

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 July 2013 at 10:00 am.

Present: Cllrs Rob Murray, Kate Geraghty, Elizabeth Grant and Roger Carey.

In attendance: The Clerk, DCC Cllr D Turner and 1 member of the public.

The meeting commenced at **10:03 am**.

1351 Apologies. PCSO Miners sent his apologies.

1352 Grant of Dispensations. None.

1353 Declarations of Defined Pecuniary Interests. None.

1354 Minutes.

RESOLVED to accept and sign, as a true record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 25 June 2013. Proposed by Cllr Carey seconded by Cllr Geraghty, carried unanimously.

Cllr Murray arrived at 10:07 am.

1355 County and District Councillors' and Police Reports.

a) The Clerk read out PCSO Miner's report:-

"I am afraid I will not be able to attend due to another couple of commitments that morning.

Can you please advise the council that there have been a couple of thefts of property from land away from home and that Beaminster SNT have offered crime prevention advice to the victims?

Please advise that these types of thefts are becoming more common as well as break-ins to outbuildings/sheds.

Beaminster SNT is actively giving crime prevention advice to all victims of crime, but should anyone require us to come out and offer some advice/reassurance then please ask them to call 101 and ask for a message to be put through to one of our team and we will get back to them."

b) DCC Cllr Turner reported as follows:-

- The DCC Vegetation leaflet and feedback – both previously circulated to councillors
- The DCC subsidised bus service review – the proposals are out for comment. The Clerk said that she only has a hardcopy and will ask for a soft copy so that she can edit it down to the services local to Bridport prior to circulating it to all councillors for comment.
- The number of DCC "heads of services" to be reduced from 5 to 3 in autumn 2013, which will lead to some staff reductions
- Community Action Groups are being introduced by DCC – groups of local volunteers who will work on such things as minor "highways" maintenance – training to be provided by DCC, at a charge to be decided
- He has been copied in on the latest reply he CPC's complaint to DCC re Mill Lane
- He has received a document about flood risk from Brian Richards – the Clerk asked for a copy of this
- Dawn Atkin, DCC Highways, has confirmed that DCC stopped doing side verging 18 months ago due to lack of money. The equipment was always hired in and so there is no obsolete equipment available. There is no budget for future side verging.

Cllr Murray said that there should be a budget for this in the context of the management of flood and surface water run-off. He intends to map out all the gullies and drain covers and suggests that CPC then ask Dawn Atkin to ensure that they are all cleared on an annual basis.

The Clerk suggested that this might be where the Community Action Group would come in to play.

Cllr Grant suggested that, if requests are made at financial year end, DCC may be able to do such work if there is money left in the budget.

Cllr Geraghty said that if it can be shown to be of financial benefit to do side verging / gully clearing to prevent flood / run off damage and potholes, surely that should justify the expenditure?

Cllr Geraghty said that she understood that there is a new management structure in DCC Highways.

Cllr Turner did not provide further information.

Cllr Geraghty spoke briefly about the recent issues regarding hedge cutting before 31 July and asked

for Cllr Turner's support. The Clerk said she would send him a copy of the guidance from English Nature. Cllr Geraghty gave Cllr Turner copies of 2 RSPB leaflets on hedges.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.

- 1356 Democratic Period.**
No matters were raised.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1357 Reports / Updates by the Clerk and Councillors.

Items 1 to 19 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**, with the exception of those detailed below, which were discussed in more detail.

