

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs P. Greer, (Chair), F. Eames, S. Hughes, I. Keam and M. Reeve (quorate).

Also Present: Cllr Duncan Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward.

In Attendance: Sally Freemantle (Clerk).

7.00pm	<p>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</p> <p>Public Forum</p> <p>i) No Police report received.</p> <p>ii) No P3 (footpath) report received.</p> <p>iii) a) Apologies were received from Cllr Iain Chubb, Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward explained that the consultation period on the East Devon Local Plan: Publication Plan (Regulation 19) is now live and comments can be made until 9:00am on Monday 31 March 2025. Cllr Mackinder also outlined the Local Government Reorganisation, explaining that larger local authority areas were expected. The role of Parish and Town Councils within the structure had not been confirmed but it was likely that they could take on more responsibility. Cllr Mackinder noted that EDDC is the biggest district by population in Devon.</p> <p>iv) There were no members of the public present.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.05pm.</p>
7.05pm	Meeting Commences
24/159 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
24/159 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.
24/159 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Iain Chubb Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division.
24/160	Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: There were no declarations of interest at this time. Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.
24/161	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 (except for the item listed).

Continued overleaf

Initial:

24/162	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 11th December 2024:</p> <p>a) Approval of the minutes of this Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Keam and RESOLVED. The minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p> <p>b) It was noted that the meeting that was due to be held on 8th January had been cancelled due to snow.</p>
24/163	<p>i) To consider the co-option of a Councillor onto the Parish Council (any applications received were forwarded to Councillors ahead of the meeting): The Clerk advised that no applications for the Casual Vacancy had been received.</p> <p>ii) Should a Co-option take place, the new Councillor to sign the declaration of acceptance of office: No applications for the Casual Vacancy had been received, so this was not applicable.</p>
24/164	<p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</p> <p>24/2344/LBC, Remove existing render on front (South west) elevation and repoint stonework. Where necessary replace timber oak lintels above 2no. first floor windows, 3 Victoria Place Chardstock Axminster EX13 7BW Supported</p> <p>24/2709/FUL, Proposed stable building and associated external works and landscaping, Land West Of Woodstock Birchill Supported</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 received: None advised.</p> <p>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC: None advised.</p>
24/165	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To consider and if thought fit, to approve Council's Payments for December 2024 and January 2025: RESOLVED that Council payments for December 2024 (£3,934.16) and January 2025 (£6,462.19) be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for December 2024 and January 2025: Reports received and noted.</p>

Continued

Initial:

	<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>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
<p>24/166</p>	<p>“Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair”</p> <p>a) To consider traffic calming in Chardstock – response from Richard Foord MP It was agreed to request that Devon Highways replace and reposition the 30mph signs on entry into the village, and that whilst it was recognised that additional repeater signs could not be added, the existing signs should be maintained. RESOLVED that the damaged and missing signs be reported to Devon Highways.</p> <p>b) Request for litter bin on layby opposite Storridge Lane junction (A358) The Council considered a request for a litter bin in this location but felt that as the layby was on a main ‘A’ road, the matter should be referred to Devon Highways. RESOLVED that the request for a litter bin be forwarded to Devon Highways.</p> <p>c) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters: It was noted that the footpath along Stockstyle Lane (between footpath 24 and the road) has now been confirmed as public right of way. NOTED</p> <p>d) To consider any matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish: The tree warden had emailed to explain that the trees on Westcombes verge required new stakes so that the tree guards could be repositioned to accommodate the growth in the trees. It was noted that the tree warden would arrange for volunteers to clear the area of weeds surrounding the trees following the work carried out in that area by Councillors in December. RESOLVED that the suggested stakes required by the tree warden be authorised for payment.</p> <p>e) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish, including a proposal for No Mow May: Council considered a request for the verge at Westcombes to be left unmown for the month of May to join in with the campaign to promote awareness of wildflowers, plants and fungi. RESOLVED that the County Council be asked not to mow the grass verge at Westcombes.</p> <p>f) To consider information relating to The George Inn: Council considered the correspondence which had been exchanged between the Chairman of the George Inn Continuity Group and the Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management. RESOLVED that an update on the matter be requested.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

g) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes:

Cllrs Greer and Hughes would be attending the Axe Valley Community Flood Resilience public drop in. Cllr Mackinder suggested working with Membury Parish Council to collaborate with other Emergency Planning procedures in the locality.

NOTED

h) To consider any update on grit bins in the parish:

Cllrs Keam and Reeve were thanked for their work on providing updated information. The list would be forwarded to the Highways Authority with a request that the grit bins be refilled.

NOTED

i) To consider a review of Chardstock Neighbourhood Plan:

Council considered Chardstock Neighbourhood Plan and in view of imminent new local plan, felt that it would be a good time to review the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED that Councillors review the document in the first instance.

j) To consider matters relating to the play area:

Councillors discussed the ground work which could commence in the new financial year.

NOTED

k) To consider proposed meeting dates for 2025-26:

Council considered the proposed dates.

RESOLVED that the meeting dates for 2025-26 be agreed.

l) Update from Blackdown Hills Parish Network:

Council noted that the Blackdown Hills Parish Network was no longer requesting a subscription to be a member.

NOTED

m) To note renewal of the Data Protection Certificate issued by the Information Commissioner's Office:

NOTED

n) To note Temporary Traffic Notice past Whitehouse, Holy City on 16th April 2025 (9.30 – 15.30):

NOTED

o) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the March 2025 edition:

RESOLVED that the following be submitted for the January edition of the community newsletter.

(1) advance notice that the play area will be closed while essential ground work takes place; (2) that the foot path at Stockstyle Lane has been approved as a public right of way and that thanks be extended to the parishioners who responded to the public consultation (3) that the Parish Council has the opportunity to borrow a thermal imaging camera for parishioners to have a heat survey of their home; and (4) that Parish Council meetings are open to anyone to attend.

Continued

24/167	Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only: None.
24/168	Date of next meeting: The next Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 12 th March at 7.00pm.
24/169	"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 24/161 above." RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda item.
24/170	Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: Email from resident. RESOLVED to request the questions in writing.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.24pm

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meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

Signed: _____ Date: 12th March 2025
(Chair)

Initial: