

**CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT**  
**CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs N Searle, R Hall, G Waters, D Walsh, R Sewell

**Chair:** Cllr A Taylor

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 6 members of the public

**1. Public Participation Period**

24.101 The question was raised if anyone on the Parish Council is keeping the village's social media under review. There have been some items recently raised on the village Facebook page and WhatsApp group regarding a planning application, and it was felt the Parish Council should have responded. Cllr Searle confirmed that she does check Facebook, as does Cllr Walsh on a regular basis. However, this has been raised in the past and it was agreed that a more regulated approach is required. This will be brought back to the March meeting.

The frequency with which the school playing field floods seems to be increasing. It was noted that this has been discussed extensively in the past and part of the problem is that the bank has worn away. The advice from both Dorset Council and the Environment Agency was to do nothing, unless there was a danger to property. Whilst the field is flooding, houses further downstream are not. The situation is constantly monitored. Cllr Waters will ask the Environment Agency if they ever check the water quality and the landowner requested to be kept informed of any discussions that may take place in respect of the land.

**ACTION: CLLR WATERS**

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

24.102 Apologies had been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Donnison.

**3. To receive Declarations of Interest**

24.103 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

**4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

24.104 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members. Cllr Waters proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Searle and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.

**5. Matters arising from the meeting for report only**

24.105 The grit bins have now all been refilled.

**6. Dorset Councillor’s Report**

24.106 A copy of the December report had been issued with the agenda.

**7. To consider the PCSO’s Report**

24.107 A copy of the report had been attached with the agenda.

Cllr Searle reported that the offer of cyber crime drop in events may be something to consider in the future. More details will be available from PCSO Donnison in due course. It was noted that PCSO Donnison will be away for the whole of March and one of her associates may undertake the monthly report but a general Police presence in the village during that period is unlikely.

**8. Finance**

24.108 To agree the payment of accounts

The following payments had been requested:

DAPTC	Whole councillor training	BACS073	244.50
Hugo Fox	Web hosting	DDR	11.99
DAPTC	Planning training – A Taylor	BACS074	30.00
Dorset Council	Election recharge	BACS075	50.00
HMRC	Nov/Dec24 PAYE	BACS076	86.20
A Crocker	Nov/Dec24 salary	BACS077	380.15
McAfee	Annual subscription	BACS078	109.99

A total of £912.83 was requested.

Cllr Taylor proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously.

24.109 To agree the bank reconciliation and position against budget as at 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Cllr Taylor will contact Dorset Tree and Garden Care regarding the unpaid cheque of £200. No other comments were made, and the reports were noted.

**ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR**

24.110 To agree the budget for 2025/2026

A draft budget had been issued to all members with the agenda.

The DAPTC subscription has been increased by 30% to £350 and bank charges of £54 have been added, following Lloyds notification of charges. £400 has been added to cover the cost of the .gov.uk emails and the necessary subscription fees incurred. £500 has been included for PlusBus. All other costs either remain the same or have been adjusted by an inflationary increase.

Cllr Searle proposed the budget of £7,729.00 is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously.

Signed: .....

24.111 To agree the appointment of an auditor for the year 2025/2026

Cllr Taylor proposed that we remain with Paul Harding of Barker Fox. This was seconded by Cllr Walsh and agreed unanimously.

**9. Planning Applications**

24.112 P/FUL/2024/06549 Lyscombe Farm – change of use and conversion of farm building to dwelling. Conversion of vacant farm buildings to form volunteer hub and car park. Demolish modern farm buildings and change of use of agricultural yard to meadow

Cllrs Sewell, Hall and Waters attended the site during December. It was noted that this application is separate from the application reviewed in December for a new farmhouse.

This application can be broadly divided into four separate areas:

1. The conversion of the traditional farm buildings (noted in the application as Barns 1, 2a, 2b and 2c) into a dwelling – Members felt that the traditional buildings had limited use for any modern agricultural use. The proposal is to incorporate new windows and doors into the new dwelling, but the overall footprint of Barn 1 will remain the same with the roof being raised to its original height. Barn 2a - the footprint will be extended to its original size and height. Barn 2b - the footprint will not be changed, but a shelter at the entrance will be added. Barn 2c footprint will not change but the height will be very slightly raised. Members felt that it was better to maintain the structures and if this means converting to a dwelling, this would be better than letting the buildings fall into ruin. However, it was noted that light pollution arising from the new windows may be an issue.
2. Demolition of modern farm buildings and change of use of agricultural yard to a meadow - There is little agricultural value left in the buildings, and they detract from the grade II listed chapel. The return of the concrete yard to meadow was welcome.
3. Barn 5 to convert to a bat roost was welcome.
4. Barn 6 conversion and demolition of vacant farm buildings to form a volunteer hub and car park. The visitor hub would be beneficial to the management of the site. The number of parking spaces is somewhat ambiguous. It was understood from previous discussions with Dorset Wildlife Trust that the number of visitors would be minimal, but the application would suggest otherwise. The potential unintended consequences could be significant for the village should the volume of traffic to the site increase significantly.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would welcome information regarding projected visitor numbers and a transport action plan. In addition, a more detailed management plan for the site would be of interest, showing the intention for the site over the next five to ten years. Concern was also expressed regarding the detrimental effect the building and the light pollution may have on the historic nature of the chapel. Clarification of the parking arrangements is also required.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would **OBJECT** to the planning applications as a result of the concerns raised in discussions.

Signed: .....

**10. Parish Councillors' Reports**

24.113 Asset Management – The grits bins have all been refilled following the recent snow.

Cllr Searle – The restoration of the Chebbard fingerpost will be undertaken in the next few weeks. The question of a finial was raised but will need further investigation.

Cllr Sewell attended the DAPTC AGM and all the motions were passed.

**11. To receive an update on the PlusBus initiative**

24.114 Cllr Searle had investigated the possibility of putting an advert in the Village News in order to bring the PlusBus to the attention of more parishioners. A regular advert will cost between £40 and £120 depending on whether it is quarter page, half page or whole page and whether it is for six or twelve months. Cllr Taylor proposed a quarter page advert for six months would be a useful starting point. It was noted that the Parish Council has allocated £500 for the first six months of the next financial year to keep the initiative running and we would like to encourage more people to use it.

Cllr Walsh suggested Facebook, the WhatsApp group and the Parish Council website could also be used to advertise the initiative as well. A leaflet drop may also be beneficial.

Cllr Waters proposed going ahead with the Village News advert – a quarter page for six months at a cost of £40 - and that the issue is discussed again in September 2025. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously. Cllr Searle will arrange for the advert to be input.

**ACTION: CLLR SEARLE**

Other fundraising opportunities were discussed but there is nothing available at the moment.

**12. To receive an update on the EV Charging points**

24.115 Cllr Searle has been in touch with Dorset Council regarding the follow up from the public consultation but has received no response. If nothing is received shortly, she will contact Cllr Haynes to ask her to follow this up.

**13. To receive an update on the 20mph public consultation**

24.116 The public consultation has now finished, and the results were confirmed as 7 objections (4 from the same household) and 40 in favour. This shows public support and will be taken to delegated powers on the 19<sup>th</sup> February for final approval.

**14. To receive an update on the play area**

24.117 Play Park Inspections – to consider any work necessary

Cllr Hall is undertaking monthly reports.

**15. To consider a response to the consultation on Standards in Public Life and Conduct**

Signed: .....

24.118 Cllr Taylor asked all members to consider the report and forward any comments to the Clerk by the end of January. A corporate response will then be submitted.

**16. To receive an update on the new .gov.uk domain and emails**

24.119 The cost of this will be approximately £395 a year. Cllr Walsh will liaise with HugoFox with regard to setting up the emails for each councillor. This will be brought back to the March meeting.

**17. To consider meeting dates for 2025-2026**

24.120 It was agreed that meetings will remain as they are – taking place of the first Monday of each alternative month. Additional meetings will be called as necessary.

**18. Date of next meeting**

24.121 The next meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, commencing 7pm.

Future meetings:

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43hrs.

Signed: .....