- a) **Item 1 – Clerk's Seminar, 18 September, at a cost of £30. AGREED** that the Clerk can attend.
- b) **Item 4A – DAPTC AGM motion. AGREED** that Cllr Geraghty continues to work on this, for submission by the revised date of 23 August. **KG/ All CC**
- c) **Item 4B – Past DAPTC resolutions. AGREED** that the Clerk asks DAPTC
- What action does NALC take on motions passed at the NALC AGM?
 - Ask DAPTC to produce a report detailing what has happened to all the motions passed at DAPTC AGMs over, say, the last 10 years, and request that this information be provided annually for the resolutions passed at the previous DAPTC AGM.
 - Ask what action can be taken by parishes regarding parochial issues which are Dorset based and therefore not suitable for a motion at the DAPTC AGM?
- d) **Item 9 – Foss Orchard Car Park Garden.** Cllr Murray reported that he has spoken to Mr Barker.
- e) **Item 11A – Footpaths etc.** Cllr Grant said that she has spoken to Ms N Wrixton and explained that the Parish Council is too small to have a Rights of Way officer but that all councillors take this role for the footpaths near them and that the Parish Council welcomes input from members of the public, and recommends that problems are reported directly to DCC Rights of Way. **AGREED** to writ to Ms Jenny Ironmonger, Chideock Manor Estate manager, reminding her of the Manor's obligations regarding footpaths running over their land, and asking that the new tenant be briefed on his responsibilities in this regard. **CC**
- f) **Item 12 – Hedge Cutting Seahill Lane. AGREED** that this issue should be taken up early next year with a view of preventing a repeat of the evens of this July. Cllr Geraghty agreed, at the Clerk's suggestion, to prepare a report summarising what occurred and the advice received from the Police Wildlife Officer, RSPB, etc. **KG CC**

1358 Planning Matters.

- a) **Applications.**
CA/13/00156 WALLBRIDGE HOUSE, MILL LANE – T1 – Ash – Reduce by 50%
Chideock Parish Council has no objections, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendation. Care must be taken to ensure that no debris is allowed to fall into the stream.
- 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) **Ridwood Affordable Housing Development.**
Actions & Information List Items 20 AND 21 were **NOTED**
The Clerk said that she had received a copy of a letter from the Planning Officer to Magna saying that all planning conditions except that for drainage had been discharged.
- f) **Any Other Planning Matters.**
Actions & Information List Items 16, 22 - 25 were **NOTED** with the exception of those detailed below, which were discussed in more detail.
- i. Neighbourhood Planning. Clerk to ask BLAP when notes of the meeting of 26 June will be available. **CC**
 - ii. Planning Enforcement. The update was **NOTED**.
 - iii. Mill Lane Bridleway 18 and Footpath 14. **NOTED** that Mrs Lyn Crisp has written to Mr Dave Ayre, Head of DCC Countryside and Business Development regarding the grid reference discrepancies and asking for clarification.
 - iv. 2 Complaints against DCC Highways and DCC Rights of Way. The response from Mr Jonathan French, for Debbie Ward, DCC Chief Exec, was **NOTED**.
 - v. Freedom of Information requests re Mill Lane and Bridleway 18. The response from Jonathan Mair, Head of DCC Legal and Democratic Services was **NOTED. AGREED** to wait until Mrs Crisp has received a response before pursuing this further.
 - vi. Draft Local Plan. The update was **NOTED**.

Standing Orders were suspended at 11:00 for a "comfort break".

Standing Orders were resumed at 11:08.

1344 Finances.

Items 25A - 30 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.
Cllr Grant passed £20 to the Clerk from the sale of Footpath Guides.

a) **RESOLVED** to make the following payments for June:-

Clerk's Salary & Expenses for January	£221.73
CPRE – Annual Subscription	£29.00 (no change, within Budget)
Mr B Kidston for mowing of Clapps Mead play area x 5	£100.00
Online Playgrounds – swing chains	£56.40 (from Earmarked Fund, £9.40 VAT to be reclaimed)
St Giles PCC - Clock Service grant	£228.00 (within Budget)
DAPTC – New Chairman's Training	£25.00

Given that there will be no CPC meeting at the end of August, **RESOLVED** the drawing and signing a post dated cheque for:-

Clerk's net salary + office allowance for August	£215.31
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Proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Grant, carried unanimously.

b) **Change in recommended pay scales.**

RESOLVED that the revised pay scale for 2013 – 2014, as agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, be applied as from the September payroll, and back dated to 1 April 2013. **CC**

(This gives rise to a change in the Chideock Clerk's scale (Spinal Column Point 17 (Part Time)) from £8.747 to £8.833 per hour, an increase of £0.088p per hour, backdated to 1 April 2013.) **CC**

c) **Error in Precept request to WDDC.**

RESOLVED to leave the budget as is and accept the £24.00 shortfall in Precept + CT grant, which is, by chance, offset by the £25 increase in the Flow Meter rent. Proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Grant, carried unanimously.

AGREED that the Clerk ask WDDC why this error was not queried with the Parish Council and to ask for confirmation of the Band D Council Tax rate actually being applied. Also to ask for the rates for all other bands for 2012-13 and 2013-14. **CC**

d) **Accounts and Budget Monitoring to 30 June 2013.**

The accounts and Budget Monitoring report to 30 June 2013 was **NOTED**.

It was further **NOTED** that

- The Community Fund will fall below £1,000 next year on payment of the Bopper Bus grant and that fund raising is required. It was suggested that the Fete Committee be asked to hold a fund raising event next year specifically for the Community Fund, which is money held by the Parish council for the community, and that perhaps the children of the village should be involved in organising this.
- The Budget Monitoring report needs to have the Clerk's pay rise factored in for the next quarterly review. **CC**

e) **Foss Orchard Car Park.**

i. **WDDC Contract. RESOLVED** that the CPC ask for the contract to be terminated as per the e-mail dated 26 June 2013 from Kevin Warren, WDDC Legal. Proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Carey, carried unanimously. **CC**

AGREED that enforcement is a separate issue, and that this will be actioned if it is determined to be necessary. The Clerk will investigate options before the next meeting. **CC**

ii. **Polite Notices. AGREED** that the format should be changed slightly and that there should then be a trial of these to be reviewed at the September meeting. **CC**

f) **Flow Meter Lease.** Payment to CPC of the annual rent amount for 2013-14 was **NOTED**.

1359 Clapps Mead Playing Field.

Items 31 – 33A on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

a) **Triple Link Bridge.** The Clerk reported that all of the triple link bridge has now been removed, bar one post. **AGREED** to leave as it for now and to investigate an alternative piece of equipment.

b) **Weekly Inspections. AGREED** that the weekly inspections (as required for insurance purposes) of the playing field play area and equipment be carried out on a monthly rota basis and that this be passed to the Management Group for action.

c) **Junior Swing chains.** Replacement chains have been purchased and received. They have not been fitted yet as one of the top fixings will not come undone. This will have to be cut and replaced. Cllr Grant to action. **EG**

d) **Land Registry Plan Error.** The Clerk aims to write to the Land Registry in the next 2 weeks, asking them to correct the registration to include this land. Evidence to be sent is a) the original 1938 conveyance b) the 1978 sale of a small area c) the draft license and d) evidence from 2008 that the then owner of Meadow Cottage recognised this license, and thus CPC's ownership of the land, when selling the property. **CC**

e) Other Matters.

- i. Cllr Murray's report was **NOTED. RESOLVED** to authorise the purchase of a heavy duty hedge trimmer at a cost of no more than £100. Proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Murray, carried unanimously. **RM/CC**

Cllr Grant said that Cllr Murray and Mrs Lyn Crisp have both agreed to be on the Playing Field Management Group and that she would convene a meeting of the group as soon as possible. **EG**

1360 Flood Management Plan for the Winniford Valley.

Items 34 - 36 on the Actions & Information List were **NOTED**.

- a) **Foss Orchard River Bank.** **AGREED** that the Clerk continue to try to get estimates from Kingcombe Aquacare, and then from local business such as Mr Mudford and C N Richards for the same work. **CC**
- b) **Side Verging.** Cllr Carey gave an update on the side verging being carried out in Seahill Lane and, unexpectedly, in other lanes in the parish. Cllr Grant said that, despite the problems with disposal of the debris, there has been a very positive reaction from residents over this work.

1361 Current Consultations. None.

1362 Motions Received with Notice. None.

1363 Correspondence. There were no other items of correspondence to be brought to Councillors' notice.

1364 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 24 September 2013 at 10:00 am. A Planning Committee meeting may be required if there are any urgent planning applications received.

The meeting closed at **12:15 pm**.