

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes approved at Annual Meeting held 17th May 2023

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th April 2023 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Wilson (Chair), Eames, Reeve & Sonnenberg (quorate).

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

Cllr. Iain Chubb (DCC). 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 Police report received. No crimes / incidents reported in February 2023.</p> <p>ii) No P3 (footpath) report available.</p> <p>iii)</p> <p>a) Verbal Report from DCC Cllr. Chubb to complement written report which had been received and circulated beforehand.</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <p><i>Additional funding to DCC for pothole repairs across county.</i></p> <p><i>Update on speeding campaigns at DCC.</i></p> <p><i>Photo ID update as it relates to forthcoming local elections.</i></p> <p><i>New senior staff appointments at DCC following retirements.</i></p> <p>b) Report from EDDC Cllr. Hayward.</p> <p>Verbal report received with thanks. Cllr. Hayward thanked all members of the Council and the wider community for their support and help over the last 4 years (this being the last Parish Council meeting that he would attend as ward member).</p> <p>iv) No public representations made.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session accordingly at 7.55pm.</p>
23/014 i)	<p>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</p> <p>As listed above.</p>
23/014 ii)	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received:</p> <p>(LGA 1972 s.85(1))</p> <p>Cllr. Greer was absent due to a conflicting engagement.</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes was absent due to illness.</p> <p>Chair proposed acceptance of these apologies and that the absences be approved.</p> <p>Seconded Cllr. Reeve. Resolved unanimously.</p>
23/014 iii)	<p>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</p> <p>Apologies received from Hon. Footpath Warden, Mike Davis. Noted.</p>
23/015	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>No declarations made.</p>
23/016	<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>

Initial:

23/017	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 22nd March 2023: Three small typographical corrections were proposed by the Chair. Approval of the duly amended minutes of this Ordinary Meeting were proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Sonnenberg. Resolved unanimously. The amended minutes will be signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes: None.</p>
	<p>Chair proposed that the agenda running order be amended to hear agenda items 23/020 a) and c) ahead of previous items. Resolved unanimously.</p>
23/020a)	<p>a) To receive an update on the ongoing Chardstock Streetlighting Consultation exercise (and ballot).</p> <p>Chair invited Mandy Titman (consultation coordinator) to speak on this matter. MT outlined the results of the recent ballot exercise. 76% turnout (response) from the community. The largest percentage opinion (46%) was for street lights to be turned off at 10pm. 33% suggested that they be turned off completely. 18% suggested no change to current timing arrangements. Remaining 3% of ballots were spoiled.</p> <p>But, the subsequent correspondence with DCC was disappointing and members felt that – had this information be known beforehand – the questions asked could have been amended or put in a different way. The Chair suggested that the Council write to the County Councillor, Iain Chubb, to express the PC’s frustration at the decision to NOT take parishioner’s opinions into account (despite this being the reason for ballot in the first place) and to ask that a series of questions be collated for submission to DCC, with a concurrent request for a face-to-face meeting with DCC Streetlighting officers and the County Cllr. to ascertain how to progress this matter further.</p> <p>There was a consensus that a reduction in hours of illumination would lead to cost savings on energy usage grounds, and that the benefits to the wider community (and certainly the environment and the wildlife in the area) should be considered as a reason to allow some timing changes in the near future.</p> <p>It was agreed that the correspondence back to DCC should be copied to: Cllr. Iain Chubb (County Councillor for Chardstock) Cllr. Stuart Hughes (Cabinet member for Highways) Cllr. Andrea Davis (Cabinet member for Environment) Donna Manson (CEO, DCC) David Ashford (Highways Officer for DCC Rural [East])</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf.</i></p>

23/020c)	<p>c) To consider any matters pertaining to Chardstock Eco-Group / Blackdown Hills AONB.</p> <p>Chair invited Paul Spearing to speak on this matter and to make a presentation to members / public present.</p> <p>PS provided a comprehensive report on progress within the Chardstock community on matters including:</p> <p><i>General Eco-Group active projects.</i></p> <p><i>Future River Café events planned.</i></p> <p><i>Phase 2 of the Kit Restoration Project update.</i></p> <p><i>Training events relating to river monitoring and bank erosion studies.</i></p> <p><i>Other community events including habitat safeguarding, storytelling events, river walks, litter picking sessions and meetings with regional MP's.</i></p> <p>Chair thanked PS for his continued efforts to improve environmental standards and conditions in the parish.</p> <p>All members of the public left the meeting at this point.</p>
	<p>Chair proposed that the agenda running order revert to that as published. Resolved unanimously.</p>
23/018	<p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: None received.</p> <p>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members. 23/0742/FUL – The Post Office/Shop. Chardstock. Change of use for expansion of shop premises and alterations to residential dwelling space.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Reeve, seconded by Cllr. Eames, that the Parish Council supported this application. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: None advised.</p> <p>c) Tree Matters: None advised.</p> <p>d) Appeals lodged / in progress: None advised.</p> <p>e) Planning correspondence: None received.</p> <p>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC: None advised.</p> <p>g) Planning consultations pending/in progress: None advised.</p>
23/019	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Reeve, that Council payments for March 2023 be approved (£20391.18). Resolved unanimously.</p> <p>b) RFO Reports for March 2023 were received and noted.</p> <p>c) No questions to RFO on accounts / financial reports.</p> <p>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority. £150 (under s137 expenditure) relating to Coronation Badges for Community Hall / Street Fayre event. Noted.</p> <p>e) To receive the draft AGAR3 report for FY22-23 and to receive audit update. Received and noted.</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

	Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:
23/020 a)	<p>a) To receive an update on the ongoing Chardstock Streetlighting Consultation exercise (and ballot). See above. Matter considered earlier in the meeting.</p>
23/020 b)	<p>b) To consider matters pertaining to tree planting in the parish. In the absence of the Honorary Tree Warden, this agenda item was deferred to the next Ordinary Meeting by the Chair. Agreed.</p>
23/020 c)	<p>c) To consider any matters pertaining to Chardstock Eco-Group / Blackdown Hills AONB. See above. Matter considered earlier in the meeting.</p>
23/020 d)	<p>d) To consider any matters pertaining to Chardstock Community Shop (and committee business) With no representatives of the shop or committee present, the Chair proposed that this matter not be debated. Agreed.</p>
23/020 e)	<p>e) To receive further report from Clerk on forthcoming local elections. Report received and noted by members.</p>
23/020 f)	<p>f) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the May 2023 edition: Chair suggested the following articles: <i>Uncontested parish elections and results.</i> <i>Appointment of Sally Freemantle as the new Clerk.</i> <i>Summary of the RFOs End of Year financial report.</i> <i>Update on the streetlighting consultation exercise and ballot.</i> Chair was duly delegated to submit these articles on Council's behalf.</p>
23/020 g)	<p>g) To receive update from Clerk on DCC delays to VAS installation project at Westcombes. Report received and noted by members with regret at further delay to this long-awaited speed-reduction measure.</p>
23/021	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None raised.</p>
23/022	<p>Date of next meeting: Next Ordinary meeting of council scheduled for 17th May 2023 7.00pm start time (this would be the parish Council's Annual Meeting). Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels.</p>
23/023	<p>"It is 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 23/016 above." Seconded by Cllr. Reeve. Resolved unanimously.</p> <p><i>At this point of the evening, all members of the public had already left the meeting.</i></p>

Initial:

23/024	<p>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</p> <p>i) Clerk reported that the new Clerk had been sent a formal job offer based upon the terms previously agreed. It was hoped that Sally would start her duties in May. Noted.</p> <p>ii) It was noted that Clerk was no longer a formal employee of the Council (as far as HMRC were concerned) and that, as such, he should be referred to as the Locum Clerk hereafter. Noted.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm</p>

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Signed: _____ Date: 17th May 2023
(Chair)