

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## Clerk to the Council:

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Chideock on Tuesday 30 October 2012 at 10:00 am.**

**Present:** Cllrs Rob Murray (Chair), Kate Geraghty and Elizabeth Grant.

**In attendance:** The Clerk and 7 members of the public.

The meeting commenced at **10:02 am**.

### **1225 Apologies.**

DCC Cllr Brierley, WDDC Cllr Summers sent their apologies.

### **1226 Declarations of Interest.** None declared at this point in the meeting.

**NOTED** that the following information from DAPTC / NALC:

"On the matter of a council's budget/ precept a majority or all of the councillors are likely to have a DPI in those matters. DPIs are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and one is "land", which means any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. In NALC's view this would apply to councillors who are affected by the precept set.

Sec.33 of the 2011 Act enables a council to grant a dispensation to a councillor so that the councillor can participate in discussions and vote in a matter even if the councillor has a DPI.

A councillor must submit a written request for any such dispensation to the council's proper officer. Councils can grant a dispensation after having regard to all relevant circumstances and if the council considers that certain criteria apply, one of which is:-

(a) That without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by s.31 (4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business

The requirement not to participate or vote on a matter where a councillor has a DPI does not apply in relation to anything done for the purpose of deciding whether to grant a dispensation. NALC's interpretation on this is that councillors can vote on the matter of whether to grant themselves a dispensation to vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.

DAPTC has been offered, by a Monitoring Officer, a pro-forma letter for councillors to complete requesting a dispensation for the purposes of precept discussion and setting. This will be circulated to all clerks when it is received."

The Clerk said that there appeared to be no restriction regarding consideration of the Budget, as opposed to the Precept.

### **1227 Minutes.**

**a) RESOLVED** to accept and sign, as a true record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 25 September 2012.

Proposed by Cllr Geraghty, seconded by Cllr Grant, carried unanimously.

### **1228 County and District Councillors' and Police Reports.**

There was no report from Cllr Summers but she had informed the Clerk that she cannot make any Tuesday morning meetings as they clash with her work.

Cllr Brierley sent the following report, which was read out by the Clerk:-

#### **1. CPC complaint re DCC Highways.**

This appears to be ongoing since a further complaint has been received. I understand Stephen Howard has been in touch and provided a critique of the traffic data supplied by the developer and which was done by DCC traffic modelling section.

#### **2. Update on DCC's actions to deal with A35 HGV traffic.**

This is a matter which the chairman should bring up with the Highways Agency in the first instance.

#### **3. Problem with DCC ROW re Bridle path 18.**

Cllr Geraghty and Ms Crisp met with ROW on 10th October and were briefed on Bridleway 18. They are now fully in the picture as far as ROW is concerned. I believe a complaint has since been made against Carmel Wilkinson about which I know nothing.

4. Attached Map.

You should have received my revised programme of highway visits. I currently plan to visit Chideock at 10.30 am 6th November. The issues noted on the map can be viewed then.

*Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.*

**1229 Democratic Period.**

Members of the public spoke as follows:-

- What is happening regarding speeding through the village? Is the Speed Watch group still functioning? **AGREED** that the Clerk ask the Police about Speed Watch. Cllr Murray explained about the newly installed VAS at Bilberry Close, which keeps counts of vehicles exceeding 30 mph. He suggested that members of the public write to DCC regarding the cessation of use of the induction loop at Bilberry Close, which means that no formal traffic volume and speed surveys are now carried out. **CC**
- There is a clacking drain cover outside Bilberry close and also excessive vibration. **AGREED** that the Clerk report this to Connect. **CC**

Cllr Murray gave an update regarding Mill Lane Bridleway & FP 14 and 1/D/12/00040 Golden Cap Holiday Park and said that there are many issues outstanding.

Members of the public then spoke as follows:-

- Oliver Letwin had come on a site visit but says that he can only help on the planning process, not a specific application.
- The AONB are consistently replying to letters sent to them by saying that they have no issue with the application.
- The AONB appears to be inconsistent as they did raise concerns about the development at Freshwater Holiday Park, even though in that case it is not nearly as visible and prominent.
- The AONB are paid for out of Council Tax and should be accountable to the public. It does not appear to be fulfilling its role. Economics appear to be the overriding concern.
- The SW has no industry except tourism on which heavy reliance is made, and there seems to be a fear of turning down any application involving tourism.
- Cllr Murray pointed out that unemployment is not an issue in Chideock, according to figures issued by the Job Centre.
- The Lonely Planet says that the South West Coast Path is the best in the world. It is essential to preserve the surrounding landscape.
- Cllr Geraghty said that it is the Planning Committee which will determine the application, not the Case Officer. It is essential to lobby the councillors on the committee - it needs at least 7 of them to either approve or refuse an application. Pictures are important as they say more than words. But all reasons for refusal have to be material planning considerations.
- Cllr Geraghty said that the Parish Council should request that the Committee comes on a site visit prior to the Committee meeting.

A members of the public then asked about the following:-

- What is happening about salt / grit? Cllr Murray said that the 3 grit bins will be filled by DCC and that there is 1 dumpy bag of salt / grit at Silverbridge Farm and another at Roadstead Farm. North Road is part of the Community Snow Plough Link and will be gritted if snow falls but that Seahill Lane is not. Chideock is now part of the Community Snow Plough scheme, but a farmer with a suitable tractor needs to volunteer. The Clerk said that if the grit bins have to be refilled during the winter then the Parish Council has to pay for the salt / grit.

*Standing Orders were resumed at 11.00 am.*

It was agreed to move Agenda items 7 e i) and ii) forward to this point in the meeting i.e. Planning Other – Mill Lane Bridleway & FP 14 and 1/D/12/00040 Golden Cap Holiday Park.

**1230 Planning Other.**

**i. Mill Lane Bridleway 18 and FP 14.**

Items 17 to 22 on the Actions and information list were noted.

**AGREED** to ask DCC RoW if the definitive Map has been updated since 2006 and, if so, obtain a copy of it. **AGREED** to authorise £30 to cover the cost of this, to be taken from the reserve for Mill Lane Bridleway.

Cllr Geraghty summarised the Legal advice obtained from Pengilly's of Weymouth, the solicitors recommended by the Ramblers Association, regarding Bridleway 18.

**ii. 1/D/12/000410 Golden Cap Holiday Park**

Items 23 to 28 on the Actions and information list were noted.

**AGREED** that a further submission be made

- after receipt of answers to outstanding questions
- after receipt of the amended plans and other documentation
- Councillors to again consider what is and is not acceptable about the plans / revised plans
- Councillors to consider what conditions to ask WDDC to impose if approval is granted

**AGREED** that Councillors ask to meet with the Case Officer, Ms Sophie Wright, before she starts to draft her report on the application.

#### 1231 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 16A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**, with the exception of those detailed below, which were discussed in more detail.

- a) **Item 12 – Walker Signage** – **AGREED** to query the need for road closure to erect the signs, as this forms a significant part of the total cost. (£142.86 out of a total cost of 427.88). The Chideock Society has said it will pay £135 towards the cost. **CC**
- b) **Item 13A – Walker Signage** – **AGREED** to ask John Hayes, DCC Coastal Ranger, to go ahead with providing a new fingerpost, at a cost of £135 to be paid for by the Chideock Society. **CC**

#### 1232 Planning Matters.

##### a) Applications.

**1/D/12/001275 LARKS HEY, DUCK STREET** Construct additional parking (Full)

After discussion it was agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Clerk to draw up draft comments for circulation to all prior to submission.

**CA/12/00343 LITTLE ORCHARD, MILL LANE** - Proposal: 1 No. Whitebeam – fell

*Chideock Parish Council has no objection, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendation.*

**TP/12/00352 2 FAIRFAX** - Proposal: T1 - Silver Birch - reduce 2/3 side branches; T2 - Silver Birch - 10% crown reduction; T3 - Alder - 20% crown thinning; T4 - Ash - 20% crown thinning; T5 - Alder - reduce branch length overhanging neighbour's drive, and general crown reduction by 20%; T6 - Alder - 25% crown thinning; T7 - Sycamore - crown reduction, 17m from gate, thin spindly tree; T8 - Sycamore - crown lift and minor reduction; T9 - Larch - trim two lateral branches; T10 - Alder - 30% crown thinning; T11 - Alder - 30% crown thinning; T12 - Alder - 30% crown thinning; T13 - Sycamore - 20% crown thinning; T14 - Ash - 20% crown reduction; T15 - Alder - 20% crown thinning; T16 - Ash - 30% crown thinning; T17 - Sycamore - 10% crown thinning; T18 - Sycamore - 10% crown thinning; T19 - Ash - 5% crown thinning; T20 - Beech - 5% crown thinning; T21 - Sycamores - 20% crown thinning; T22 - Field Maple - 5% crown thinning

*Chideock Parish Council has no objection, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendation.*

- b) **To consider any applications received after the agenda was circulated.** NONE.
- c) **Determinations.** NONE.
- d) **To note any determinations received after the agenda was circulated.** NONE.
- e) **Any Other Planning Matters.**

Items 29 to 41 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

##### iii. **Complaint against DCC Highways.**

Ongoing.

##### iv. **Issues regarding the WDDC Planning Process.**

Cllr Grant reported that the applicants for 1/D/12/001545 DOWN HOUSE FARM are also having problems with the WDDC planning process.

##### v. **Certificates of Lawfulness and Enforcement.**

**AGREED** that the issues regarding the enforcement process in West Dorset be taken up again in the new year. **AGREED** to ask DAPTC what has happened to last year's successful AGM motion from Chideock Parish Council regarding enforcement. **CC**

**AGREED** to ask WDDC Enforcement for an update regarding enforcement on the land adjoining the A35, as it is still occupied by people in caravans. **CC**

#### 1233 Finances.

Items 43 and 44 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

##### a) **External Audit 2011-12.**

Item 41 on the Actions & Information List was **NOTED**.

##### b) **RESOLVE** to make the following payments:-

Clerk's Salary & Expenses for October	£265.25
Chideock Village Hall Rent July, Aug, Sept	£66.00
DAPTC – Clerks Seminar	£25.00
BDO Stoy Hayward (2012 – 13)	£180.00
St Giles PCC – Cemetery Grass Cutting (2012 – 13)	£600.00

Proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Grant, carried unanimously.

##### c) **Accounts to 31 September 2012.** **NOTED.**

##### d) **Budget Monitoring to 31 September 2012.** **NOTED.** In addition, it was **NOTED** that a small underspend for the year is predicted.

- e) **Budget for 2013-14.** The draft Budget was **NOTED. RESOLVED** to recommend to the next Parish Council meeting that the Budget be approved and the precept be set at £8,591.00, the same amount as for 2012-13. Proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Grant, carried unanimously.
- f) **Foss Orchard Car Park.**
  - i. **Accounts to 31 September 2012. NOTED.**
  - ii. **Revised WDDC car park Management Contract. NOTED** that WDDC have not contacted CPC regarding renewal of the contract with them nor of termination of that contract and that as yet no arrangement has been made for DCC to take over the running of the car park.

**1234 Clapps Mead Playing Field.**  
There are no outstanding issues.

**1235 Current Consultations.**

- a) DCLG - Localising support for council tax - Council tax base and funding for local precepting authorities: Consultation – submitted by the due date.
- b) DCLG - Renegotiation of Section 106 planning obligations – submitted by the due date.
- c) HMRC - Use of rebated fuel for gritting in rural areas – submitted by the due date.
- d) DCC - Joint Health and Well-being Strategy – in preparation – will be circulated to all councillors prior to the due date of 2 November 2012.

**1236 DAPTC AGM Sat 3 November.**  
**AGREED** that Cllr Geraghty would attend if possible, and that the Clerk would definitely attend.  
**AGREED** that the three motions put forward be supported.

**1237 Motions Received with Notice.**  
None.

**1238 Correspondence.** There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors' notice.

**1239 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Chideock Parish Council.**  
The next meeting of Chideock Parish Council will be on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 10:00 am.

The meeting closed at **12:51 pm.**