

## CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

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

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

In Attendance: Sally Freemantle (Clerk).

7.05pm	<p><b>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</b></p> <p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p>i) No Police report received.</p> <p>ii) P3 (footpath) report received and contents noted – some actions to be considered in the new financial year.</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 still live and comments can be made until 9:00am on Monday 31 March 2025.</p> <p>iv) There was one member of the public present at the commencement of the meeting and another arrived at 7.38pm.</p> <p><b>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.10pm.</b></p>
7.10pm	<b>Meeting Commences</b>
24/171 i)	<p><b>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</b></p> <p>As listed above.</p>
24/171 ii)	<p><b>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received:</b></p> <p><b>(LGA 1972 s.85(1))</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Eames (personal reasons).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: Apologies for absence approved with the reason given.</b></p>
24/171 iii)	<p><b>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Iain Chubb Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division.</p>
24/172	<p><b>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest at this time.</p> <p><b>Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.</b></p>
24/173	<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><b>None (except for the items listed).</b></p>

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24/174	<p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025:</b></p> <p><b>a) Approval of the minutes of this Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Keam and RESOLVED.</b> The minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p>
24/175	<p><b>i) To consider the co-option of a Councillor onto the Parish Council (any applications received were forwarded to Councillors ahead of the meeting):</b> The Clerk advised that no applications for the Casual Vacancy had been received.</p> <p><b>ii) Should a Co-option take place, the new Councillor to sign the declaration of acceptance of office:</b> No applications for the Casual Vacancy had been received, so this was not applicable.</p>
24/176	<p><b>Planning matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>c) Tree Matters:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>d) Appeals lodged / in progress:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>e) Planning correspondence received:</b> None advised.</p> <p><b>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:</b> None advised.</p>
24/177	<p><b>Financial Matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider and if thought fit, to approve Council's Payments for February 2025:</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that Council payments for February 2025 (£826.90) be approved.</p> <p><b>b) To receive and note RFO report for February 2025:</b> Reports received and noted.</p> <p><b>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports:</b> None.</p> <p><b>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority:</b> <b>(Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix).</b> None.</p> <p><b>e) To consider and, if thought appropriate to delegate to RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) (in conjunction with Chair) authority to make all</b></p>

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	<p>necessary payments in March 2025 to enable close-down of Council's End of Year (EOY) accounts; payments to be reported to Council in April. <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve.</p> <p><b>f) To consider and, if thought fit, to approve Council's Risk Assessment Review.</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve.</p> <p><b>g) To consider and, if thought fit, to approve Council's Internal Financial Control Review for FY 25-26.</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve.</p> <p><b>h) To consider response from the Community Hall Trust regarding broadband.</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> (1) to accept the offer of 50% contribution to the cost of broadband; and (2) that an invoice for six months contribution be sent twice a year.</p>
	<b>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</b>
24/178	<p><b>"Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair"</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters:</b> Reports received from P3 Officer were noted and the expenses claimed were agreed <b>RESOLVED</b> (1) that the P3 reports be noted; and (2) that the expenses of £100 be approved.</p> <p><b>b) To consider any matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish:</b> No reports received however a working group was being formed to assist with maintenance of the trees on the verge at Westcombes. <b>NOTED</b></p>
7.38pm	A member of the public, Paul Spearing, arrived at the meeting.
	<p><b>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish:</b> It was suggested that the verge at Westcombes be mown as usual in May. Paul Spearing explained that he was setting up a group called "The Friends of the River Axe" and had been in communication with the Environment Agency, and other local organisations about the objectives. Paul added that he was now trained in riverfly monitoring and able to teach others. <b>Mr Spearing was thanked for his update.</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the County Council be asked to mow the grass verge at Westcombes as usual.</p> <p><b>d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes:</b> Cllrs Greer and Hughes attended the Axe Valley Community Flood Resilience public drop in and reported back. <b>NOTED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

	<p><b>e) To consider a review of the Chardstock Neighbourhood Plan:</b> The Chair invited Paul Spearing to speak on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan due to his contribution to the formation of the extant document. It was agreed that some changes needed to be made to the plan and that the community should be made aware so that interested representatives could be involved. It would therefore be put on the agenda for the Annual Parish meeting and included in the Parish newsletter.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (1) that the review of the Neighbourhood Plan be included in the Annual Parish meeting agenda and publicised in the Parish Newsletter; and (2) that the formation of a Working Party be decided at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>f) To consider matters relating to the play area:</b> Councillors discussed the play area inspections and the Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Membury Parish Council as was still looking for play inspection courses at a suitable date/time.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p> <p><b>g) To response from the Community Hall Trust regarding broadband:</b> This matter had been dealt with at agenda item 24/177(h)</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p> <p><b>h) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the April 2025 edition:</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the following be submitted for the next edition of the community newsletter. (1) the proposed review of the neighbourhood plan; (2) the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council; and (3) the date of the Annual Parish meeting.</p>
24/179	<p><b>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion only:</b> None.</p>
24/180	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> The next Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The Annual Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.</p>
8.28pm	<p><b>Cllr Mackinder and two members of the public left the meeting and did not return.</b></p>
24/181	<p><b>"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 24/173 above."</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.</p>
8.29pm	<p><b>The Chairman and Treasurer of the George Inn Continuity Group arrived at the meeting.</b></p>
24/182	<p><b>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</b> <b>a) To consider an update on The George Inn</b> The Chairman and Treasurer of the George Inn Continuity Group updated</p>

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	the Parish Council on the current situation. <b>NOTED</b>
8.40pm	The Chairman and Treasurer of the George Inn Continuity Group left the meeting and did not return.
	<b>b) Staffing CONFIDENTIAL</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> (1) that the Chair carry out the annual appraisal; and (2) that the unused budget allocation for pension be carried forward to the 2025-26 Financial year.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.44pm

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 7.00pm;  
meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
(Chair)

Initial: