

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 September 2024

(Meeting Number 4 – 2024-2025 council year)

Present: Cllrs J Troup (Chairman), A Clark, E Hume, N Hewitt, G De-Metz, J Meier
and G Sturgess

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)

Public Forum

- *A resident raised a query with regard to the height the hedges that have been cut over the summer months, the concern being that they remain un-cut at eye height when on a bicycle or a horse, as the machine is taking one sweep and only cutting at vehicle height. It was explained that Dorset Council cut only the grass and verge during the summer, as these obstruct the Highway. It is not permissible to cut the hedgerow until after September, resulting in an overhang of vegetation. Discussion continued on official hedge cutting times, noting that landowners may cut from September onwards, although it is often later in the year because farmers cut the field hedges first whilst the ground is hard and then the roads later when they can no longer take heavy machinery onto the soft wet land.*

4.1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr C Kippax (Dorset Council), Edward Morello MP

4.2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 June and 31 July 2024

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr Hume and agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Sturgess and Seconded by Cllr De-Metz and agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July be signed as a correct record.

4.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Hewitt declared an interest in Item No. 5.3 as she owns land adjacent to the plot.
Cllr Hume declared an interest in Item No. 5.3 as he lives adjacent to the plot.

4.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings.
None.

4.9 Planning:

4.9.1 New Applications
No new applications.

4.9.2 Dorset Council decisions
None

4.9.3 Plot to the South of Deep Ford Lane

The gateway on the site has been widened and it is debated whether this is within permitted development rights as it is within a Conservation Area and within the curtilage of several listed buildings. It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the co-owner of this plot of land speak. Members took note of her statement, but acknowledged that it is for Dorset

Council to make any judgement on what happens on any site and whether it contravenes any planning laws. Standing Orders were re-instated.

4.9.4 To note the changes introduced by Dorset Council to the planning delegation scheme.

Dorset Council have agreed to change the Officer Scheme of Delegation by changing the process for determining which planning applications are referred to the planning committees and which are determined by officers. Ultimately more applications will be considered by the Committees ensuring a more democratic process.

4.10 Finances

4.10.1 Accounts for Payment to 11 September 2024 (See Appendix A for details)

Payment of **£2,365.88** total from the PC Current Account and **£0** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 11 September 2024:	Parish Council £20,814.99
	Playing Field Fund £2,588.37

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

4.11 Grants and Donations

Members were asked to consider a donation to the repair of the Church wall adjacent to the Playing Field.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Meier and seconded by Cllr Clark to approve a grant of £500 towards the repair of the Church Wall.

4.12 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman noted a report that some members of a local rural sporting group had been seen urinating against the Church wall, opposite the Chetnole Inn. It was agreed that this was not really a Parish Council matter as it was not on Council property, but suggested that the landlady of the Chetnole Inn should be made aware. Cllr Meier offered to speak to the landlady on behalf of the Council.

4.13 Reports from Members on other bodies:

None received.

4.14 Highways

Community Speed Watch – Update

No further Speedwatch sessions have taken place, but noted the excessive speed of vehicles on the Stockwood Road during the 'commute' hours. Cllr Meier agreed to monitor it, but a further Speedwatch session is planned and it will ideally be timed and placed to record this traffic flow in those hours. It is also planned to do an audit of the repeater signs.

4.15 Playing Field

The Playing Field Management Team continue to meet through the summer months and the Chairman will produce a report at the end of the season. Monthly maintenance sessions are carried out by the Team.

Noted that the cradle swing seat is broken, a new one is on order.

The perennial problem of dog mess was discussed and Cllr Troup came forward with the design for a sign to be placed on the gate. With a few small revisions, this was approved.

Cllr Troup mentioned signs that are being issued by the NFU that warn dog owners to be diligent about clearing up dog faeces on farming land. He offered to obtain some signs and put them up on local paths and gateways.

4.16 Update on the Parish Plan

Cllr Hewitt sought support from fellow councillors to head-up the main themes of the plan and the following was agreed:

Cllr De-Metz – Services

Cllr Hume – Environment

Cllr Hewitt – Communications

Cllr Troup – Transport

Cllr Sturgess – Road maintenance

Cllr Hume informed members of progress with some environmental aspects, including the possible provision of a Community Orchard and ‘birds, bees, bats and bloom’ with the suggestion of the provision of bee hives whilst engaging assistance from some local experts.

There followed some discussion on how involved the Parish Council should be with the finer detail of the Parish Plan projects. Generally agreed that the Parish Council should be prepared to offer grants for local projects initiated by the plan, (such as a Community Orchard) and to offer support for projects, so long as they provide for the community as a whole.

4.17 Footpaths

Cllr Clark, in his role as Footpath Officer, gave an update on footpaths in and around the village. He reported blockages to the footpath leading from Herbury Lane, problems with the path to Yetminster and a rotted stile on the path between Cream Cottage and Mill Lane. Also rotted posts at Dixons Bridge.

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

There was continued concern about the water quality of the Wriggle River. Some test results are due and it was agreed to discuss this again when they are available

4.19 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 12 November

Public Forum

- *Alternative dog walking areas were discussed, with suggestions of donated land, purchased land etc. It was noted that the village/residents raised the money to purchase the existing playing field and many who donated to that are still living in Chetnole and still walking their dogs on the field, so they understandably feel they have a right to do so. It was acknowledged that the majority of local playing fields have resolved to operate under the Dorset Council Dog Control Order, but this is one of the reasons why Chetnole has opted out of that Order.*