

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2024 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs C. Wilson (Chair), F. Eames, P. Greer, S. Hughes, M. Reeve and L. Sonnenberg (quorate).

In Attendance: Sally Freemantle (Clerk).

7.30pm	<p>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</p> <p>Public Forum</p> <p>i) No Police report received. ii) No P3 (footpath) report received. iii) a) Apologies were received from Cllr Iain Chubb, Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division. b) Apologies were received from Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward. iv) There were two members of the public present – members of the Chardstock Eco Group, representing Chardstock Womblers who were available to answer questions regarding their grant application.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.31pm.</p>
7.31pm	Meeting Commences
24/034 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
24/034 ii)	To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present.
24/034 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: Apologies received from Cllr. Iain Chubb, Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown Division and Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward. Noted.
24/035	Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: No declarations made.
24/036	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.
24/037	To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 13th March 2024: Approval of the minutes of this Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were proposed by Cllr. Wilson, seconded by Cllr. Reeve and RESOLVED unanimously.

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Initial:

	<p>The minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters arising from these minutes: None.</p>
24/038	<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: None advised.</p> <p>c) Tree Matters: None advised.</p> <p>d) Appeals lodged / in progress: None advised.</p> <p>e) Planning correspondence: None advised.</p> <p>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC: None advised.</p> <p>g) Planning consultations pending/in progress: None advised.</p>
24/039	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To consider and if thought fit, to approve Council’s Payments for March 2024: RESOLVED that Council payments for March (£1,282.73) be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for March 2024: Reports received and noted.</p> <p>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports: None.</p> <p>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix). None.</p> <p>e) To receive draft AGAR3 report for FY23-24 and to receive audit update: Noted.</p> <p>f) To consider a grant application from Chardstock Eco Group (Chardstock Womblers): Proposed by Cllr Sonnenberg, seconded by Cllr Greer and RESOLVED to approve purchase of 14 litter picking sticks at a cost of £200 for donation to Chardstock Womblers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

	<p>g) To consider and note the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) Lending Statement: Noted.</p> <p>h) To consider renewal of membership to DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils) £354.45: RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council and a response on the reason for the increase since April 2023 be requested.</p> <p>i) To consider renewal of Blackdown Hills Parish Network subscription: RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council and the Clerk ask for an outline of benefits of the subscription and meeting dates.</p> <p>j) To confirm appointment of Rob Wheeler as the Internal Auditor for the Financial year 2023-24. RESOLVED that Rob Wheeler be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the Financial year 2023-24.</p>
	<p>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
<p>24/040</p>	<p>“Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair”</p> <p>a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters: The Chair informed the Council that an email had been received from Devon County Council requesting historic minutes regarding Footpath 24 at the junction of Stockstyle Lane and Chill Pitts Lane. RESOLVED that investigations into the use of the footpath be carried out.</p> <p>b) To consider any matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish: None received.</p> <p>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish: The Chairman of Chardstock Eco Group explained that the group held a Farmers Panel meeting which was well attended and received with a request for a further meeting. The group had also held a “Nature’s Table” meeting which was also well attended and trees were given away. He reported on the work being carried out on Kit Brook, including river fly monitoring, and the importance of the river Axe and the restoration of the quality of the river. He explained that farmers were being encouraged to put areas of their farms not in use to promote biodiversity to benefit the farm and the community. Noted.</p> <p>d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes: Cllr Sonnenberg would send the draft Emergency Plan to the Chairman of Chardstock Eco Group. Cllrs Reeve, Greer and Hughes would carry on with the arrangements for the public meeting. RESOLVED (1) that the matter be noted; (2) that Cllr Sonnenberg send the draft Emergency Plan to the Chairman of Chardstock Eco Group; and (3) that arrangements be made for a Parish Emergency Plan meeting.</p>

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	<p>e) To receive an update on the ongoing streetlighting consultation: The Chair explained that Cllr Mackinder had been asked to ascertain the best contact at East Devon District Council for this matter. Noted.</p> <p>f) To consider information relating to The George Inn: It was reported that there would be a television programme regarding The George Inn which would be available to view in May. Noted.</p> <p>g) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the May 2024 edition: RESOLVED that the Chair's report would be included in the May edition and that the Parish Emergency Plan meeting would be publicised in the newsletter once arrangements had been made.</p> <p>h) To consider the Play Inspection Reports: RESOLVED (1) that the quarterly and annual Play Inspection reports be noted; and (2) Cllr Wilson agreed to arrange for the aspects regarding restoration of wood to be completed.</p> <p>i) To consider the existing Parish Council websites with potential to move to one website: Proposed by Cllr Greer, seconded by Cllr Reeve and RESOLVED to discontinue with the chardstockpc.org.uk website and add Parish Newsletters to the www.chardstock-pc.gov.uk website.</p>
24/041	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None.</p>
24/042	<p>Date of next meeting: Next meeting of council will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and is scheduled for Wednesday 8th May 2024 7.00pm start time. Clerk: Please prepare agenda and publicise accordingly through usual channels.</p>
24/043	<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 24/036 above." RESOLVED unanimously. There were no confidential matters to be discussed.</p>
24/044	<p>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: Staff Appraisal - feedback. No feedback was required.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.04pm</p>

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Signed: _____ Date: 8th May 2024
(Chair)

Initial: