

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Approved by resolution on 14th December 2022

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

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

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

Cllr. Iain Chubb representing Devon County Council, Michael Davis – Hon. Tree Warden
and three members of the public were also in attendance.

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| | <p>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</p> <p>Public Forum:</p> <p>i) Public representations received on subjects of: Street Lighting in Henley Close / Green Lane area. Implications for Chardstock Parish of the ongoing EDDC Local Plan review.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council should publicise the Local Plan Consultation (period) and encourage residents to submit their views, for or against the proposals set out by EDDC.</p> <p>ii) Report from DCC Cllr. Chubb. Received with thanks.</p> <p>iii) Report from EDDC Cllr. Hayward. Received with thanks.</p> <p>iv) Police Report. No crimes / incidents reported in September 2022.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.40pm.</p> |
| 22/095i) | <p>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.</p> |
| 22/095ii) | <p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) Cllr. Michelle Reeve was absent with apologies given; conflicting engagement. Proposed by Chair, seconded by PG, that apologies be accepted and absence noted. Resolved unanimously.</p> |
| 22/095iii) | <p>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: All Parish Councillors accounted for. Apologies received from Hon. Tree Warden and P3 Warden. Noted.</p> |
| 22/096 | <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> |

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| 22/097 | <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>None proposed other than that already listed on agenda for Part Two discussion.</p> |
| 22/098 | <p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 12th October 2022:</p> <p>Minor wording change proposed by Chair for grammatical reasons.</p> <p>Approval of the (substantive) minutes of this Ordinary Meeting was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Minutes signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes:</p> <p><i>None.</i></p> |
| | <p>Chair proposed that agenda item 22/102d) be brought forward on the agenda for consideration. Resolved.</p> |
| 22/102d) | <p>d) To consider matters pertaining to The George public house; public request for discussion.</p> <p>Chair invited representatives of the George Inn (Continuity) Action Group to speak.</p> <p>After debate, it was agreed to ask the Clerk to liaise with the ward member to press EDDC Conservation Officers to engage with the pub owner as a matter of urgency to deal with the deterioration of the Grade 2* premises due to lack of maintenance.</p> <p>It was further proposed that the Chair should – on behalf of the PC – write to EDDC and copy in the ward member and the constituency MP, Richard Foord, to express their concerns over the worsening dereliction of the pub and to ask EDDC Conservation Team to issue any applicable sanctions against the freeholder to bring matters to bear without further delay or damage.</p> <p>Proposed by Chair, seconded by PG. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>Chair thanked speakers for their representations and attendance.</p> |
| | <p>Chair proposed that agenda item 22/102c) be brought forward on the agenda for consideration. Resolved.</p> |
| 22/102c) | <p>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish.</p> <p>Chair invited Chardstock Eco-Group representative to address Councillors.</p> <p>Chair thanked speaker for informative contribution and looked forward to the rescheduling of the parish meeting event on this subject in the very near future.</p> |
| | <p>Chair proposed that agenda running order be resumed. Resolved.</p> |
| 22/099 | <p>To consider Parish Maintenance, Highways and Footpath (P3) matters:</p> <p>i) & ii) Potholes reported on Broom Lane. Cllr. Chubb suggested that these be reported via the DCC interactive web portal for swift attention. Clerk reported that parish maintenance was continuing but that the growing season finally appears to have stopped!</p> <p>iii) Nothing to report on P3 (Footpath) matters. Clerk apologised for the delay in liaising with the DCC PROW Officer to seek progression re: the proposed levelling works required on FP30 which would become waterlogged again shortly with the seasonal weather. Noted.</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p> |

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| | <p>iv) Chair remarked on the recent road closures in the parish which appeared disproportionate to the actual highway repairs being effected, and that – furthermore – the duration of the closures did not tally with the actual attendance of site personnel carrying out the works. Cllr. Chubb was asked to liaise with the DCC Highways Officer to ascertain if more could be done to minimise disruption via contractor works and better supervision/oversight.</p> <p>Cllr. Sonnenberg reminded Clerk that the bent roadside signs at Tytherleigh had not been fixed by DCC despite repeated requests. Clerk to contact DCC again to chase the issue. Noted.</p> |
| 22/100 | <p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: None advised.</p> <p>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members. None advised</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: As per agenda published.</p> |
| 22/101 | <p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) It was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Chair, that Council payments for October 2022 be approved (£2369.59). Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>b) RFO Reports for October 2022 received and noted.</p> <p>c) No questions to RFO on accounts / financial reports.</p> <p>d) No items of expenditure incurred under delegated authority reported.</p> |
| | <p>Business to be considered:</p> |
| 22/0102b) | <p>Chair proposed that agenda item a) be considered after agenda items b) to h) inclusive. Agreed.</p> <p>b) To receive update on other matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish: In the absence of Mr. Davis, Mr. Spearing gave a brief update on tree planting projects and activities in the parish of which the Eco-Group were aware of. Clerk was asked to contact EDDC (Chair) to ask if the Broom Lane Jubilee Oak Tree (which had not survived the summer despite the best efforts of Cllr. Sonnenberg) was going to be replaced over the winter tree planting period. Noted.</p> |
| 22/102c) | <p>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish <i>See above.</i></p> |
| 22/102d) | <p>d) To consider matters pertaining to The George public house; public request for discussion. <i>See above.</i></p> |
| 22/102e) | <p>e) To consider request from parishioner for extended street light illumination in Henley Close area. This matter had been raised by a parishioner during public forum session (see above).</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf.</i></p> |

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| | <p>Cllr. Greer felt that any action on this matter should only be taken forward after residents had been properly consulted on the proposals. As such, Chair suggested that the resident who had raised the issue with the Council be asked to prepare a report containing evidence to support their requests for reduced streetlighting (or decreased hours of operation or lower wattage bulbs). Another public speaker mentioned that the Blackdown Hills AONB Parish Network had released a research paper on this subject and he offered to obtain this and forward to the Clerk for onward circulation to members. Noted with thanks.</p> <p>Cllr. Chubb offered to raise this matter with DCC Highways Team but stressed that the replacement of all bulbs with LED type units had been recently undertaken and that a further adaptation (cool white replacement with warm white) was unlikely to due budgetary constraints at DCC.</p> <p>Chair thanked all speakers for their contribution to the debate.</p> <p>f) To note the launch of the EDDC Emerging Local Plan Consultation. Noted.</p> <p>g) To note that a consultation event was being held in Axminster at The Guildhall on Thursday 1/12/2022 between 3pm and 7pm. Noted.</p> <p>h) To consider arrangements for the filling of community sandbags for "winter resilience". <i>It was proposed from the Chair that Clerk be afforded delegated authority to arrange for the remaining sandbags to be filled. Seconded Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously.</i></p> <p>a) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the December 2022 editions: Consideration of this matter had been deferred by the Chair earlier in the meeting to allow for consideration of the other agenda business detailed above.</p> <p>Potential article submissions: <i>Submission of content was delegated to the Chair to submit on Council's behalf. Chair: Please submit appropriate article to the Newsletter Editor.</i></p> |
| 22/103 | <p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None raised.</p> |
| 22/104 | <p>Date of next meeting: Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 14th December 2022 7.00pm start time. <i>Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels.</i> <i>Cllr. Hughes gave her apologies in advance as she will be unavailable due to a conflicting engagement. Noted.</i></p> <p><i>Continued overleaf.</i></p> |

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| 22/105 | <p>"It is proposed by 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 22/097 above."</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved.</p> <p><i>All members of the public left the meeting at this stage.</i></p> |
| 22/106 | <p>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</p> <p>i) An employment matter was discussed. Clerk was asked to keep members abreast of developments in relation to the recruitment of the replacement Clerk. This agenda item was deemed confidential.</p> <p>ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Hughes that the 2022-23 NJC/NALC Pay Settlement award be applied to Clerk's remuneration backdated to April 2022 as per terms of employee's contract. Seconded by Cllr. Sonnenberg. Resolved.</p> <p>RFO: Please note and action accordingly.</p> <p>iii) Matter relating to the ongoing Council involvement in the acquisition of the Chardstock Community Shop were discussed and noted. This was deemed confidential and the published minutes do not record the outcome of that discussion.</p> |
| | <p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm</p> |

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Signed: _____ Date: 14th December 2022
(Chair)

Initial: