

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 March 2024

(Meeting Number 65 – 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)
Mrs M Penfold (Dorset Council)

Public Forum

- A blocked ditch in School Lane was reported. The landowner agreed to register it on the Dorset Council website and the Clerk will back this up.
- Cllr Penfold reported on the number of dangerous landslips on the South Coast. Cllr Penfold also explained that she will not be standing for the coming 5 year term with Dorset Council and is retiring after many years in Local Government. Members thanked her for help and support and wished her well in her retirement.

6.1 Apologies for Absence: None

6.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2024

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

6.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations
None

6.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings held on 10 January 2024
There was brief discussion on the station lights, noting that they will remain on during daylight hours but will be dimmed.

6.5 Planning:

6.6.1 New Applications
None

6.6.2 Dorset Council decisions

- a) [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
Granted
- b) [P/LBC/2023/03523](#)
4 Lamb Plot Chetnole
Erect 2 storey extension
Granted

6.6 Finances

6.6.1 Accounts for Payment to 14 March 2024 (See Appendix A for details)

Payment of **£803.20** in total from the PC Current Account and **£0** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 14 March 2024:

Parish Council £22,127.26
Playing Field Fund £2,608.37

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

There followed discussion on the cost of the electrical supply to the Pavilion. Cllr Owen explained that this had been discussed at the recent meeting between the Management Team and the Playing Field Committee. It was agreed informally to suggest to the Management Team that an arrangement might be reached with the Cricket Club to install a solar panels and regulator or purchase a generator to run the fridge and any lights and to use gas for cooking. The cost of a panel was estimated at approximately £360 and Members would consider funding this as a one off capital grant. Cllr Pope agreed to raise this with the Cricket Club.

6.7 Grants and Donations

None received.

6.8 Chairman's Announcements:

None

6.9 Reports from Members on other bodies:

Boyles Trust – Cllr Owen had again circulated a report which was read out at the meeting. Cllr Owen said that he is resigning as a Council member but would be prepared to carry on as the Boyles Trust Representative, as he had when he previously resigned from the Council for a four year term, noting that the representative does not necessarily have to be a Parish Council member.

STAG – Cllr Owen had previously circulated a report, which was read out at the meeting. Cllr Owen again mentioned that he is resigning from the Council, but suggested that a new STAG representative will need to be found

FOCH Report – There was little to report since the last meeting, except a temporary revision to the timetable.

WRIG Report - A meeting is to be held on 20 March, 7 - 8.30 pm at Hillfield Friary to discuss the progress with the work to slow the river and reduce flooding down-stream.

6.11 Highways

6.11.1 Community Speed Watch – Update

Cllr Troup has returned all application forms relating to a Community Speed Watch group. He is seeking further volunteers (Cllr Pope offered to join). He is hoping that the group will be trained and ready by May 2024.

6.11.2 Proposed Gates for Deep Ford Lane

At the last meeting there was discussion on correspondence received from Dorset Council offering the provision of gates to shut off Deep Ford Lane in times of flood. Unfortunately this has only been spoken of with Dorset Council over the phone and despite attempts by the Clerk to get a detailed written proposal from Highways, nothing

has been forthcoming. Cllr Penfold offered to chase it up and the Clerk will continue to request a written proposal.

Cllr Pope had made contact with a resident of Hamoon, where a flood-gate scheme is already in operation, she explained to him how it is operated by volunteers who take it in turns and keep in touch via Whatsapp. There is no obligation on them to close the gates, they do so whenever they can as necessary. Their view is that to close the gates when possible is better than not closing them at all. Cllr Pope also noted that he had received correspondence from members of the floodwatch team who are reluctant to be involved in closing the gates, issues of liability and responsibility were amongst their concerns. Cllr Owen suggested that the Council take advice before proceeding with this, to establish the level of responsibility the council might have for closing the gates and the potential liability implications should the gates not be put in place on occasion. Cllr Owen offered to meet with the Clerk to discuss this further.

6.12 Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the mowing contractor for the field is happy to continue, with a very modest increase in cost per cut. He has also suggested the use of a Turf Groomer and a Slotter to improve the quality of the grass and the surface in general. Members agreed to the use of the Turf Groomer, but Cllr Meier has reservations about the use of a Slotter.

Members queried whether the Cricket Club or the Boules Club pay anything towards their use of the field. The Clerk explained that the previous Chetnole Cricket Club gave a donation each year and so did the Boules Club. When the Chetnole Cricket Club dissolved, the Pavilion was given to the Parish Council and the new Wriggle Valley Cricket Club was formed. As this club was formed locally and took some time to become established, the Council were reluctant to suggest a donation, likewise it sought nothing from the Boules Club. Ultimately members agreed to shelve seeking donations at this point, as both the Boules and the Cricket are of benefit to the village at large, so continuing to use the Precept to fund activities on the field would appear to be justifiable. Cllr Pope again agreed to speak with the PFMT/Cricket Club regarding self-sufficiency.

The Clerk reported on the new Dogs Protection Order and implications for the Chetnole Playing Field. The rules on dogs are stringent and limiting, although it appears the Parish would have some ability to opt out. The Clerk agreed to look into this further and liaise with Rospa. It was generally agreed that enclosing the children's play area has become a necessity and again the Clerk will seek further advice on this.

6.13 Update on the Parish Plan

Cllr Hewitt reported that 3 open evening sessions had been held in January/February and there were attended by in excess of one hundred residents. The meetings provoked some interesting questions and resulted in getting 16 volunteers to guide through some of the projects. There were certain topic areas that provoked no interest, but others were well supported. No volunteers have been found for the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, the provision of a Village Shop and Bio-Diversity, Litter Picking and Renewable Energy. Communications will be looked after by Cllr Hewitt.

6.14 80th Anniversary of D-Day

The Clerk suggested that if Members wished to acknowledge D-Day in 2024, then organisation should begin shortly. Cllr Meier agreed to talk to Ilchester Estates regarding the use of their land for a beacon and Cllr Troupe agreed to contact a local historian.

6.14 Elections 2024

The Clerk gave a brief update on the preparations for the election and some guidance with the nomination papers. It was noted that all voters must have ID with them.

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

Nothing raised

Cllr Owen took the opportunity to thank the Council for their co-operation over this last five year term. He said he had enjoyed his time on the Council and felt it had been worthwhile. Cllr Owen had previously been Chairman for two terms from May 2008 to May 2014 and had then resigned from the Council, but returned in 2019 for this final term. Cllr Gallimore is also resigning from the Council having moved out of the parish after serving on the Council for many years, with four of those as Chairman from May 2003 to 2007. The current Chairman, Cllr Pope is also considering resigning after thirteen years on the Council, with nine of those as Chairman from May 2015 to 2024.

6.16 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2024 (Annual Statutory Meeting preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting).

Public Forum

- It was noted that the hedge has been cut back on Bubb Down Way, presumably by the owners of the adjacent field.