

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 November 2024

(Meeting Number 5 – 2024-2025 council year)

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Chris Kippax (Dorset Council – Yetminster Ward)

Public Forum

Nothing Raised

5.1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr E Hume

5.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2024

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr Sturgess and agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September be signed as a correct record.

5.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

None raised.

5.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings.

None raised.

5.9 Planning:

5.9.1 New Applications

P/HOU/2024/06021 Chetnole Farm Cottage, Batcombe Road. Erect single storey side extension with rooflights.

5.9.2 Dorset Council decisions

None

5.10 Finances

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

Payment of **£2,102.14** total from the PC Current Account and **£0** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 12 November 2024:	Parish Council £24,837.05
	Playing Field Fund £2,588.37

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

5.10.2 To approve the purchase of three WW1 Silhouettes

Three metal silhouettes had been purchased from the Royal British Legion to be used within the village throughout the lead up to Remembrance. The proposal to purchase was circulated to all members and the majority indicated their approval and this minute formalises that approval. It was agreed that the figures should be taken down and stored safely until late October 2025, when they could be re-erected on the incoming routes

into the village, as this year. Cllr Meier offered to provide storage. Thanks were received for the inclusion of a female silhouette, showing support for the many women who are now part of the armed forces.

5.11 Grants and Donations

None received

5.12 Chairman's Announcements:

5.12.1 The existing Neighbourhood Watch signs are worn out and new signs are available. It was agreed that the Council would support the purchase of new signs at the cost of £16 per sign. The Clerk will arrange this with Chetnole Neighbourhood Watch.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Troup and Seconded by Cllr Meier and agreed unanimously to approve the purchase of three RBL commemorative silhouettes.

5.13 Reports from Members on other bodies:

None received.

5.14 Highways

5.14.1 Speed Indicator Device

It was suggested that Chetnole PC liaise with Leigh PC with the intention of sharing their Speed Indicator Device (SID), Cllr Troup would look into this. It will be necessary to seek permission from Dorset Council on the use of a SID within Chetnole, especially with regard to sites.

5.14.2 Speed Limit Repeater Signs

It was noted that hedges have grown out over the repeater signs. It was agreed that those with responsibility for the hedges should be asked to cut them back sufficiently to allow visibility of the signs. It appears that over the years the hedges have slowly gained width and obscured the signs.

5.15 Footpaths

Cllr Clark, in his role as Footpath Officer, gave an update on footpaths in and around the village. He commended the local farmers and shepherds for their quick response to problems with footpaths and sick or injured animals. It was noted that some of the land in the village is rented out to tenants who do not live locally, Cllr Clark has been in touch with them and has found them very obliging and helpful. He suggested that the Parish Council reach out to the local farmers and assist where possible with communications and signage etc.

5.16 Playing Field

The Chairman of the Playing Field Management Team produced an end of year report on the activities of the team and its work in the Playing Field, which was circulated to all members. As a member of the team, Cllr Sturgess made some further points, looking at the proposal to fence off the Children's Play Area within the field and the inclusion of a Duck Race in 2025. The Team continue to look at the provision of new play equipment and a new surface, wooden equipment being favoured. Dogs in the field was again discussed, noting restrictions made by other councils. It was suggested that further signs are put up to remind people to watch their dogs and pick up any faeces and to keep them away from the children's area, this will be raised at the next meeting of the Management Team.

The Council then offered their thanks to the Management Team for the work they do to keep the field looking good and offering an excellent facility for all to use.

5.17 Update on the Parish Plan

Cllr Hewitt gave a progress report. She is keen to keep the website updated with useful pages and informative pages and to encourage conversation on the dates for the summer events.

Cllr De-Metz is attempting to establish existing broadband speeds throughout the village, some areas being average to good, but some remaining poor. Wessex Internet are providing a service in the area, leading to a fibre connection, but access to this service is still a little way off. With regard to Environment, the WRIG group have not met recently so there are no updates at present. With regard to Transport, Cllr Troup will invite a representative of the Plus Bus to the January meeting to brief members on the service they offer to the wider community, their business case and funding contributors.

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

There have been reports on the Chetnole Info Whatsapp group of mud on the road in various places. It was noted that the weather has been very wet and farmers were struggling to get their maize in from the fields and that in most cases the roads were cleaned as soon as possible, but nonetheless noted that the responsibility to keep the road clear falls to the person causing the potentially dangerous road conditions.

5.19 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 8 January

Public Forum

- *The Chairman introduced Cllr Kippax, Dorset Councillor for the Yetminster Ward. He thanked him for already helping with an issue involving hedge cutting. Cllr Kippax referred to current issues affecting Dorset Council, including the 'Dorset Local Plan'- the new administration plan, and also to the changes to planning regulations.*
- *Discussion continued on the local bus services, noting that the Plus Bus is available to all whereas NORDCAT has to be booked. It was also noted that there is little conflict between the two services as they run on different days.*
- *As Chairman of the South West Rail Partnership, Mr Bob Owen referred to the transformation of the shelter at Chetnole Halt which, in combination with the Bee Friendly Trust, has been transformed with beautiful art work on the interior walls spilling to the outside walls.*