

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held remotely on
Friday 23rd April 2021 – 7.00pm as per Section 78
of the Coronavirus Act 2020 – meeting held via Zoom Platform**
*This meeting having been reconvened following the postponement
of the previous meeting scheduled for 14th April 2021 (s.243 LGA)*

Present (remotely): Cllrs Wilson (Chair), Cockburn, Conroy, Greer, Hughes and Spearing

In Attendance: Paul Hayward (Clerk & representing EDDC as Yarty Ward member),
Michael Davis, Hon. Tree Warden

Five members of the public present via Zoom webinar.

Livestream broadcast viewed by public.

*The meeting was also broadcast via Facebook “Livestream”
to the Chardstock Parish Council Facebook page*

	<p>Public Forum: Meeting started at 7.00pm. <i>Chair outlined procedural rules for online meetings. Chair opened meeting and thanked all those attending and watching.</i></p> <p>i) Reports from Police/Honorary Representatives. No Police report had been received. Hon. Tree Warden was invited to speak on a later agenda item.</p> <p>ii) Public Forum. No public speakers.</p> <p>With no further public questions or representations, Chair closed the Public Forum session at 7.05pm.</p>
20/178	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1))</p> <p>No apologies received. All members of the Parish Council in attendance. Other apologies received: None.</p>
20/179	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: No declarations made.</p>
20/180	<p>To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960: No business considered as confidential.</p>
20/181a)	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 10th March 2021: It was proposed by Cllr. Cockburn, seconded by Cllr Spearing, that these minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Resolved 5 votes for, 1 abstention (PH).</p> <p>Chair was unable to sign the minutes due to current circumstances. This will be done at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes: None. Clerk confirmed all action points either completed or in progress to be reported upon at a later meeting.</p>
20/181b)	<p>To note the postponement of the Ordinary meeting scheduled for 14/4/21: Noted.</p>

Initial:

20/182	<p>To consider matters pertaining to the Coronavirus situation as it relates to the Parish of Chardstock: Nothing to report other than continued support for anyone who requires help.</p>
20/183	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <i>Chair proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow public representations on these planning matters, Resolved unanimously.</i></p> <p>a)i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: 20/2905/LBC – Mill House, Chardstock. EX13 7BY Replacement of windows in listed building (as per published details) Applicants were present to make a representation in support of the application. Supported by members as replacement were like-for-like albeit with double glazed units within, which was felt to be a positive contribution towards heat efficiency and thus promoting carbon reduction actions on house heating. The building already benefits from other DGU and thus it was felt that a precedent had been established. <i>Support proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Spearing. Resolved unanimously</i> 21/0982/FUL – Ivy Green Farm, Chardstock. EX13 7BY Construction of two timber “glamping” pods. 3 members of the public spoke in objection to the application. After a lengthy discussion, <i>it was proposed by Cllr. Conroy, seconded by Cllr. Spearing, that the Parish Council did NOT support the application on the following grounds:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) That the hardstanding track proposed could exacerbate flooding issues in the village</i> <i>2) That the access into the site was badly sited and posed a risk to road users and those leaving the site (being unfamiliar with local traffic and road conditions)</i> <i>3) That the materials proposed for the access track would cause a noise nuisance</i> <i>4) That recreational use of the proposed pods would lead to noise nuisance and thus remove the adjacent property owner’s peaceful enjoyment of their land.</i> <i>5) That there would exist a risk from open fires on site to the thatched properties nearby.</i> <i>6) That the roofing materials proposed were not in keeping with the existing landscape.</i> <i>7) That conditions would be necessary to limit external lighting to conform with the Chardstock Parish N/Plan policy on “dark skies”</i> <i>8) That the proposal contravened CPNP Pols. 03b) 03c) and 04a)</i> <i>9) That the extant “dog hotel” planning consent remains ‘live’ and should be annulled before any further planning considerations were put forward to prevent the risk of dual developments on site causing a cumulative impact on the area.</i> <p><i>Within the proposal was a request that the Yarty Ward member should also object. Proposal to NOT support was resolved unanimously.</i></p> <p><i>Clerk: Please submit these comments to the Planning Authority and notify the Ward Member of Council’s opposition accordingly.</i></p> <p>a)ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as detailed in supplementary agenda circulated and published online: None to be considered. b) To consider determinations/decisions advised: As per published agenda. See parish information website for further details. Noted. c) To consider Tree (planning) matters: None advised. d) To consider Planning Appeals lodged / determined: One pending: 20/00068/REF – Chubb’s Yard, Chardstock (Appeal lodged) e) To consider Planning Correspondence: None received.</p>

Initial:

<p>20/183 (continued)</p>	<p>f) To consider planning applications to be heard at next EDDC Planning Committee meeting on 5th May 2021: Clerk reported that application 20/2133/FUL (Myrtle Farm) would be reconsidered at the next Planning Committee meeting after applicant was asked to submit further written justification for their application. Noted. It was agreed that a member of the Council would attend to make a further representation against this application.</p> <p>g) Planning Consultations in progress: None.</p> <p>h) To consider policy on planning enforcement matters within the parish: Cllr. Hughes queried the current Enforcement reporting system which did not appear to be functioning correctly on the EDDC Planning Website. Specifically, there was no explanation of why an enforcement visit had been necessary, nor a status report of how many enforcement cases had been opened against a particular named property. It was agreed that Clerk would contact EDDC Enforcement (and copy in the Ward member) to seek clarity on the reporting system and how results/outcomes were published and recorded. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Please report back to Council when response received.</p>
<p>20/184</p>	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) Financial Payments for April 2021 were considered - £1985.34 (including payment of a late invoice for Parish Lengthsman services) Payment proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously. RFO: Please make these payments accordingly.</p> <p>b) To consider items of expenditure authorised in April under Chair's/Clerk's delegated authority. <i>None considered.</i></p> <p>c) To receive update on progress with internal and external auditing arrangements for 2020/21 AGAR submission. <i>RFO provided update for members. No questions raised.</i></p> <p>d) To consider virements between reserves as a result of 2020/21 year-end financial position. Virements proposed: £80 (balance) of Cricket Club Projects Reserve to be moved into Play Park Res. £1871 (surplus from 2020/21) to remain within unearmarked reserves for time being. £100 to be vired into AED Sinking Fund reserve (as per budget) £100 to be vired into NLS Sinking Fund reserve (as per budget) Proposed by Chair. Resolved unanimously. RFO: Please undertake virements as directed.</p> <p>e) To approve payment of £50 (net) plus VAT towards collaborative costs of an annual subscription to "Grants Online" database (£99 cost to be shared between CPC and Chardstock Community Hall Trustees). Proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Hughes. Resolved unanimously. RFO: Please make payment and subscribe accordingly. Please liaise with CCHT to seek reimbursement of the 50% shared costs).</p>

	Business to be considered:
20/185 a&b)	<p>a) To consider matters pertaining to trees in the parish; and</p> <p>b) To consider arrangements and costings for potential tree planting projects in the parish for the latter part of the year: <i>Chair proposed that both matters be considered as a single agenda item. Resolved unanimously. Standing Orders had already been suspended to allow public speaking as per 20/183 above.</i></p> <p>Hon. Tree Warden presented a report to Council with Cllr. Spearing. Report included: Blackdown Hills AONB liaison Chardstock Tree Report kindly compiled by Mr. Davis Update on ELMS scheme (20 sites in BDH area) Proposals for hedge-laying and tree-tagging Proposals to engage with local school for planning projects Plans to submit a regular article to the Parish Newsletter for Tree matters in conjunction with the Chardstock Eco-Group</p> <p>Cllr. Spearing assured Council that the Eco-Group were liaising closely with the Tree Warden to promote, safeguard and improve trees in the Chardstock area. A list had been prepared of local residents happy to accept trees to be planted on their land.</p> <p>Chair thanked Mr. Davis and members (and Chair) of the Eco-group for their continued efforts to protect the parish environment.</p>
20/185c)	<p>c) To consider matters pertaining to the registration of The George Public House as an asset of community value (ACV) and to receive an update on further correspondence in this regard:</p> <p>Cllr. Cockburn was invited by Chair to provide an update. Following information received by the Clerk from EDDC, it had become clear that there was no legal justification for an 18month moratorium on new registration bids and thus the newly created ACV group (chaired by Cllr. Cockburn) was due to meet on 28/4 to discuss progress and to formulate a bid submission on behalf of the Parish Council (this being considered the most effective entity to lodge such a bid). Cllr. Cockburn mentioned that a local resident had taken it upon themselves to smarten the frontage of the pub up to enhance its appeal.</p> <p><i>It was subsequently proposed by Cockburn, seconded by Cllr. Greer, that the Parish Council agreed “in principle” to submit a new ACV registration bid to EDDC subject to all members of the Parish Council seeing the bid submission documents beforehand and having the opportunity to suggest and make edits as they deemed appropriate, or to object to any particular wording, with a deadline date of the 30th April 2021 and that Chair be delegated to submit the substantive approved bid via the Clerk as Council’s Proper Officer.</i></p>

<p>20/185d)</p>	<p>d) To consider update from Chardstock Climate Change Emergency Working Party group (CCCEWP):</p> <p>Notwithstanding the discussion above, Cllr. Spearing (as Chair of this private group) reported back to Council on recent activity/events. The group had met on the 1st April and had resolved to change its name to Chardstock Eco-Group (as referenced above).</p> <p>Recent group activities included: A 2nd parish litter pick (7 bags collected, as opposed to 37 previously) Liaison with EDDC Waste and Recycling collection officers to deal with issues relating to material falling from vehicles during collections. Meeting at Play Park to consider possible projects for the “native habitat” area to the rear of the park site with a view to establishing a ‘scope of works’ for the area concerned. Cllr. Spearing asked for Council’s consent to liaise with Parish Lengthsman in relation to future maintenance works on the site. On the 19th May, there was a presentation planned by Dr. Martin Price (Friends of the Earth) and parishioners would be invited to attend. The group was intending to create a “Resilience Plan” to help put in place measures to help the parish cope with, and adapt to, climate change locally. Cllr. Spearing and Mr. Davis had been working on Westcombes to improve the appearance of the planted trees thereon, and had removed the metal guards and tidied the area generally. Chair thanked all involved for their efforts and asked that the Eco-group continue to liaise with the PC so that both sides were aware of what the other was considering or had resolved to proceed with.</p>
<p>20/185e)</p>	<p>e) To consider submission of articles for Parish Magazine - June edition (deadline for May’s edition having passed):</p> <p>Because of the timing of forthcoming meetings, and the delays caused by recent sad events to the hosting of Council meetings, it was felt that Chair should use her best judgement to prepare a suitable submission for the Parish Magazine and that the matter be considered at the next Ordinary meeting as per usual. The issue of continued dog mess in the Parish was raised again and members noted comments from residents divided on the issue.</p>
<p>20/185f)</p>	<p>f) To consider update on matters pertaining to the proposed (and previously approved) plans to install a public bench amenity at Holy City Cross:</p> <p>Clerk provided a verbal report on progress to date following objections from both members of the public and members of the Parish Council. Clerk confirmed that the land in question was not registered at the Land Registry but that this did not mean that the land was unowned. Chair advised that she had spoken to a local landowner who was aware of the land but had denied being the owner themselves. Cllr. Spearing raised a firm objection to the proposed installation citing the fact that the Council may be acting unlawfully and be advocating trespass on private land by continuing with the plan to install a bench (which had since been acquired from EDDC for £0 and was being refurbished). It was noted that the occupants of the property opposite routinely maintained the space and cleared a large area of undergrowth each year, and that Devon County Council had a grit bin on the site, and cleared a small section themselves for visibility (safety) purposes.</p>

Initial:

<p>20/185f) Continued</p>	<p>After further discussion, it was felt that the risks of the legal owner coming forward (and objecting to the bench) were minimal and that should this happen, Council would immediately remove the bench and restore the area to its previous condition. It was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Cockburn, that the installation proceed, using the refurbished bench, and that the bench be secured with the minimum of impact to the site (ground anchors etc) in conjunction with the Parish Lengthsman. Resolved 5 votes for, 1 against (PS). Cllr. Spearing asked that his objection be formally recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Clerk: Please note and arrange for installation to be undertaken, in liaison with those involved in the refurbishment and the Parish Lengthsman.</p>
<p>20/185g)</p>	<p>g) To consider proposal for Parish Council to pay for signage near church re: dog waste nuisance:</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Hughes, that Council does not pay for such signage and does not wish to become involved in this matter, referring residents instead to the Diocese as the land in question falls under their jurisdiction and responsibility. Resolved unanimously. Clerk was directed to return to the resident who raised the initial suggestion and explain the Parish Council’s reasoning for this decision. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Chair: Please mention this topic when compiling content for June’s Parish Magazine.</p>
<p>20/185h)</p>	<p>h) To consider matters pertaining to municipal waste collection in village:</p> <p>As this matter had been discussed above (see 20/185d) it was felt that no further discussion was necessary.</p>
<p>20/185i)</p>	<p>i) To consider Parish Council’s response to EDDC Community Asset Transfer Policy (draft) Consultation:</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Cockburn, seconded by Cllr. Greer, that Council submits a comment of support for the policy as circulated. Resolved unanimously. Clerk: Please respond accordingly.</p>
<p>20/185j)</p>	<p>j) To consider Council’s response to Devon Authorities Waste Plan Consultation:</p> <p>It was noted that the deadline for the consultation had passed during the period between the original (postponed) date of this meeting and today. Therefore, no response was possible. Noted</p>
<p>20/185k)</p>	<p>k) To consider proposal for purchase of a quantity of litter picking “grabbers” for parish amenity use:</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Spearing, that the Parish Council spend up to £50 on such items; authority being delegated to the Clerk to obtain as many as was possible within that purchasing limit. Resolved unan. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Items to be stored in parish.</p>

20/185l)	<p>l) To consider request for urgent maintenance of the noticeboard by the Community Hall: Clerk was asked to liaise with Parish Lengthsman to organise suitable repairs to both the back boards and the locking system as soon as was practicable. Clerk: Please note and arrange accordingly.</p>
20/185m)	<p>m) To consider proposal to upgrade broadband amenity at the Community Hall from BASIC to FIBRE to provide greater amenity to parishioners and to allow faster digital access and connectivity for Parish Council meetings: Clerk outlined costs involved, which would add approx. £80 to Council's IT costs each year (within budget already approved). Proposed by Cllr. Spearing, seconded by Cllr. Hughes. Resolved unanimously. Clerk: Please arrange with broadband provider.</p>
20/186	<p>To consider & review Maintenance, Highway and Footpath (MHF) matters: Council had received correspondence from a parishioner regarding the use of glyphosates in the parish. A vigorous debate ensued between members. It was felt that a resolution of Council was unnecessary but that, for the time being, any such weeding in the parish undertaken by the Council should be done by hand and not use glyphosates. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Greer, that authority should be delegated to the Clerk to undertake a service of the CPT Mower at the Play Area to determine its current condition and long-term viability as an asset. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Clerk was asked to seek statistics from DCC (HO and Cllr. Chubb) as to the timescales (and longevity) of pothole repairs in the parish. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. The issue of water egress on the Chardstock to Holy City road was raised again and Clerk was asked to take this matter up with DCC Highways (and Cllr. Chubb) and to liaise with the two persons who had sustained injuries in that area. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Members received a verbal report on parish footpath matters. Nothing significant to report or action. P3 warden liaising with Parish Lengthsman to organise works as and when required.</p>
20/187	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair: None raised</p>
20/188	<p>Correspondence received, not already circulated: None received.</p>
20/189	<p>Date of next meeting: Next meeting of council was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council scheduled for 5th May 2021 at the earlier time of 7.00pm, to be held remotely as per Section 78 Coronavirus Act 2020. The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was scheduled for 9th June 2021, venue to be determined.</p>
20/190	<p><i>Consideration of this agenda item was not required and no motion was proposed.</i></p>
20/191	<p><i>Consideration of this agenda item was not required and no motion was proposed.</i></p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm</p>

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Friday 23rd April 2021 – 7.00pm as per Section 78
of the Coronavirus Act 2020 – meeting held via Zoom Platform**
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of the previous meeting scheduled for 14th April 2021 (s.243 LGA)*

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chair)

Initial: