

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 November 2023

(Meeting Number 4 – 2023-2024 council year)

Present: Cllrs O Pope (Chairman), M Gallimore, J Hume, N Hewitt, J Meier, J Troup and R Owen

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)

Public Forum

Nothing raised.

4.1 Apologies for Absence: Dorset Council – Cllr M Penfold.

4.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2023

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Troup and seconded Cllr Owen and agreed unanimously that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

4.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

- i) Cllr Hume declared an interest in Item 5.1.2 as she lives adjacent to the plot, she would speak but not vote.

4.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 September 2023

- Perceived speed of driving in the village. This had been discussed during the public forum on 13 September and the Clerk had subsequently confirmed the details and costs of a speed survey within the village. Details of eligibility for a 20 miles per hour limit were also obtained and members debated whether Chetnole was actually eligible. The first step is to form a Community Speed Watch Group, which would be made of up volunteers who would undertake training to use a speed gun and be prepared to carry out checks within the village. Cllr Troup volunteered to co-ordinate this.
- There was discussion on whether the minutes of parish council meetings could be released earlier, the Clerk explained that most councils do not publish the minutes until they are approved at the next meeting, although it is standard practice to issue them with the agenda of that meeting in draft form, so at that point they will be on the Parish Council website, but subject to amendment.
- It was reported at the last meeting that sat navs are guiding vehicles along Bound Lane, especially the section from Charing Cross to the Batcombe Road through the ford. This route is not only dangerous but also a habitat for wildlife, so it was suggested at the last meeting that it be blocked at some point. The Clerk has written to the Definitive Map Team Manager and the local Highways Officer regarding the status of this route and whether it could be gated. The response noted that it is presently an unclassified county road, but is not shown on the Definitive Map, so there is nothing that can be done at present. There is an outstanding DMMO application submitted by the British Horse Society to record the route as a Byway Open to All Traffic, but this is unlikely to be determined for many years. She offered her assistance to the Highways Officer should he have a possible solution to ease the problem.

4.5 Planning:

4.5.1 New Applications

- i) [P/HOU/2023/06522](#)
3 Barn Court
Erect single storey extension
Under consideration
- ii) [P/CLE/2023/06566](#)
Land west of Humbers Deep Ford Lane
Certificate of lawfulness for use of the land for the storage of a caravan
Members briefly discussed this application and those who had resided in Chetnole for sufficient time suggested that although a caravan had been left on the land to become overgrown and derelict, neither it or the site in question had been used for holiday accommodation at any time.

4.5.2 Dorset Council decisions

- i) [P/HOU/2023/03824](#)
Chetnole House Road Past the Church St Peters Chetnole
Carry out alterations to main house and erect a single storey extension for replacement of bay window.
Granted
- ii) [P/LBC/2023/03825](#)
Chetnole House the Court Road Past The Church St Peters Chetnole
Carry out internal and external alterations, to include erection of a single storey extension for replacement of bay window, replace window with french doors and install gate in garden wall.
Granted
- iii) [P/CLE/2023/04746](#)
Stonegarth Higher Farm Junction Chetnole to Hell Corner Chetnole
Certificate of Lawfulness to single residential dwelling unencumbered by the planning conditions imposed by planning permission 1/N/74/99
Granted
- iv) [P/LBC/2023/03523](#)
2 Foys Cottages Batcombe Lane Chetnole
Replace front ground floor window with hardwood double glazed window.
Pending
- v) [P/LBC/2023/03523](#)
4 Lamb Plot Chetnole
Erect 2 storey extension
Pending

4.5.3 Appeal decision

- i) [P/FUL/2022/00893](#) - Appeal
Land and Barn West of Back Lane Chetnole
Convert barn into 1 No. dwelling.
Dismissed

4.6 Finances

4.6.1 Accounts for Payment to 22 November 2023 (See Appendix A for details)

Payment of **£1,466.66** in total from the PC Current Account and **£0** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 22 November 2023:

Parish Council £24,392.65
Playing Field Fund £2,608.37

As there were two items of expenses relating to the Parish Plan, Members queried whether the Parish Plan had a budget, the Clerk reported that she had previously suggested a budget be in place, but it was informally agreed that the only expenses would be the survey and any printing costs, which were expected to be minimal.

Cllr Hewitt noted that the Survey Monkey licence had costed more than they expected but would run for 12 months and the questionnaires had been printed. It was agreed that there should be a limited number of copies of the final plan printed, for those who would be unable to access it on line, but other than that there should be no further expense claims for the production of the Parish Plan.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Owen and Seconded by Cllr Gallimore and agreed unanimously to approve the accounts for payment and balances recorded.

4.7 Grants and Donations

None received.

4.8 Chairman's Announcements:

- Cllr Pope read out correspondence received from Dorset Council offering a £20,000 grant towards the provision of an electric charging point within the village. It was agreed that the car parks of either the Village Hall or the Chetnole Inn were best placed to site a charging facility. Cllr Pope noted that the suggested contract was complex and there would be a substantial element of responsibility for whoever were to take it on. The Chairman agreed to forward the correspondence to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee in the first instance.

Cllr Troup left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

4.9 Reports from Members on other bodies:

STAG – Cllr Pope had previously circulated a report. The new lighting at Chetnole Halt was queried and Cllr Pope explained that it is now national policy for all stations to be lit, but it should be reduced to 20% when there is no traffic or other reason for it to be fully operational. For some reason this reduction is not happening and this has been reported. It was pointed out that there are no longer any roosting birds in the area as a result of the light pollution.

Boyles Trust – Cllr Owen had previously circulated a report. He noted that a new Clerk has been appointed to the Trust.

FOCH Report – It was noted that the application for a car park or drop off point has been submitted via the CRP and various rail authorities and a preliminary meeting held. Feasibility work is being carried out on the provision of a level access from the current platform. FOCH is also progressing the provision of local artwork on the station.

Flood-watch – Cllr Pope had previously circulated a report on the WRIG Steering Group, which is made up of representatives from Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT), local residents, parish council representatives, local farmers and the Environment Agency (EA). The aim is to bring together the various stakeholders in the Wrizzle Valley to access funding from the EA Flood Management Programme. The ultimate aim is to identify areas for interventions such as attenuation ponds, wet woodland areas, leaky dams and hinged trees to attenuate flows in natural storage areas. These interventions will help to give more control over flow of the river and so reduce the incidence of flooding. Water quality testing should begin shortly on the main river and upper tributaries. Updates will appear in the WVM, e-diary and local whatsapp group.

4.10 Recent Flooding in Chetnole

The Chairman had received an email from a resident of Deep Ford Lane, detailing the events following the heavy rainfall on Saturday 28 October 2024. Two vehicles had ignored the flashing warning signs and the 'road closed' sign at the start of Deep Ford Lane and both were washed down stream. The first occurred during the day and thankfully the passengers were out

of the vehicle before it got lifted and overturned as a result of the force of the water. The second occurred after dark and the emergency services were called to assist. Both could have resulted in fatalities were it not for the local assistance and the emergency services. Members queried why drivers still attempt to go through the ford when confronted with warning signs, the depth indicated on the height markers, the general conditions and often in the knowledge that it is a river passing through not just static flood water. After discussion it was agreed that this account of the issues at the Ford should be forwarded to the local Highways Officer as well as the Environment Agency. The increase in surface water within the village was also noted and this contributes to other flooding problems. It was agreed that Wessex Water should be consulted regarding the storm drains and sewage pipes.

4.11 Highways

4.11.1 The Ford

It was agreed that this had been covered at Item 4.10.

4.11.2 Dorset Council Speed Survey

It was agreed that this was covered at Item 4.4

4.11.3 Community Speed Watch Group

It was agreed that this was covered at Item 4.4

4.12 Playing Field

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the work carried out by the PFMT in recent months, including the installation of two new goal posts, the repair of benches and the installation of a number of new benches. Cllr Owen requested that a meeting be arranged between the Playing Field Management Team and the Playing Field Committee to discuss operational matters.

4.13 Status Update on the Parish Plan 2023

Cllr Hewitt provided a brief update. The consultation period has now expired and a quick run through of the results has taken place, but the full analysis has yet to be carried out. By the January meeting Cllr Hewitt hoped to have more detailed information and be prepared to form specific working groups to discuss and work on various project areas highlighted as a result of the plan. Cllr Pope noted that as that a percentage of the village had not responded and this should be taken in account when finalising the published results.

4.14 Matters that may be brought forward for resolution at a subsequent meeting

It was suggested that Flooding, Speed Watch and Electric Charging points are all subjects for the agenda in January 2024.

4.15 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 10 January 2024

Public Forum

- The subject of speeding within the village was raised with an example given of a recent incident.
- Cllr Owen noted that that 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (AONB's) are now to be called 'Dorset National Landscapes'. This is apparently a re-brand.