

## CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes approved 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at the Chardstock PC ORD meeting.**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**January 2023 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

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

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

Six members of the public were also in attendance.

	<p><b>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</b></p> <p><b>Public Forum:</b></p> <p>i) Public representations received on subjects of: Urban streetlighting and parishioner request to reduce / remove entirely. Climate action in the parish. Speed limits and restrictions / speed reduction measures. EDDC Emerging Local Plan Consultation responses (availability of). Update on progression of community shop project. <i>Chair asked Clerk to ensure that a suitable agenda regarding street lighting and the possibility of a parish-wide consultation was tabled for February.</i></p> <p>ii) Report from DCC Cllr. Chubb. Written report had been received and circulated. Cllr. Chubb’s apology for absence was noted.</p> <p>iii) Report from EDDC Cllr. Hayward. Verbal report received with thanks.</p> <p>iv) Police Report. No crimes / incidents reported in November 2022. Clerk also circulated the new Axminster Police Team Newsletter which was noted and welcomed by members of the Council.</p> <p><b>The Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.25pm.</b></p>
22/119i)	<p><b>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</b> As listed above.</p>
22/119ii)	<p><b>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received:</b> <b>(LGA 1972 s.85(1))</b> Cllr. Lavinia Sonnenberg was absent with apologies given; unwell. <b>Proposed by Chair, seconded by PG, that apologies be accepted and absence noted. Resolved unanimously.</b></p>
22/119iii)	<p><b>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</b> Apologies received from Hon. Footpath Warden &amp; Cllr. Iain Chubb (DCC). Noted.</p>
22/120	<p><b>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</b> 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>

Initial:

22/121	<p><b>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:</b></p> <p>None proposed other than that already listed on agenda for Part Two discussion.</p>
22/122	<p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022:</b></p> <p>Minor wording change proposed by Chair for grammatical reasons.</p> <p><b>Approval of the (substantive) minutes of this Ordinary Meeting was proposed by the Chair, seconded by MR. Resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p>Minutes signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p><b>Matters arising from these minutes:</b></p> <p><i>None.</i></p>
22/123	<p><b>To consider Parish Maintenance, Highways and Footpath (P3) matters:</b></p> <p>i) Worsening road surface conditions were reported in Storridge Lane, Broom Lane and at Hook Triangle.</p> <p>ii) Clerk provided a verbal update on ongoing parish maintenance issues.</p> <p>iii) Advance notice of the closure of Footpath 46 had been received prior to the meeting. Clerk was asked to publicise closure for parishioner reference. Completion of P3 survey forms was progressing; Clerk to liaise with HFW.</p> <p>iv) No TTRO's had been published or notified to Council.</p> <p>v) This matter had been raised earlier in public forum session. Chair invited a member of the public to participate in the discussion as they had been active in raising this matter with the DCC Cllr.</p> <p>After further debate on the need for improved speed measures in the parish, Clerk updated members on progress with the VAS installation at Westcombes via DCC.</p> <p><b>It was subsequently proposed by Chair, seconded by SH, that the Parish Council should purchase a second VAS mounting bracket (and clip) so that the VAS device could be easily rotated 180 degrees on the same mounting pole to provide speed warnings to traffic coming from each direction. Furthermore, that the Parish Council should purchase a RADAR speed tracking "gun" at a cost of £276 and that a concurrent application be submitted to the DCC Locality Fund to cover this expenditure. (The RADAR device could then be used to gather and collate speed data in the parish as a means of providing justification for a formal Community Speedwatch Project and – possibly – the creation of an extended 20mph speed limit zone within the village). Resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p>Clerk: Please note and action accordingly.</p>
	<p><b>Chair proposed that agenda items 126b) and 126c) be brought forward for consideration. Resolved.</b></p> <p><i>Continued overleaf.</i></p>

22/126 b)	<p><b>b) To consider matters pertaining to ecology &amp; climate action in the parish</b></p> <p>Mr. Spearing spoke on behalf of the Chardstock Eco-Group to outline ongoing projects and to report upon successful fundraising activities. A Community Engagement Day had been arranged for January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Community Hall and all members were cordially invited.</p> <p>Mr. Spearing had also joined the management board of the Blackdown Hills Parish Network Steering Group. He thanked the Council for their continued support of the projects undertaken and for the opportunity to address Council in this manner. Chair thanked him and the Eco-Group for their continued efforts and enthusiasm.</p>
22/126 c)	<p><b>c) To consider matters pertaining to The George public house</b></p> <p>Mr. Cockburn spoke on behalf of The George Action Group and brought members up to date on the recent communications with the property owners and confirmed that the Action Group had been offered a tenancy offer as a result but which the AG were not minded to accept given the terms proposed and the statement by the owners that it was “not their intention to do any repairs” to the property in the meantime or prior to a lease being granted.</p> <p>A meeting of the AG was being held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January (later deferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> February) and Mr. Cockburn confirmed that he would attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to provide a further update. Noted by Chair with thanks.</p>
<p><b>Chair proposed that agenda running order be resumed. Resolved.</b></p>	
22/124	<p><b>Planning matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</b> None received prior to agenda publication.</p> <p><b>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members.</b> 22/2060/FUL (and 2061/LBC). Dirks Garden, Chardstock, EX13 7LF Two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, internal alterations and fenestration alterations.</p> <p><i>It was noted that Council had previously supported this application but that it had been necessary to reconsider it as the EDDC Conservation officer had recommended refusal until amended plans were put forward (as they have now been).</i></p> <p><i>It was proposed by Chair, seconded by PG, that Council supported the amended plans. Resolved unanimously.</i></p> <p>23/0031/TCA – Peartree Cottage, Chardstock, EX13 7BN Coppice Hazel tree, retaining main stem.</p> <p><i>It was proposed by Chair, seconded by MR, that Council supported the application for tree works. Resolved unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>c) Planning Correspondence:</b> Clerk had been provided with correspondence from South Somerset DC Planning Team relating to proposed developments in South Chard (adjacent northern border) which had been sent to a parishioner. Clerk was directed to contact SSDC to ask that Chardstock Parish Council be added to the lists of consultees for all future applications in this area given their immediate impact on the day-to-day lives of our residents. Noted</p>

22/125	<p><b>Financial Matters to be considered:</b></p> <p>a) <b>It was proposed by Chair, seconded by SH, that Council payments for December 2022 be approved (£2606.36). Resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p>b) RFO Reports for December 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>e) To consider draft budget and precept figures for FY23-24.</p> <p><i>RFO presented a draft budget proposal to members.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed increase in budget (and precept) was entirely related to the previously approved increase following the Council's resolution to take on a £180,000 PWLB loan advance to assist towards the CCSL purchase.</i></p> <p><b>Chair proposed that an expenditure budget of £44840 be set for the forthcoming financial year and that the Parish Council precept be set at £30840. Seconded by FE. Resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p><i>Clerk: Please notify EDDC Precept Team immediately.</i></p>
	<p><b>Business to be considered:</b></p>
22/126 a)	<p><b>a) To receive update on other matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish:</b></p> <p>This matter was deferred until February as the Hon. Tree Warden was not present to make his report.</p>
22/126 b)	<p><b>b) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish:</b></p> <p><i>Consider earlier in the meeting – see above</i></p>
22/126 c)	<p><b>c) To consider matters pertaining to The George public house:</b></p> <p><i>Consider earlier in the meeting – see above</i></p>
22/126 d)	<p><b>d) To consider any further matters pertaining to the Chardstock Community Shop:</b></p> <p>Chair noted the comments made during public forum. No further discussion.</p>
22/126 e)	<p><b>e) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the February 2023 edition:</b></p> <p><b>Potential article submissions:</b></p> <p>Precept decision for the forthcoming financial year.</p> <p><i>Submission of additional content was delegated to the Chair to submit on Council's behalf.</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Please submit appropriate article to the Newsletter Editor.</i></p>
22/127	<p><b>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only:</b></p> <p>None raised.</p>
22/128	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7.00pm start time.</p> <p><i>Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels.</i></p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

Initial:

22/129	<p><b>"It is proposed from 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 22/121 above."</b></p> <p><b>Resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p><i>At this point of the evening, all members of the public had already left the meeting.</i></p>
22/130	<p><b>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</b></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 and to advertise again by whatever channels were considered appropriate. This agenda item was deemed confidential.</p>
	<p><b>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm</b></p>

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
(Chair)

Initial: