

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday  
17 December 2020 at 10 am.

The scheduled November meeting was cancelled due to the second full COVID-19 lockdown and was rearranged for December. However, due to Dorset then being under Tier 2 COVID-19 regulations the Village Hall was not available and it was agreed, via e-mail, to hold the meeting remotely using Zoom.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at **10.30 am**, due to various technical issues encountered by members.

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

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Cllr Simon Christopher and 3 members of the public.

**2484 Apologies.**

PCSO Bishop sent his apologies.

**2485 Co-option to Fill the Casual Vacancy.**

As only Mr Mick Downes was able to be present it was agreed that no questions should be put to him by councillors as that would be unfair on the others.

A formal vote took place, with both Mr Kevin Heard and Mr Peter Hunt receiving 3 votes. The Chair used her casting vote and Mr Peter Hunt was elected as councillor.

The Clerk will ensure that all necessary paperwork is completed before the next Parish Council meeting. **CC**

Cllr Glenn thanked all candidates for coming forward for co-option.

**2486 Grants of Dispensations.**

All councillors have an existing Grant of Dispensation to allow consideration of the Budget and Precept – Agenda Item 11 d.

**2487 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests.**

None declared.

**2488 Minutes.**

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

a) the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 27 October 2020

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

**AGREED** that the minutes be signed by the Clerk.

**2489 Dorset Ward Councillor and Police Reports.**

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

- Should the Tier change, I hope to make the meeting on Thursday. However, if it stays as it is, I will be unable to join in the Zoom meeting so will send a report as follows:
- On 2nd December, we had a report of a theft of wooden fence stakes from Chideock Hill area.
- We have had a couple of reports relating to cold callers purporting to be Police Officers investigating fraudulent activity in accounts, or fraudulent uses of bank cards. These are scams and not genuine. Should you get a similar call, please hang up. If you have any concerns, call your bank and check everything is in order. Never give out or confirm any details if asked. If you believe you have given or confirmed any details to a cold caller, call your bank straight away to prevent any transactions and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

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

He then gave additional information and answered questions.

Dorset Council will be taking steps in the New Year to attempt to get people without online access connected to the internet and will be asking Chideock Council to help with this for Chideock.

There is a proposal in the Local Plan, in connection with the proposed development north of Dorchester, to improve road access which will improve the A35 / A37 / A303 route, which may benefit Chideock.

Lack of communication from Chris Loder to the Parish Council - Cllr Christopher asked the Parish Council to send an agreed e-mail to him for forwarding to Chris Loder MP asking for a face-to-face meeting with him.

Cllr Glenn said that meeting with Chris Loder would be a good way to start the New Year. Dorset Council has had to use reserves to provide additional services during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Dorset Council has over 1,000 physical assets and is looking at which assets are surplus and could be disposed of, thus bringing in additional funding.

The major items of expenditure are on Adult and Children's services, both of which are statutory duties which must be funded. Dorset Council is actively looking at how best value can be increased, particularly in relation to children. This will be result in major changes in practice by more efficient spending.

Local Government Support for Dorset is currently zero and the review appears to have been delayed. Chris Loder MP is pursuing this with government and meets regularly on a Friday with Dorset Council Cabinet members. He is fighting for a better deal for Dorset.

Cllr Christopher is fighting for safety improvements in Chideock and is engaging with Highways England.

There is a possibility that an all-weather all-purpose path will become a reality.

CC

*Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.*

#### **2490 Democratic Period.**

Members of the public spoke as follows: -

- The Parish Council needs to take more of a lead regarding the War Memorial and the Remembrance Sunday event. The memorial needs weeding etc at least twice a year, and wreaths should not be left there for a whole year, as happened last year. He and other member of the community are willing to help but it needs to be led by the Parish Council.

Cllr Glenn said that the Parish Council would be pleased to work with the community on this

- Mick Downes, Flood Warden, drew the council's attention to several flood related problems
  - a) Sea Hill Lane – first field to west when going towards Seatown – the grids in corner of field bottom of sea hill lane are clear but being overwhelmed by run off from the field adding to the watercourse
  - b) Junction of Pettycrate Lane and Sea Hill Lane – water is coming from the ditch and over the road rather than through the culvert under the road which is partially blocked by stones
  - c) Ditch adjacent to FP17 is totally blocked
  - d) The watercourse by The Firs has not been cleared.

The Clerk said she will report a) to Dorset Highways, b) to the landowner, c) ask Dorset Council Rights of Way if they know who owns the land and if this fails obtain the Land Registry documents; and then write to the landowner and d) write to the owner of The Firs reminding them of their duties as riparian owners.

CC

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

#### **2491 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.**

Items 1 to 11 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Item 3 – Communication with Chris Loder MP** had been covered by Cllr Christopher.

**Item 7 – Dorset Council Asset Review.** Request to Dorset Council for the response made to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will be taken forward by Cllr Christopher.

**2492 A35 Matters.**

Items 12 - 42 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**Agenda Item 26 – Cllr Peacock’s “Chideock High Street” document.**

**AGREED**

- That the cut-off date for comments will be 31 December
- That comments made on Facebook will not be considered
- That both of the above should be made clear on the Chideock Noticeboard Facebook Page – Cllr Anna Dunn agreed to draft this for approval before posting it
- That the matter will be on the agenda for the January meeting as agreed at the October meeting, together with Cllr Glenn’s paper on what has been achieved in the past and what is going on in the present re the A35.

**AD**

The Clerk reported that she had asked an independent person to analysis the responses. Cllr Peacock said that there were too few responses for a meaningful analysis.

Cllr Anna Dunn pointed out that sensors have appears on Chideock Hill – Clerk to ask Highways England what these are for.

**CC**

**2493 Motions Received with Notice.**

Unfortunately, Cllr George Dunn’s Motion with Notice (“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 missed out and will now be placed on the January agenda.

**2494 Planning Matters.**

**a) Applications.**

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

This application had only been notified to the Parish Council the day before the meeting and it was agreed that councillors would send their comments to the Clerk, who would then draft the response for e-mail agreement from all councillors prior to submission.

**WD/D/20/002125** Stationing of a shepherd hut to provide accommodation and residential annexe SEAHILL COTTAGES, SEA HILL LANE – retrospective approval of submitted comment agreed by e-mail. “*Chideock Parish Council has no objection.*”

**b) Determinations.**

**WD/D/19/000813** Proposed change of use from agricultural barn to office accommodation (class B1) and storage with associated demolition and building works (retrospective) HELL FARM BUNGALOW, HELL FARMHOUSE, HELL LANE. **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’s motion that “Chideock Parish Council revokes any previous policy or policies to automatically recommend refusal of any retrospective planning application regardless of its merits.” was **RESOLVED**; proposed by Cllr George Dunn, seconded by Cllr Peacock, and carried unanimously.

**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 44 - 48 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**. Clerk will talk with Rights of Way regarding the issues mentioned by the owners of one of the fields about easements etc.

**CC**

**vi. Seatown.**

No updates.

**vii. Additional Matters.**

No updates.

**2495 Finances.**

Items 49 - 52 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED** with those detailed below discussed in more detail.

**a) Payments.**

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

- i. Clerk's Salary and Expenses for December £271.71
- ii. PAYE for October, November, and December 2020 £184.40.

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

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

**CC**

**b) Retrospective Approval of Payments Made in November.**

**RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve the November payments. Proposed by Cllr Anna Dunn, seconded by Cllr Coates, carried unanimously.

**c) Draft Budget and Precept for 2021 – 2022.**

Version 3 of the Budget and Precept was **AGREED** – formal acceptance by resolution will take place at the January meeting.

Version 3 is appended to the minutes.

War Memorial. **AGREED** that the Parish Council will take the lead regarding maintenance, which will, as far as possible, be carried out by volunteers.

**AGREED** that Cllr Glenn will speak with Mr Jim Pettifer (Lay Minister) / the Rector to ask a) if arrangements can be made to remove this year's wreathes and b) to ask if they are happy for the Parish Council to be involved in the Remembrance Sunday event.

**VG**

**d) Foss Orchard Car Park.**

**Item 52 – Foss Orchard Car Park Electric Car Charger.**

**AGREED** that Cllr Glenn, Cllr Peacock, and the Clerk will meet at Foss Orchard Car Park to sign the Lease, with COVID-19 precautions in place.

**CC/  
VG/  
TP**

**2496 Clapps Mead Playing Field.**

Cllr Peacock said he had raised some issues on his most recent inspection report – Clerk to action.

**CC**

**2497 Dorset Highways and Flood Management.**

Items 53 - 63 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

**2498 Current Consultations.**

- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government – “Planning for the Future” - submission made by the due date of 29 October 2020.
- Department for Transport - In Future of Transport: rural strategy – call for evidence.

**AGREED** that councillors will send comments to the Clerk who will collate them for presentation at the January Parish Council meeting prior to submission by the due date of 16 February 2021.

**ALL**

**2499 Correspondence.**

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

**2450 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.**

The next scheduled meeting is at 10 am on Tuesday 26 January 2021.

The meeting closed at **12.30 pm**.

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

### Dorset Councillor Report 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to Chideock Parish Council

I thought I would set out some thoughts at the last meeting of the year.

A difficult year in which we have seen so many people rally around to help vulnerable people. The council has risen to the task of helping the elderly, the infirm and has acted positively to help with the provision of meals to vulnerable children over holiday times. There has of course been financial consequences and the council has had to utilise reserves.

The effect of the COVID regulations has had an impact on all our lives, but particularly the young and the old. It has been detrimental to many of our local businesses. Many businesses have had to adapt to survive. Similarly, and despite all the difficulties, I am encouraged to hear of the efforts being made to improve the village hall. Clearly the mental health impact of isolation is ever increasing as we go through the winter.

Councillors Jill Haynes and Councillor Tony Ferrari as portfolio holders have written to all Town and Parish Council clerks re the Dorset Council area. The communication is in respect of the Dorset Council Asset review Process, which was presented to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

Extracts include 'There are a number of (property) holdings which we need to consider in order to rationalize the estate and reduce cash'

'The desire is to

1. Create economic growth by creating new homes and jobs
2. Delivering a more integrated customer focused service, through joint provision with partner organisations
3. Generate efficiencies through capital receipts and running costs.

Please contact me if you have not seen the aforementioned email or wish to discuss the matter.

Councillors are currently discussing the budget setting process, primarily:

- Children's Directorate
- Place Directorate- including property's, highways, and Dorset Waste
- Adults Directorate
- Corporate Directorate

There is to be a concentrated effort to achieve savings in contract arrangement without a reduction in service.

I will be pleased to receive your thoughts on Dorset Council car parking charges.

You may have noticed that Dorset Council car parks are free on Saturday's in December 2020. (In Sherborne I understand this will be on Mondays)

The mailbag of a Dorset Councillor in a rural ward appears to show continued concern about speeding motorists and I pass on these concerns to the relevant highway officers and other agencies.

Rachel Baker, senior communications officer Digital and Change Dorset Council has been publicising the Gigabit Voucher Scheme. An email has come out to John and myself, which has been further circulated and you have comments on this.

Yesterday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the Government has unveiled its path to sustainable farming.

The reason I draw your attention to this is:

1. The mere fact that even in the heart of your village you are but yards away from a field managed by members of the farming community.
2. This will impact on the County Farms Estate of some 46 farms.

The Government states that it plans to deliver a better fairer farming system in England with the objective of changing the way the Government supports farmers.

The roadmap has outlined changes that will come in over a seven-year period.

'The changes will be designed to ensure that by 2028 farmers in England can sustainably produce healthy food profitably without subsidy, whilst taking steps to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare and reduce carbon emissions.

Next year marks the start of the transition where we will begin to move away from the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) towards new policies that will be co-designed and tested together with farmers, land managers and experts, to ensure that the new systems work for them.

The 'Path to Sustainable Farming' document sets out more detail on the changes we are going to make, and what they will mean to farmers.

The key changes include:

- Introducing the Environmental Land Management scheme to incentivise sustainable practices, create habitats for nature recovery and establish new woodland to help tackle climate change.
- Investing in improving animal health and welfare as part of our sustainable farming approach. This will initially focus on controlling or eradicating endemic diseases amongst cattle, pigs, and sheep.
- Direct payments will be reduced fairly, starting from the 2021 Basic Payment Scheme year, with the money released being used to fund new grants and schemes to boost farmer's productivity and reward environmental improvements.
- Launching a Farming Investment Fund, which will support innovation and productivity. This will open for applications next year and will be used to offer grants for equipment, technology, and infrastructure for the future.
- Simplifying and improving existing schemes and their application processes further from January 2021 to reduce the burden on farmers, and we will take a modern approach to regulation, cutting unnecessary red tape for farmers and working together with industry to design a more targeted regulatory system.

Our MP, Dorset Council leader and chief executive of Dorset Council together with other relevant officers are more than aware of A35 issues, I have made sure of this. I look forward to a time when the first three mentioned are able to accept my invitation to meet with you. You can imagine that is one of my top priorities, the invitations have been made.

I can assure that the council is spending a lot of time in discussion how more looked at the children are looked after more locally as opposed to being in different counties.

I engage with Highways England about A35 issues including road safety. Current issues also include promoting the idea of safer cycling.

The council and police are aware of four-by-four vehicles damaging verges etc. This is a widespread problem in the Marshwood Vale ward and other Dorset Council wards.

Many of you will have noticed that there will be consultations in respect of The Dorset Local Plan. The timetable will approximate to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 - Details will be published on the Dorset Council website for discussion at Dorset Council Cabinet
- 8th December 2020 – Discussion at Dorset Council Cabinet
- Mid-January 2021 – Consultation period opens for a period expected to be for 8 weeks.

I will be pleased to discuss initial thoughts with you at the meeting.

Dorset Council has published the Dorset Highways Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan 2020/21. This document has been made available to all Parish Council clerks.

I look forward to your questions.

I wish you all a safe and very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

### Budget 2021-2022 DRAFT V3

THIRD DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION. SUBMISSION OF THE PRECEPT REQUEST MUST BE MADE BY 31/1/2021							
INCOME	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2021/22	% change	Increase / Decrease	2020/21 Band D	2021/22 Band D	
Precept	£16,462.45	£16,463.56	0.01%	1.11	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	£1,000.00	N/A	Omitted in previous versions			
<b>TOTAL PREDICTED INCOME</b>	<b>£17,261.88</b>	<b>£17,313.56</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>51.68</b>			<b>Decrease = =0.006%</b>
							<b>£0.94 a year less</b>
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 and brook covert may need clearing least anually			
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 <sup>1</sup>			
Foss Orchard Car Park Resurfacing / Maintenance	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	0.00%	Fund = £11239.99 <sup>1</sup>			
Foss Orchard Car Park River Bank Maintenance	£1,000.00	£800.00	-20.00%	Fund = £10196.39 <sup>1</sup>			
Community Fund Grant	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%	Fund = £3155.94 <sup>1</sup>			
3 Year Village Clock Servicing Grant	£210.00	£230.00	9.52%	Reserve = £8.40 <sup>1</sup>			
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 contigency - 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%				
Clapps Mead Brook and Ditch Maintenance (V)	£500.00	£500.00	0.00%	Combined with Routine Playing Field Maintenance			
<b>TOTAL PREDICTED EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£17,261.88</b>	<b>£18,313.56</b>	<b>6.09%</b>	<b>1,051.68</b>			
<b>ALL EXPEDITURE MARKED V INCLUDES VAT WHICH CAN BE RECLAIMED AND IS SHOWN UNDER PREDICTED INCOME</b>							
<b>Treasurer's Reserve at 31/09/2020</b>	<b>£13,731.61</b>						
		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							