

Chideock Parish Clerk

From: Cllr. Simon Christopher <cllrsimon.christopher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 February 2021 18:35
To: Sal Robinson
Subject: Re: Chideock Parish Council ZOOM meeting 10 am 23 February

Dear Councillors and Sal

A very brief report ahead of the Chideock Parish Council meeting

It is now almost a year since the start of the full impact of the Covid pandemic became apparent and the first lockdown commenced. My wife Una I remember the Shrove Tuesday event at Chideock Village hall approximately a year ago and reflect on what we have all missed subsequently

I thought that I would commence with a reminder of a couple of consultations

1 The Dorset Council local plan consultation covering the period 2023 to 2038
I mentioned this in my January report and I encourage your consideration of this

2 The St Mary's school site Shaftesbury

I anticipate speaking about St Mary's after the consultation period has expired .

I am conscious that the clerk has asked for a short report and that the report this month is lettered with comments about money matters (and hope that it is not littered with spelling and grammatical errors also) . You think it light on other non money issues but at this time of year budgetary considerations seemingly dominate

The Full Council met on 16 February and agreed the Budget for 2021/2022 with some 70 of the 84 councillors voting in favour.

The budgeted expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022 is just under £313 million, an increase from the 2020/21 Budget of £304 million

The increase in budget is needed to fund the cost of responding to the coronavirus pandemic and the increased need for social care and inflation

Councillors agreed to increase the general council tax by just under 2 per cent and to levy the adult social care precept of just under 3 per cent in line with the Government Spending Review. The increase equates to £1.62 per band D property.

Dorset Councils Covid 19 response has resulted in additional expenditure for vulnerable residents ,PPE ,Covid secure arrangements together with lost income from car parking ,leisure services ,business rates and council tax

I thought I would stress what the leader of Dorset Council has said

'The twin uncertainties of a one year settlement from Central Government and the serious to medium term impact of COVID 19 has had a real impact on our ability to maintain discretionary services which are very visible and valued. Increasing pressures in the needs based services Adults and Children's has created the greatest challenge '

At the last meeting of Chideock Parish Council parish councillors agreed with my concerns in respect of the pressures put on the finances of Dorset Council and the relative lack of non council tax income The Leader of Dorset Council Councillor Spencer Flower has had discussions with Luke Hall MP the Minister of State for Growth and Local Government to discuss the current financial situation in Dorset and help needed from Central Government

. The achieve the of moving from 6 Councils ie 5 local District Councils and a County Council to one Unitary Council was stressed

I continue to have discussions with Highways England and with Dorset Council Highways officers and Dorset Highways councillors on matters ranging from The A35 to Hell Lane. I am very grateful for those who copy me in when they write in respect of the A35 to Dorset Council or Highways England. The way things are looking it appears likely that we will have a lead member for highways visiting to look at Hell Lane before either the Chief Executive or Leader meet with you in the village as I have suggested. I look forward to discussing this further with you on Tuesday

During the past month I attended a WATAG meeting and have continued to lobby for better public transport whether road or rail.

As I write this I understand from Public Health Dorset our local Covid 19 case rate in Dorset continues to fall. The case rate for the Dorset Council area (92.2 per 100,000) is now slightly lower than the South West region average of 93.7

I would be pleased to hear your thoughts on the timing of lockdown easing There are many people who are very concerned about lockdown being eased too early such that tourists occupy self catering at Easter and with possible bad weather then being driven into pubs restraints cafes and shops at Easter so causing a spike in Covid cases

The week 15 to 21 February was national empty homes week
Throughout the week the Council used Facebook and Twitter to highlight the issue of long term empty homes. It is estimated that there are around 400 long term empty properties in Dorset and there are some 6000 families on the housing waiting list

Dorset Council has continued with a campaign to recruit more foster careers.
Foster careers receive a weekly fee plus a weekly allowance for each child looked after
Foster careers receive a free programme of learning and development from experts, training courses, learning on line etc

The Dorset AONB partnership , hosted by Dorset Council are researching attitudes and readiness for the Governments transition for agricultural support post brexit and interest in developing farm income strands around environmental management . This will help inform support the AONB partnership may be able to offer in the future. The partnership are promoting a free on line workshop to be run 3 times which will feature the most current information on Countryside Stewardship , Environmental Land Management and farming in protected landscapes

All household will receive a letter in connection with the Census
The census day is 21 March 2021. The census will help plan and fund local services.
This could include transport health and education

I look forward to discussions on Tuesday and wish you well

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher
Dorset Councillor Marshwood Vale

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From: Chideock Parish Clerk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:16:22 AM

To: Cllr. Simon Christopher <cllrsimon.christopher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>; PCSO Alex Bishop

<alex.bishop@dorset.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: Chideock Parish Council ZOOM meeting 10 am 23 February

As usual, a brief e-mail update would be welcome if you are unable to attend.

Sal Robinson

Chideock Parish Clerk

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