

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes approved on 22nd March 2023

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th
February 2023 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

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

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

Two members of the public were also in attendance.

	<p>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</p> <p>Public Forum:</p> <p>i) No public representations received.</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 December 2022.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.10pm.</p>
22/131i)	<p>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.</p>
22/131ii)	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) All members present. No apologies thus received.</p>
22/131iii)	<p>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: Apologies received from Hon. Footpath Warden, Mike Davis, Ed Wells (Community Shop Committee) & Cllr. Iain Chubb (DCC). Noted.</p>
22/132	<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>
22/133	<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: None proposed other than that already listed on agenda for Part Two discussion.</p>
22/134	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 11th January 2023: Approval of the minutes of this Ordinary Meeting was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Hughes. Resolved unanimously. Minutes signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair. Matters arising from these minutes: <i>None.</i></p>
	<p>Chair proposed that agenda item 138g) be brought forward for consideration. Resolved.</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

Initial:

22/138g)	<p>g) To consider matters pertaining to streetlighting in the village/parish.</p> <p>A resident of the parish was invited to speak on this subject by the Chair. After hearing the representation (and request from the member of the public) and after further discussion between members (with words of advice from Clerk), it was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Sonnenberg, that the Parish Council would support the undertaking (by a 3rd party) of a parish-wide consultation on the subject of street lighting, to seek parishioner views and opinions on three questions:</p> <p>i) Should parish streetlighting hours be retained as they are currently? ii) Should parish streetlighting (illumination) hours be reduced? iii) Should parish streetlighting illumination be turned off completely?</p> <p>Furthermore, that the Parish Council would be happy to accept a majority decision of parishioners consulted to prompt the Council to take forward the preferred option with DCC Highways / Streetlighting teams.</p> <p>Furthermore, that the Parish Council would be happy to provide funding of up to £200 (delegated to the Clerk to arrange) for the purposes of facilitating such a parish-wide consultation exercise (a “consultative ballot”). Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>It was further proposed by the same Councillors as above that the Clerk should be directed to write to DCC (and copy the division member, Cllr. Chubb) to request that no further alterations or upgrades be carried out on the parish streetlights until the outcome of this consultation exercise was known. Resolved. Clerk: Please note and action accordingly. Please liaise with the 3rd party undertaking the ballot exercise and provide resources as per spend limits above. Please bring this matter back to Parish Council once results of the exercise are known.</p>
	<p>Chair proposed that agenda item 138b) also be brought forward for consideration. Resolved.</p>
22/138b)	<p>To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish. Chair invited a member of the Chardstock Eco-Group to address Council on this subject. A summary of recent Eco-Group activity, funding revenue and forthcoming events was provided. Chair thanked the speaker for their time, efforts and dedication to the project. No further action at this time was proposed.</p>
	<p>Chair proposed that published agenda running order be resumed. Resolved.</p>
22/135	<p>To consider Parish Maintenance, Highways and Footpath (P3) matters:</p> <p>i) Ongoing worsening of parish highway conditions was noted. Clerk advised that the Chair of DCC, Cllr. Ian Hall, would be addressing Axminster Town Council on this subject on 13th February. Noted.</p> <p>ii) Clerk provided a verbal update on ongoing parish maintenance issues; contractor was on standby to resume cyclical maintenance across parish as per agreed “lengthsman” duties.</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

	<p>iii) 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) Clerk reported that the 'speed-gun' had been purchased and that the application to the Locality Fund had been submitted to DCC as directed. The 'gun' could now be used to collect speed data within the parish/village which, in turn, could be used to provide justification and support for a formal Community Speedwatch" project in the village (provided by Devon and Cornwall Police). Noted.</p> <p>Cllr. Sonnenberg reported that the Tytherleigh signs (previously minuted) were still broken and dirty. Clerk to raise with the DCC Highways Officer again. Noted.</p>
22/136	<p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: 22/2543/LBC – Flat 2, St Andrews School House, Chardstock. Creation of mezzanine floor above kitchen/lounge with new spiral staircase and alterations to fenestration (retrospective). It was proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Hughes, that Council supports this application. Resolved unanimously. Clerk: Please submit planning comment to EDDC within published timescales.</p> <p>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members. None received.</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: None advised.</p> <p>c) Planning Correspondence: Clerk had received planning correspondence from Grassroots Planning regarding a proposed development of up to 140 dwellings just south of Weycroft Bridge (in Axminster parish). This correspondence was noted but Councillors did not feel it relevant to comment formally.</p>
22/137	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) It was proposed by Chair, seconded by SH, that Council payments for January 2023 be approved (£6451.42). Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>b) RFO Reports for January 2023 were 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 future costs relating to recruitment and appointment of (non-shared) Clerk.</p> <p><i>Members received a verbal report from RFO. Noted.</i> <i>RFO was asked to bring this matter back before Council when further financial details became available in relation to the level of expenditure to be expected.</i></p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

	Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:
22/138 a)	<p>a) To receive update on other matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish: The Hon. Tree Warden (Michael Davis) had provided a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Noted. In his absence, the matter was deferred by the Chair until the next meeting of the Parish Council.</p>
22/138 b)	<p>b) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish: <i>Considered earlier in the meeting – see above</i></p>
22/138 c)	<p>c) To consider matters pertaining to The George public house: After discussion, it was suggested by the Chair that the Council ask the Yarty ward member (Cllr. Hayward) to liaise with EDDC to push for demonstrative action on Section 215 enforcement in respect of The George Inn. Agreed. Clerk: Please liaise with Cllr. Hayward accordingly. It was also agreed that the Parish Council wished to express its objections to the large concrete blocks which had recently been deposited at the entrance to the car park (at rear) which members did not believe were in keeping with the heritage status of the building per se. Noted.</p>
22/138 d)	<p>d) To consider any further matters pertaining to the Chardstock Community Shop: Chair and Clerk/RFO presented verbal reports to Council on progress with this project. Noted</p>
22/138 e)	<p>e) To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to respond to the recent EDDC licensing application for the Community Hall: <i>Chair declared her “affects NRI” interest as a trustee of the hall. Noted.</i> After discussion, it was agreed that no formal response from the Parish Council was necessary under the circumstances, with all members of Council supportive of the applications having heard the reasons why the licence was required.</p>
22/138 f)	<p>f) To note formal DCC closure order for public footpath FP46 (from 18/1/2023 to 17/7/2023): Noted.</p>
22/138 g)	<p>g) To consider matters pertaining to streetlighting in the village/parish. <i>Considered earlier in the meeting – see above</i></p>
22/138 h)	<p>h) To consider matters pertaining to the coronation of HM The King on May 6th; to consider how this Parish Council wishes to participate and to agree any expenditure deemed appropriate: Chair reported that the StreetFayre group were liaising with the Community Hall Trustees to arrange an event in the parish. At this time, no Parish Council involvement was being requested and no financial support was required. Noted.</p>
	<i>Continued overleaf</i>

Initial:

22/138 i)	<p>i) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the March 2023 edition:</p> <p><i>Potential article submissions:</i> Speed-gun purchase and forthcoming speed data collection activity. Parish Council decision on street-lighting consultation exercise. Parish Council involvement with The George Inn Action Group. <i>Submission of additional content was delegated to the Chair to submit on Council's behalf.</i> Chair: Please submit appropriate article to the Newsletter Editor.</p>
22/139	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None raised.</p>
22/140	<p>Date of next meeting: Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 8th March 2023 7.00pm start time. Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels. It was also noted that the Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 12th April 2023, starting at 7pm (with Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to follow immediately thereafter).</p>
22/141	<p>"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 22/133 above.". Seconded by Cllr. Greer. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p><i>At this point of the evening, all members of the public had already left the meeting.</i></p>
22/142	<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 and to advertise again by whatever channels were considered appropriate. Clerk was asked to send the job description, person specification and SCP scales relevant to this post to all members. Noted. This agenda item was deemed confidential as it involved an employment matter.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm</p>

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Signed: _____ Date: 22nd March 2023
(Chair)

Initial: