

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2022 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Wilson (Chair), Greer (Vice-Chair), Eames, Hughes, Reeve and Sonnenberg (quorate).

In Attendance: Paul Hayward (Clerk) (also representing East Devon District Council)
plus 3 members of the public in attendance.

	<p>Meeting started at 7.50pm due to overrun of a prior meeting (the Annual Parish Meeting). The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions and CV19 compliance and safety guidance.</p> <p>Public Forum:</p> <p>i) No Police Officer in attendance and no crime report available. ii) No report to Council from Hon. Footpath Warden on P3 matters. iii) Reports from County & District Councillors. a) No report received from Cllr. Chubb. b) Brief verbal report from Cllr. Hayward. No public questions to Cllr. Hayward. iv) No public representations at this point.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.55pm.</p>
22/041i)	<p>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above. All members of the Parish Council were present.</p>
22/041ii)	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) None received as all members present.</p>
22/041iii)	<p>To receive any other apologies for absence: Apologies received from Cllr. Iain Chubb (DCC) and the Hon. Tree Warden, Michael Davis. Noted.</p>
22/042	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: Chair declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Community Hall. No other declarations made. <i>Chair highlighted the need for members to declare any interests that arose during the meeting.</i></p>
22/043	<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: Chair proposed that agenda item 22/045 be considered in Part Two (confidential committee session) due to the nature of the subject matter and the associated confidential and legal issues involved. Seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved.</p>

Initial:

22/044	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 9th February 2022:</p> <p>Approval of the minutes of this Ordinary meeting was proposed by the Chair, subject to three minor typographical corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Minutes (as amended) signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes: <i>None.</i></p>
	<p><i>Agenda item 22/045 (Matters pertaining to the Chardstock Community Shop) was deferred into Part Two business for consideration as above.</i></p>
22/046	<p>To consider Parish Maintenance, Highways and Footpath (P3) matters:</p> <p>i) Clerk confirmed that Lengthsman was undertaking P3/Parish works as directed and that further works were planned. Members encouraged to refer anything awry to the Clerk for action.</p> <p>ii) Matters pertaining to speeding, traffic volumes and driver behaviour had been covered comprehensively in the Annual Parish Meeting earlier this evening (see minutes). No further discussion.</p> <p>iii) Cllr. Eames reported that the Hook highway repairs had been completed.</p> <p>iv) It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that the Parish Council agrees to jointly purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Speed Unit in conjunction with All Saints Parish Council (as per their concurrent resolution) together with the installation of a pole on Westcombes (subject to DCC approval) and an additional mounting bracket to allow dual direction traffic monitoring. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Clerk: Please liaise with DCC Highways Officer to reconnoitre the proposed siting location and to obtain agreement and costs for the VAS unit and pole(s).</p> <p>v) It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Sonnenberg, that the Parish Council apply to DCC to seek the extension of the 20-mph speed limit zone from its current location to the point where the existing 30mph speed limit changes to the National Speed limit west of Hoopers Farm. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Clerk: Please action accordingly and keep members abreast of developments and timescales.</p> <p>vi) Members discussed the possibility/practicalities/legalities of the installation of additional traffic calming measures in the village to reduce speed and minimise risks to pedestrians, road users and parked vehicles. It was proposed by Cllr. Sonnenberg, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that the Parish Council should enter into dialogue with DCC (via our division member, Cllr. Chubb and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr. Stuart Hughes) to ascertain the County's position on new traffic calming measures in rural villages and to determine whether any such measures would be considered in Chardstock parish. 4 votes for, 2 against. Resolved nem con.</p> <p>Clerk: Please action accordingly and keep members abreast of developments and timescales.</p>

22/047	<p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: No applications received for members to consider.</p> <p>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members. No applications received for Council to consider.</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: None advised.</p> <p>c) Tree (Planning) Matters: No applications received for Council to consider.</p> <p>d) Appeals lodged/in progress: None advised.</p> <p>e) Planning correspondence received: <i>Clerk asked for Chair's consent to speak on a planning matter as the Ward Member. Agreed.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Hayward outlined recent correspondence from Natural England to EDDC relating to nutrient loading in the Axe Valley catchment area and explained how this correspondence would have the effect of halting all residential development in Chardstock for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Two members of the public also spoke on this subject at the Chair's invitation. It was noted that the Chardstock Eco-Group were also involved in this matter (via their water monitoring efforts) and they kindly offered to keep Council up to date on developments in this regard.</p> <p>Chair thanked Cllr. Hayward for his help in this regard and for bringing the matter to Council's attention. <i>Clerk resumed his duties.</i></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>
22/048	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) It was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that Council payments for March 2022 be approved (£2694.87). Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>b) RFO Report for March 2022 received and noted.</p> <p>c) No questions to the RFO on the report or finances in general.</p> <p>d) No items of expenditure incurred under delegated authority to report.</p> <p>e) To consider proposal to create an Audit Fee Reserve within Council's accounts. RFO explained basis for this recommendation. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Hughes, to create such an earmarked reserve fund. Resolved unanimously. <i>RFO: Please note and action accordingly.</i></p> <p>f) To consider proposal to add additional bank mandate signatories to Unity Trust Bank account. It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that Councillors Hughes and Sonnenberg be added to the signatory list for UTB. Resolved unanimously. <i>RFO: Please note and action accordingly as expeditiously as possible.</i></p> <p>g) To consider report from RFO on forthcoming AGAR (2) (Exemption) submission timetable provided by RFO. Noted and timetable agreed by members as realistic and in accordance with guidelines. <i>RFO: Please keep members abreast of submission timetable and action</i></p>

Initial:

	accordingly.
	Business to be considered:
22/049a)	a) To receive update from Clerk on CiLCA training for officers. Clerk advised that he had applied to take part in the 2022-23 intake for training in this regard. Noted.
22/049b)	b) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the May 2022 edition: Potential article submissions: Purchase of VAS (with All Saints PC) Extension of 20mph limit within village via DCC Detailed article on recent Natural England ruling re: planning. Report from Chair on the Annual; Parish Meeting. <i>All other content delegated to the Chair to submit on Council's behalf.</i> Chair: Please submit appropriate article to the Newsletter Editor.
22/049c)	c) To consider whether the Parish Council wished to submit a formal submission to the DCC Carbon Plan Consultation. It was proposed that a joint submission on the Parish Council's behalf be arranged via the Chair and Mr. Paul Spearing, representing the Chardstock Eco-Group. Resolved unanimously. Chair thanked Mr Spearing on behalf of the Council for his time, research and efforts in this respect.
22/049d)	d) To receive update on the QJ22 EDDC Tree Planting Project and other matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish: Clerk updated members on recent planting activity. Chair suggested this matter be deferred until the Hon. Tree Warden was present to answer questions etc. Agreed.
22/049e)	e) To consider arrangements for any parish celebrations in recognition/celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022: Clerk advised that the Jubilee badges had been ordered and received as per recent resolution. Noted. Clerk was asked to deliver these to the nominated QJ22 organiser in the village (FP). Clerk: Please note and action accordingly.
22/050	Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None raised.
22/051	Date of next meeting: Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 11 th May 2022 7.00pm start time. This would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels.
22/052	It was proposed by Cllr. Greer 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 22/043 above. Seconded by Cllr. Eames. Resolved unanimously.

Initial:

All members of the public left the meeting other than Mr Spearing and Mr Wheeler who were invited to remain in light of the business to be discussed below.

Part Two Business to be considered.

22/053

Matters to be considered in committee session:

Agenda item 22/045 had been deferred from earlier into the Part Two session.

i) To consider matters pertaining to the ongoing proposal to assist with the purchase of the Community Shop and Post office; to consider confidential financial & legal matters relating to the proposed transaction:

Mr Wheeler was invited to make a presentation to Council in his role as Treasurer to the Community Shop Committee Group.

Chair thanked members of the Community Shop Committee for their sterling efforts and hard work in achieving the fundraising target of £240,000.

It was noted that there had been 192 contributors/benefactors, donating approximately £1250 each.

ii) To note ongoing arrangements for community consultation in accordance with the MCHLG (now referred to as DLUHC) requirements prior to a formal application for PWLB lending facilities from the Parish Council.

Mr Spearing and Mr Wheeler advised Council that two efforts would be made (at least) on the 23rd April to collect the ballot envelopes from parish households but that every effort would be made to accommodate residents who wished to submit their consultative ballot response but who might be out on the day. Noted.

iii) To consider whether Council wishes to hold an extraordinary meeting after the close of the consultation period (and telling of indicative votes cast) to agree upon the next steps in the project.

Subject to the outcome of the consultative ballot (to be announced on or after the 24th April), Mr Wheeler suggested that another parish meeting be held to report the ballot result, to outline possible expansion plans for the shop in 2023 and to report upon current status of the project re: PWLB funding and local fund-raising achievements. This was felt by all to be a sensible way forward. Noted.

It was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that (on the presumption that the consultative ballot result supports the proposal to borrow from the PWLB with repayments via the parish precept) the Council delegates to the Chair and RFO the responsibility and authority to create an application to PWLB to borrow upto the sums proposed for the purposes of assisting in a grant funding project with the Community Shop Committee. Resolved unanimously.

Clerk: Please note and liaise with Chair accordingly as and when ballot result is published.

iv) To consider proposed wording for 3rd party partner funding agreement prior to consultation with nominated legal representatives; to agree upon expenditure limits for said legal representation.

	<p>Delegated authority was afforded to Clerk and Chair to make the necessary arrangements to obtain said legal advice once result of ballot known.</p> <p>Clerk: Please note and liaise with CSCC accordingly to obtain draft copies of the framework funding agreements.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.35pm</p>

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April 2022 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

Signed: _____ Date: 11/5/2022
(Chair)

Initial: