Winniford, to resolve the issue reported in the external Quarterly inspection reports.

Cllr Anna Dunn asked about the provision of addition litter bins – the Clerk said that she will place this on the agenda for the September meeting. Cllr Anna Dunn said that possibly the Friends of Clapp's Mead could purchase one bin and the Parish Council purchase a second one.

GD

CC

2615 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.

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

2616 Current Consultations.

Items 36 to 38A the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

Item 36 . Dorset Council - Definitive Map Modification Order x 2. AGREED that no action is required until formal consultation by Dorset Council.

Item 38A. Dorset Council Community Governance Review.

AGREED that the Clerk will request that a) Turnpike Cottage at the top of Quarr Hill is moved into Symondsbury Parish; b) Hit 'n Miss aka Hazy View on Ryall Road is moved into Whitchurch Canonorum Parish (part of Char Valley Group Council).

CC

2617 Correspondence.

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

2618 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 28 September 2021.

The meeting closed at **12.10 pm**.

Cllr Christopher's E-mailed Report.

There are so many common issues in the Marshwood Vale Ward across the individual parish councils There are also quite a few points arising from this Full Council meeting.

Before I go further I will write about the sad death of Colonel Geoffrey Brierley OBE former Dorset County Councillor for the Marshwood Vale Ward and head of transport and highways in his capacity as Councillor to May 2013 Geoffrey was totally professional and very direct I paid tribute to the Colonel at Full Council following detailed thoughts from Dorset Councillor Daryl Turner who succeeded him as Dorset County Councillor for the remaining years of the old Council to May 2019. The Colonel and Mrs Brierley moved from Whitchurch Canonicham to Charmouth in 2007 . I cherish what I learned from them and clearly am saddened by the news

I turn now to the A35 which is so busy this year and concerns so many of you

- Mr Ben Hampton Route Manager South West Operations Highways England is in the course of arranging a meeting with me to discuss safety matters in respect of the A35 through the Marshwood Vale Dorset Council Ward It is envisaged that this meeting will take place in the next few weeks.

On 14 July 2021 in connection with the Chideock to Bridport path / Cycleway Leader of Dorset Council Councillor Spencer Flower stated :

"I am in the process of having a conversation internally about your request and hope to get back to you within the next week or so"

Many people have been lobbying for the project for a number of years and I will keep on arguing for this project to move forward. I invited the lead member for Highways responsible for Hell Lane and Shutes Lane to visit. His response by e mail on 23 July 2021 was to state that "the Hell Lane discussion has been fully answered from my understanding " (I would be interested to hear the reaction of Chideock Parish Council to that statement!). He did add that "the cycleway / foot way on the A35 is something more strategic than the level I work at so would be best if you ask Ray (meaning Dorset Council Highways portfolio holder Councillor Ray Bryan". Clearly I look forward to discussing these items at the Parish Council meeting

Our roads are particularly busy. People of working age are often particularly busy and stressed at this time of year. Therefore I would encourage residents to drive with extra care.

It is perhaps also appropriate that last week was farm safety week. It is the 9th annual Farm Safety Week, a collaborative campaign organised by various farming organisations, and I quote from the relevant website "united in the aim to reduce the number of accidents on farms and bring about a change in culture that makes unsafe practices socially unacceptable." The message for the 2021 Farm Safety Campaign was RETHINK SAFETY.

It would also be a failure on my part to not highlight the increased concern about likely cliff falls on the coast line particularly close to Seatown.

As I mentioned earlier 15 July saw a virtual meeting of the full Dorset Council. Items voted on included the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and also a motion for a move away from Cabinet Style administration.

Clearly these items will have attracted some press attention and you will be able to read about this elsewhere in detail . However in brief the climate strategy was approved there was much praise for the architect of the all-party strategy Councillor Ray Bryan . However it has to be said that some members did not think that the strategy went far enough .

There will be a community governance review of parish councils in the Dorset Council area

Dorset Councillors debated the merits of moving from a Cabinet System it was agreed that this would be debated further with a view to moving away from the Cabinet Style arrangements after the 2024 Dorset Council elections

Before I leave matters relating to full Council I would add two further points firstly the resolve of Dorset Council to improve social mobility as discussed at the meeting and secondly the demise of Cheddington Parish Council which has ceased to exist due to lack of people coming forward to serve as parish councillor.

It has to be said, being a Councillor, one has to be aware that you become acutely aware of the conduct of others. I will leave you to reflect on the demise of Cheddington Parish Council. The Dorset Council given the current Covid restrictions resolved that it was minded to delegate to the Chief Executive of Dorset Council to dissolve Cheddington Parish Council under part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 after due consultation with the Dorset Council Ward member Councillor Mrs Rebecca Knox.

With respect to environmental matters I have to report that I was invited to attend a very brief meeting held in a socially distanced way by the Dorset branch of the Country Land and Business Association. I say with respect to environmental matters as this was followed by a tour of the farm to see the site for a small number of large wind turbines on a brown field site

It is good to see so much physical activity in keeping our local village halls and churches up together and meeting the aspirations of residents both in terms of their actual use, but also their environmental impact. There was much discussion of what was termed the big society a decade or so ago and evidence of collaboration is very much in my mind in the Dorset Council Marshwood Vale Ward.

Dorset Council Cabinet has continued to have virtual meetings.

The most recent meeting of the Cabinet was on 22 June 2021 as social distancing requirements were not lifted on 21 June 2021. Members were advised that where a Cabinet decision was required the appropriate Portfolio holder would be the responsible individual to make the decision whilst considering the views expressed by the wider Cabinet membership.

Indeed this will also be the case this week as the Dorset Council cabinet is also meeting on Tuesday 27 July at 10 am. This will be a virtual meeting and it has been announced that all Dorset Committee and Cabinet meetings etc will be virtual meetings until September

You will be aware that the 2 main budgets in Dorset Council are in respect of care for Adults and Care of Children. There are also huge challenges around mental health generally and in respect of learning difficulties.

One report that was considered was the Dorset Care, Support Housing and Community Safety Framework. Against a backdrop of an ageing population the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and, Laura Miller, advised that the Council sought to provide high quality personalised care and support services meeting the needs of service users whilst ensuring that they are delivered and financed in a sustainable way. The current Dorset Care Framework for Older People expires shortly and the Dorset Care Framework for Learning Disabilities needs to be refreshed to include mental health.

Procurement is governed by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which allows Public Sector Bodies such as Dorset Council in terms of health and social care to adopt /innovate procurement models to best meet the needs of service users.

The framework will be in place for up to 10 years and will enable providers to join at any time (provided clearly that specific criteria is met) instead of fixed opening periods.

The proposed new Framework tool is the key to delivering flexible contracting with all sectors of the provider market including (and I believe this is absolutely crucial) micro enterprises.

It is fair to say that Dorset Council continues to be under pressure both in terms of dealing with an increase in the number of planning applications and has been attempting to deal with an increase in the level of land charges searches. Across Dorset we are seeing changes in rural property ownership and re-evaluation of business models within the rural community, (which I will write more about later) but often these changes involve the need for planning applications.

One of the common areas of concern across the Marshwood Vale Ward is the desire for better bus services

With respect to Bus Back Better which was first publicised by H M Government in March 2021, I would like to reiterate that the Dorset Council bus service improvement plan will be published in Autumn 2021. Now it has to be said some residents are desperate, some are not and indeed some are quite happy to engage in car sharing which works very well for many

Councillor Ray Bryan, portfolio holder for Highways Travel and Environment, has been working on the Dorset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan.

He is quoted as saying "In response to the Government's new National Bus Strategy which aims to make bus services more attractive, cheaper, easier to use, Faster, more reliable and greener

The plan, is the so-called Bus Service Improvement (i.e. BSIP Plan)

As a recap a plan will be a collaboration with local bus operators, community groups, and with passengers themselves

The Council has reviewed the operations that Dorset has through the National Bus Strategy. Their preferred approach is to develop an Enhanced Partnership for the council area.

An Enhanced Partnership is an agreement between the council and local bus operators to work together to improve local bus services. It requires an agreed vision of improvements and an action plan that will form the Bus Service Improvement Plan”

The plan will involve 5 key aspects:

1. Network and services
2. Fares
3. Ticketing
4. Passenger facilities
5. Bus priority measures

Councillor Bryan has further said that

“By working in close collaboration with the operators and local groups we will develop and deliver an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan for Dorset that puts the passenger first, raises further the perception of bus travel ,generates mode shift away from private cars, and sees decarbonisation of the local transport fleet

As a point of record the official notice is as follows

“By executive notice dated 29 June 2021 Dorset Council gave approval to proceed with the Development of and Enhanced notice of the intention to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and accompanying Enhanced Partnership Scheme, as required and set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000

As part of the process to develop the BSIP, the Council will be talking with community groups, business groups, passengers and the public to collect a wide range of thoughts and ideas which will help to shape the future vision and priorities for our bus network.

The BSIP will be published in the Autumn”

Since the Full Council meeting on Thursday there has been confirmation of a Dorset Councillors members webinar at the end of the month together with clarification of timescale

Before I set out the timescale a reminder of the abbreviations

BSIP is Bus Service Improvement Plan

EP is Enhance Partnership

- Commence July 2021 Stakeholder engagement round 1 and public survey
- August 2021 Define level of ambition, stakeholder engagement round 2 and Bus Service Improvement Plan outline
- September 2021 Stakeholder engagement round 3 and adopted draft BSIP (with a Cabinet Meeting 7 September)
- October 2021 Publish BSIP and EP formal discussion and notice
- EP Statutory Consultation
- December 2021 Finalise EP
- January 2022 Second formal notice (if required)
- March 2022 Formal Making of the EP
- April 2022 Activate EP

I make no apology for stressing the importance of the Bus Service Improvement Plan that will be published in Autumn 2021 but the importance of public transport generally to include improvements to rail services and stations

Several parish councillors are aware that I have continued to lobby Councillor Ray Bryan (mentioned above) and the lead member for Highway Surfaces Councillor Cherry Brooks to address the need for extensive parts of our local road network to be re surfaced. There are assurances that further resurfacing, and I refer in particular to the B3165, take place this autumn. The B3165 is used by many residents from both Char Valley and Upper Marshwood Vale Ward and unlike the A35 is managed by Dorset Council

We are of course in the middle of the most intensive part of the farming year

While there are many who like seeing so much agricultural machinery working in the fields the fact that the machinery has to travel on our roads causes concern to some residents who write to me in connection with damaged roads, drains and verges. Of course, some damage may for instance be caused by say buses and lorries.

I would naturally be interested to hear the further thoughts of parish councillors and residents. I say this as I have within the Marshwood Vale Ward experience of receipt of communication citing oversized agricultural machinery. In my experience agricultural machinery does not appear to be any larger than that you would see across the West Country.

I am writing this as we anticipate further easing of Covid restrictions and at a time when Covid cases are rising again across Dorset.

Hospitalisations have been increasing. The vaccine programme is however assessed as having a significant impact on the number of people being seriously unwell. That is the number of people requiring hospital treatment is at a much lower level compared to when Dorset was experiencing similar case rates in previous waves.

I thought I would now turn to the question of the management of Dorset Council Owned Tree Policy. It is my understanding that Dorset Council is responsible for approximately 250,000 trees. The responsible Portfolio holder stated that town and parish councils were continually consulted and also confirmed that he was working closely with the County Farms in respect of tree replacement.

This now leads to the portfolio holder being quoted as stating that it was important to plant the right tree in the right place. This may seem an obvious comment but never more relevant.

I write this as it is a H M Government target to plant 30,000 hectares a year by 2025 this is under the DEFRA England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024

As part of the plan, it was announced that the Forestry Commission would launch a new England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

There is much discussion of carbon sequestration biodiversity and timber production. And which tree species and location to assist in a fight to prevent soil erosion

We are now seeing tickets being sold for some local agricultural shows e.g. Honiton at the start of August and Gillingham and Shaftesbury in the 3rd week of August Both shows are unusually going to operate as 2 day shows due to ongoing concerns and capacity numbers appear somewhat uncertain. Dorset County show in Dorchester and Melplash are both cancelled

These events are hugely important as are the functioning of livestock dispersal sales as farming is seen to operate in a manner closer to normality and a time when there is so much stress in the farming community. This stress includes the high incidence of TB in cattle and increasing testing requirements and cuts in Basic Payment i.e. support payments. Income is being lost in the reduction in the Basic Payment Scheme which is being phased . Payment rates for the new sustainable farming incentive have now been set out by Defra Secretary George Eustace. This will have an impact naturally on farmers in the Marshwood Vale ward and indeed for farmers on the Dorset Council Farms Estate.

of you will be aware that HM Government are encouraging farmers to move towards what is termed sustainable farming but also encouraging farmers to collaborate be more efficient and diversify.

In fact, with enhanced capital allowances for businesses in assisting with their tax it can be argued that HMG is being very generous in encouraging all rural business to be more efficient but increased efficiency and indeed diversification is not without broadband challenges.....

Finally, within the Marshwood Vale Ward I have received notice of difficulties in respect of private drainage. You will be aware that not all of the extensive Marshwood Vale Ward is on mains drainage. The specific difficulties involve soakaways and I would welcome your thoughts by e mail as to the extent to which private drainage is a problem for individual householders and their neighbours and the wider community

While I understand there are no imminent parish council meetings after Tuesday 27 July, please do not hesitate to contact me

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale, 077988 33715