

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllrs P. Greer, (Chair), S. Hughes, S. Legg (from 7.47pm) and M. Reeve (quorate).

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) Cllr. C Conor Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division, had sent a written report which had been circulated to Councillors and posted on the website. Cllr Conor summarised the report, referring to the Road Warden scheme, for which the Council were interested in finding volunteers.</p> <p>b) Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward included in his report information about the ongoing work on the Local Plan and explained that over 1.1 million comments had been received. He added that the Local Plan needed to incorporate the national landscapes review and that the Government was seeking more wind energy sites. Cllr Mackinder also commented on The George hotel and the email exchange between The George Inn Continuity Group and East Devon District Council planning, explaining that EDDC was communicating with the owners of the property.</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	<i>Cllr Conor left the meeting and did not return.</i>
7.05pm	Meeting Commences
25/038 i)	<p>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</p> <p>As listed above.</p>
25/038 ii)	<p>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received:</p> <p>(LGA 1972 s.85(1))</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Eames (work commitment) and Cllr Keam (personal reasons). Cllr. Legg also sent apologies for being late due to work commitment.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Apologies for absence approved with the reason given.</p>
25/038 iii)	<p>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>
25/039	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest at this time.</p> <p>Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.</p> <p><i>Continued overleaf</i></p>

Initial:

25/040	<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 (except for the item listed).</p>
25/041	<p>a) To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 11th June 2025:</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve. The minutes were signed as a true record of that meeting by the Chair.</p>
25/042	<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: 25/1344/FUL, Retrospective planning application for the retention of a replacement cattery building, Harts Hill Kennels and Cattery Bewley Down Axminster EX13 7JX Supported.</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>
25/043	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for June 2025: RESOLVED that Council payments for June 2025 (£1187.48) be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for June 2025: 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 consider payment of £200 to the Chardstock newsletter for printing (as included in the budget): It was also RESOLVED to contribute £200 to Chardstock newsletter for printing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued</i></p>

	<p>f) To consider the grant request from Chardstock Community Shop for £5,000 (as included in the budget): RESOLVED (1) to grant a one-off payment of £5,000 to Chardstock Community Shop; and (2) to ask Chardstock Community Shop Committee whether a Councillor could attend their committee meetings.</p> <p>g) As there is no meeting in August, to delegate approval of payments for July to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and two authorised signatories, providing that the information is noted by Council at the next Ordinary meeting: Proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Reeve and RESOLVED that approval of payments for July be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and two authorised signatories.</p>
	<p>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
25/044	<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: None received.</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: None received.</p> <p>d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes: This was being progressed.</p> <p>e) To consider information relating to The George Inn: The Parish Council had been copied in on an email from East Devon District Council planning to The George Inn Continuity Group. Noted</p> <p>f) To consider the Play Area Inspection report (circulated to Councillors separately) and discuss Chardstock Play Park: RESOLVED (a) that that the Play Area Inspection report be noted; and (b) that the replacement of the trampoline/bounce mat at the next inspection be noted.</p>
7.47pm	<p><i>Cllr S. Legg, arrived at the meeting.</i></p>
	<p>g) To consider the proposal to apply for grant funding for a sensory garden in the existing pétanque pitch area (joint venture between Chardstock Parish Council and Chardstock Eco Group): RESOLVED (a) that that the Parish Council supports a joint venture with Chardstock Eco Group to develop this project and (b) that grant funding be applied for as appropriate.</p> <p>h) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the August 2025 edition: RESOLVED that the following be submitted for the next edition of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued Overleaf</i></p>

	<p>community newsletter: Information about Devon County Council's Road Warden scheme and a request for volunteers to become volunteer road wardens.</p> <p>i) To agree the membership of the Staffing Committee: RESOLVED that Cllrs Eames, Greer and Reeve form the Staffing Committee with the remaining Councillors being available as a substitute should a conflict of interest arise.</p>
25/045	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only: None.</p>
25/046	<p>Date of next meeting: The next Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 10th September at 7.00pm.</p>
25/047	<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 25/040 above." RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.</p>
8.15pm	<p><i>Cllr Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward left the meeting and did not return.</i></p>
25/048	<p>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: a) Staffing: RESOLVED that the update on recruitment and the interview process be noted.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.27pm</p>

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Signed: _____
(Chair)

Date: 9th July 2025

Initial: