

MINUTES OF THE CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2022, AT CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7.00PM

Present: Cllrs C Byrom, C Hampton, N Searle, G Waters

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: Two members of the public

Public Participation

No matters were raised.

1. Declaration of Interests

22.66 No interests were declared at this stage.

2. Apologies

22.67 Apologies had been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Dennison.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th September 2022

22.68 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members with the agenda. Cllr Byrom proposed the minutes were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Hampton and agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting are confirmed and signed as an accurate record

4. Matters arising from the minutes – for report only

22.69 Yellow zig-zag lines have been refreshed outside the school.

5. Dorset Councillor's Report

22.70 Cllr Haynes was unable to attend the meeting but had issued her report which had been passed to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Roger Sewill was of the opinion that the report did not cover rural services and wondered what Children's Services are doing for the rural community. It would be helpful to see something in the report that relates specifically to the parish. Some more local detail would also be helpful. These comments will be passed on the Cllr Haynes.

6. To consider the co-option of a new Councillor

22.71 Dennis Walsh and Roger Sewill both agreed to join the Council. They will write formally to the Parish Council and this will be passed to councillors and put on the next agenda.

7. PCSO's report

22.72 There is very little included in the report that is of use to the parish. Cllr Searle suggested that we request from the PCSO a minimum requirement of information we would like to see in the report. If this is not forthcoming, we would then go to Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and say that this is a problem and we need more from our rural Police Force. If members have any comments or suggestions Cllr Searle would be happy to compose a draft letter to the PCC, outlining our concerns.

Resolved: Cllr Searle to draft a letter and circulate to all members.

8. Police, Traffic and Roads Reports

22.73 (i) General Report

Cllr Searle reported that the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team has been out and about and have tried to target specific times of the day, including the 'school run' and the afternoon period. There are five approved sites, including Drakes Lane. The highest vehicle speed recorded so far is 35mph. Speed Watch weather dependent but the team will continue to try and get out as often as possible over the winter period.

Cllr Searle advised that she had attended the annual CSW conference on the 1st October which was held at Dorset Police Headquarters. There are over 60 CSW groups across the county. Cllr Searle confirmed that a driver can now be prosecuted if he/she has received three CSW warning letters during an 18 month period; this has been increased from 12 months. It is hoped the 'No Excuse' team will be doing more work in the future with CSW teams.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – these cost in the region of about £5000 and this is too much for a small parish to support. No further action is required.

There is a small article going into the next edition of the Village News about driver awareness.

22.74 (ii) Bus Service Improvement Plan for Dorset

Cllr Taylor met with Cllr Clive Jones of Hilton Parish Council who is very keen on reinstating a bus service from Blandford to Dorchester via the valley villages. It is disappointing to note that, to date, only 36 responses favour of instatement have been received.

The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is currently being considered by Dorset Council. Cllr Byrom has attended the first BSIP consultation. Together with Cllr Taylor, she will attend any future BSIP meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

22.75 (iii) To review the 20mph proposal

The current system for imposing a 20mph zone is too complicated and needs to be made more reasonable. The idea of a referendum is being replaced with proof of engagement within the community and whether a speed limit reduction will be supported. This is being put to the next Dorset Council Cabinet meeting, after which the Parish Council can consider the matter further. This will remain on the agenda for continued reference.

9. Parish Councillors Reports

22.76 Cllr Searle met with the Cheselbourne Village School head teacher in July to highlight a number of issues. PCSO Alison Donnison is due to meet with the school on the 10th November and look at various issues, including the parking, and then discuss road safety issues with the school children.

The school also has issues with there being no obvious area for parents to park when dropping off/picking up children. The school have asked if it would be feasible for the cars to operate a one-way system around the triangle near the school and park for a few minutes to drop off and collect children. It was agreed by councillors that the road here is very narrow and such a scheme may create more problems than it would solve. An alternative might be making better use of a staggered start and finish time. This may reduce the traffic by 50% at any time but this may be difficult for those families with more than one child at the school.

The school is keen on having a sign on a plastic bollard outside the school. They have asked if the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost of one.

Cllr Hampton proposed we pay the full cost of one. This was seconded by Cllr Byrom and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Hampton felt the parking was no worse in Cheselbourne than it is in any other rural village with a small school.

An alternative might be to try and encourage village families to walk to the school rather than drive there.

Cllr Byrom reported that Dorset Council's recent Climate and Emergency report states they are ahead of target in becoming carbon neutral. In the village, a litter pick was held on the 1st October with eight volunteers in attendance and not a great deal of litter. The next pick will be in March.

There was a Long Lane litter pick on the 20th October and there were a few bags of litter but this is known to be one of the worst areas. Cllr Searle felt that litter picking on a more frequent basis is better than annual litter picks.

The wildlife questionnaire has been circulated and a report and action plan will be produced. The verge alongside the bus shelter has been strimmed. If this is to be developed as an area for wild flowers, it would be necessary to dig up the vegetation that is there. Would this be supported? And would the village tolerate the unsightliness of a freshly tilled wildlife area until the wild flowers establish – which could take up to three years. Cllr Taylor thought this was a good idea and small signs could be put up explaining what is happening. The work cannot start until the spring so putting a sign there through the winter explaining what is going to happen would be a good starting point. Cllr Byrom will find out what the cost would be to dig the site over. She will contact Greenways from Dewlish to get a cost.

Cllr Hampton reported that he had attended a DAPTC area meeting which was a one item agenda. The Working Together document was a template of ideas gathered in from other County areas. He was concerned about the amount of time that might be involved in making it work. It was felt that we would support the concept in principle but it would be better as a one-page document. Cllr Hampton has spoken to one of the Dorset Environmental Officers about the smouldering muck heap who said he will send a letter to the farmer.

Cllr Waters reported that he had attended a flood warden training day with over 50 wardens from around Dorset. It was hosted by the Environment Agency with contributions from other agencies including the Police and Dorset Council. He has produced an article for the village news about keeping the river clear and allowing it to flow. He also assisted with a church tidy as part of a community support event.

Reprofiling the road in front of the bus shelter so it is a hump rather than a dip – Cllr Taylor will speak to Highways again.

ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR

Village news – A comment will be included to say if you are walking past a drain cover that is covered in leaves, just remove them with your boot. This will go some considerable way towards preventing surface flooding.

10. Planning Applications

22.77 To consider planning applications received since the last meeting

There were no applications for consideration at the time of the meeting.

Cllr Hampton has received another email from Mr Le Maire of Dorset Council, who was of the view that the community was happy with the path going straight up the hill next to the village hall and then breaking through the fence at the top and into the play park. Cllr Hampton has made it clear to Mr Le Maire that this option is not acceptable to the community and is not in line with the original plan. They are in on-going discussions with the developer, Charlew.

11. Play Area

22.78 (i) To receive an update on the play area repairs and upgrade

The fence is due to go in imminently. Langhams Wine Estate are paying for the labour and we are paying for the materials at about £670. We await the invoice.

As the swings are made from galvanised steel, it is not necessary to paint them. However, the rust needs to be treated.

The bark and tunnel are being dealt with. The tree work is also due to be undertaken.

12. Finance

22.79 To agree the payments list

The following payments had been requested:

C Haskett	Grass cutting	BACS022	50.00
C Haskett	Verge cutting & clearing for CAG	BACS023	35.00
DAPTC	Qrt of fees re Clerks' Conference	BACS024	11.25
A Crocker	Sept/Oct wages	BACS025	220.80
HMRC	Sept/Oct PAYE	BACS026	55.20
ICO	Annual GDPR subscription	DDR	35.00
123Reg	Domain name renewal	BACS027	14.39

Community Heartbeat	Emergency telephone system Yr 5	BACS028	120.00
A Crocker	Wreath	BACS029	22.25

The total amount requested from the Precept is £763.89.

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

Resolved: The payments are to be made.

22.80 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

A copy of the bank reconciliation and position against budget had been issued to all members with the agenda.

Resolved: The bank reconciliation and budget position are accepted.

13. To agree the budget and precept setting process for the 2023/24 budgets

22.81 The Clerk will meet with the Chair and Cllr Hampton to draw up a draft budget. The proposals will then be put before the January meeting. A date will be organised for the group to meet.

Resolved: Cllrs Taylor and Hampton, together with the Clerk will meet to draw up a draft budget.

14. To consider supporting the 'Working Together' initiative

22.82 A copy of the draft had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. This was discussed under item 10.

15. To consider proposals for marking the Coronation of King Charles III

22.83 Cllr Taylor suggested a photographic exhibition of every villager in front of their front house. Mrs Lucy Sewill has offered to undertake the photography and it is her plan to capture a point in history and put up a display of the photographs in the village hall, for example, and try to bring the village together. It should be done in a way that is inclusive but not putting anyone under pressure to get involved. Mrs Sewill would give her time freely and the only cost would be materials.

This will be put on the agenda for January.

16. To consider responses to the DAPTC AGM motions

22.84 A full list of the motions was issued to members prior to the start of the meeting. Each was discussed and reviewed in the light of whether Cllr Taylor should support them at the DAPTC AGM.

Resolved: Support motions A,B,C,D,E,H,I,J,K. Motion F would be supported but with a caveat that this would be in the wider context of trying to gain a greater Police presence. Motion G would be abstained.

17. Remembrance Sunday update

22.85 10.30am on Friday 11th November. The Cheselbourne Village School takes the lead and the Parish Council lays a wreath.

18. To receive an update on the Community Resilience and Severe Weather Plan

22.86 This will be put forward to a later meeting. Meeting next Monday.

19. Date of next meeting

22.87 The next meeting will be held on 9th January 2023, commencing 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.05hrs.