

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs Wilson (Chair), Cockburn and Greer (quorate)

In Attendance: Paul Hayward (Clerk) (also representing East Devon District Council)

Cllr. Iain Chubb, Devon County Council

Michael Davis, Hon. Tree Warden (HTW)

8 members of the public in attendance.

	<p><i>Chair outlined fire regulations and CV19 precautions applicable.</i></p> <p>Meeting started at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Public Forum:</p> <p>i) No Police report available. Mr. Davis (HTW) was invited to speak at the relevant part of the agenda.</p> <p>ii) a) Verbal report from Cllr. Chubb. Written report published. b) Verbal report from Cllr. Hayward. No public questions to either Councillor.</p> <p>iii) No members of the public wished to speak at this point.</p> <p>Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.50pm.</p>
21/001	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1))</p> <p>Cllr. Conroy sent his apologies (conflicting engagement). Chair proposed that absence be approved. Seconded Cllr. Cockburn. Resolved unanimously.</p>
21/002	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>Cllr. Greer declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 21/006a)i)ONE) as she was the applicant. Ordinarily, Cllr. Greer would have to leave the meeting room whilst the matter was discussed and voted upon but Clerk reminded Councillors that meeting would be inquorate if that were to happen. Therefore, Clerk duly suggested that Cllr. Greer seek a dispensation under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011 (sub-section A) which would afford her a dispensation to remain in the room as her absence would cause the business of Council to be impeded. Cllr. Greer made a formal Dispensation Request accordingly. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Cockburn, that the Dispensation be approved. 2 votes for, 1 abstention (PG). Resolved nem. con. No other declarations made at this point of the meeting.</p>
21/003	<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:</p> <p>No business considered as confidential.</p>
21/004	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 27th May 2021:</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Cockburn, seconded by Chair, that these minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting. 2 votes for, 1 abstention (PG). Resolved nem. con.</p> <p>Chair signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting held 27/05/2021.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes: None</p> <p><i>Clerk: Please publish these approved minutes on Council's formal website.</i></p>

Initial:

21/005	<p>To consider matters pertaining to CV19 situation as it relates to the parish of Chardstock: Clerk reported that a sum of money (see accounts) remained unspent in the reserve allocated for expenditure in connection with CV19 support. Nothing further discussed.</p>
21/006	<p>Planning matters to be considered: a)i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: ONE: 21/1474/FUL – Culverfield, Tytherleigh. EX13 7BQ Change of use of garage into disabled access holiday accommodation. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Cockburn, that Council did support this planning application. 2 votes for, 1 abstention. Resolved nem. Con.</p> <p>At this point, Cllr. Greer requested that her dispensation be annulled. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Cockburn, that the Dispensation be annulled with immediate effect. 2 votes for, 1 abstention (PG). Resolved nem. con.</p> <p>TWO: 21/0893/VAR – Earlys Garage, Chardstock EX13 7BW Variation of Condition 2 (approved consent 20/0372/FUL) Chair invited applicant to speak in support of application if she wished to. It was proposed by Cllr. Cockburn, seconded by Cllr. Greer, that Council did support this planning application. Resolved unanimously. Clerk: Please submit these comments to the Local Planning Authority by the consultee deadline noted.</p> <p>a)ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members. None received for consideration.</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: As per agenda published.</p> <p>c) Tree (Planning) Matters: None advised.</p> <p>d) Appeals lodged/in progress: None advised.</p> <p>e) Planning correspondence received: None received.</p> <p>f) Planning applications to be considered at forthcoming EDDC Planning meetings where the Parish Council may wish to make a representation: None advised.</p> <p>g) Planning Consultations pending/in progress; to agree response from the Parish Council (if appropriate): None advised.</p> <p>h) To consider Parish Council’s policy on planning enforcement matters within the parish of Chardstock: This matter had been previously discussed and Chair suggested that no further discussion was warranted until another enforcement matter came before Council.</p>

21/007	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To consider and, if thought fit, to approve payments for June 2021 in the sum of £790.20 as per schedule previously circulated and published online (as identified at the time of the agenda publication). Approval proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously. RFO: Please note and make payments accordingly on the due date.</p> <p>b) To consider delegating authority to the RFO to make any additional payments as may be required in June; any such payments to be ratified by the Parish Council at the Ordinary meeting in July. Approval of this delegated authority proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Cockburn. Resolved unanimously. RFO: Please note and use delegated authority if and when necessary. Please report back to Council in July if used.</p> <p>c) To consider, and review, financial information and reports for June 2021. Noted. <i>No questions to RFO from members of Council.</i></p> <p>d) To consider items of expenditure authorised in June under Chair's / Clerk's delegated authority. <i>None specified.</i></p>
	<p>Business to be considered:</p>
21/008a)	<p>a) To consider matters pertaining to the two Casual Vacancies in the parish:</p> <p>Clerk provided a verbal report and advised that the deadline for an election "petition" had come and gone without any petition being received. Accordingly, the Parish Council was free to fill the two vacancies via the process of co-option and statutory notices from EDDC (and local posters) had been published on noticeboards and on social media with a deadline of 18th June 2021 for nominations. Clerk requested that the matter be re-considered at the meeting of the 7th July whereupon nominees could speak and be considered and voted upon by members of the Parish Council. Agreed. Clerk: Please add to agenda for 7th July 2021 and send a copy of the agenda summons to any persons interested in standing for co-option.</p>
21/008b)	<p>b) i) To consider matters pertaining to trees and hedges in the parish, ii) To consider report from RFO as to grant availability for tree planting projects:</p> <p>Hon. Tree Warden, Mr Davis, was asked to speak by Chair. He advised that an article has been submitted to the July edition of the Parish Newsletter on this subject. Local tree nurseries had confirmed to him that no tree stock would be available until August/September. Mr Davis had been in contact with Blackdown Hills AONB co-ordinator, Tim Youngs, and that discussions had been very encouraging. Additional sites were needed in the parish for further tree planting (ideally one hectare to take advantage of recently launched England Woodland Creation Grant offer, part of a national £500m scheme to promote woodland creation on a nationwide scale. Locally, Ash Dieback was once again making a mark on the landscape and Mike was talking to the DCC Resilience Group to establish a plan of action.</p>

	<p>21/008b)ii) Continued</p> <p>Clerk confirmed that access to the Grants Online database was now “live” and that he was actively seeking grant funding opportunities for tree planting projects in liaison with Mr. Davis and the Chardstock Eco-Group. Noted.</p>
<p>21/008c)</p>	<p>c) To consider update on the re-registration bid on The George as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with the registration authority, EDDC; report from Cllr. Cockburn.</p> <p>Cllr. Cockburn advised that there had been no further correspondence from EDDC and that a decision was due by 8th July 2021. Clerk confirmed that Ward Member had offered their wholehearted support for the bid and was also awaiting the decision notice.</p> <p>Cllr. Cockburn confirmed that the Chardstock ACV Action group now has 22 members and has opened a bank account to allow it to operate as a financially independent body from the Parish Council. A website will be created shortly in addition to the creation of a Comms. Officer role within the volunteer group.</p> <p>Cllr. Cockburn advised that – above all else – the group simply wish to see the pub re-open as a community venue for the benefit of all but that the successful ACV registration would provide them with a stronger hand should the building ever be put up for sale by the freeholder.</p> <p><i>Clerk: Please add to next agenda (albeit the decision may not have been made by that time).</i></p>
<p>21/008d)</p>	<p>d) To consider update from the Chardstock Eco-Group on ongoing and future projects in the parish:</p> <p>Chair invited Paul Spearing and Vicky Whitworth to provide a report to Council. Following the presentation, there was a subsequent discussion between members of Council and the Eco-group to try and resolve some misunderstandings regarding the potential projects being put forward and the land available for them within the area under the Council’s control and responsibility. It was suggested that Paul Spearing meet with the Chair of the Council “onsite” to discuss the various options and then report back to Council with outcome. Clerk was asked – in the meantime – to contact the Council’s insurance company to ascertain their thoughts and risk-consideration of a proposed “eco-pond” within the curtilage of the wooded area to the rear of the play area.</p> <p><i>Clerk: Please note and action as quickly as possible to provide a report to members when Council next meets in July.</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Please update members on the outcome of the site meeting with the Eco-Group.</i></p>
<p>21/008e)</p>	<p>e) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter (PN) for the July edition:</p> <p>Eco-Group are submitting their own articles to the PN.</p> <p>HTW has submitted articles regarding tree planting and habitat protection.</p> <p>Chair offered to prepare an article with relevant items of interest, including matters pertaining to the Casual Vacancies, and submit accordingly.</p>

Initial:

21/008f)	<p>f) To consider review of the Chardstock Action Plan 2021-22:</p> <p>It was suggested that a repair to the noticeboard at Holy City Cross be added as an Action Point. Agreed.</p> <p>Preparation of the Emergency Plan. Cllr. Greer offered to write a report outlining the process for the delivery of a workable and manageable community EP.</p> <p>The STFI project would be reconsidered at the next Ordinary Meeting on 7/7.</p>
21/008g)	<p>g) To consider correspondence from parishioners regarding parish weed control measures and to agree a course of action re: works and methodology:</p> <p>Clerk advised that correspondence had been received asking when weeds were scheduled to be removed from certain areas within the village, as these were perceived by residents to be unsightly and – in some cases – dangerous.</p> <p>Clerk reported that correspondence had also been received advocating a policy of NOT weeding. Clerk reminded members that it was not the Parish Council’s responsibility to undertake such work but that DCC (the statutory authority) was unlikely to attend to such matters on budgetary grounds. The Parish Council did possess a power to undertake such works and had the necessary accreditation.</p> <p>After discussion, and input from members of the public present, it was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Greer, that the weeds be removed by mechanical means (ie. without the use of glyphosates) in the first instance as soon as was practicable via the service of the Parish Lengthsman and that, thereafter, the Parish Council would purchase a “weed lance” to destroy the weeds with heat. Training of this equipment would be undertaken by PL and Clerk. Clerk was duly delegated to purchase the necessary equipment. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Clerk: Please note and action accordingly in liaison with the Lengthsman as a matter of urgency.</p>
21/009	<p>To consider Parish Maintenance, Highways and Footpath (P3) matters:</p> <p>a) Parish Maintenance matters had been discussed and considered above. Clerk was asked to ask Lengthsman to attend to Play Park grass-cutting, weeding and hedge-cutting as a priority and maintain this schedule of works throughout the growing season to safeguard users and deter wildlife from using the play park.</p> <p>b) Clerk reported that Highways were being fixed quite quickly at present but asked all present to continue reporting to DCC via the web portal and copy in the Clerk so a record could be kept of any persistent “hot spots”.</p> <p>c) The matter of the water egress on the Cuckholds Pit road was being dealt with by DCC and SWW although both sides were claiming that responsibility fell onto the other party. DCC were assessing their evidence and would report back as soon as they were able to.</p> <p>d) Discussion amongst Councillors on various footpath matters around parish. Question raised by HTW regarding use of glyphosates on public rights of way. Clerk: Please seek answer to this question from DCC PROW team.</p>
21/010	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only:</p> <p>None raised.</p>

Initial:

21/011	Correspondence received; that not already circulated to members: None received.
21/012	Date of next meeting: Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 7 th July 2021, 7.00pm start time The meeting has been brought forward from the original published date of 14/7.
21/013	"It was proposed by the Chair that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Members to agree upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item 21/003 above." Resolved unanimously.
21/014	Matters to be considered in committee session: i) Request from Clerk for amendment to employee terms and conditions. Council agreed "in principle" to the request from Clerk but asked that a further report be provided – together with assurance from relevant professional bodies – that the proposal was sound and would not place the Council in any legal difficulties or breach any powers available to the Council. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly and bring matter back to Council at the earliest opportunity. ii) To consider financial implications of such arrangements. This matter was deferred in light of the above proposal.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm

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Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Chair)

Initial: