

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 March 2025

(Meeting Number 7 – 2024-2025 council year)

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)

Public Forum

Nothing Raised

6.1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr N Hewitt and Cllr Kippax (DC)

6.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2025

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr De-Metz and Seconded by Cllr Sturgess and agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January be signed as a correct record.

6.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations
None raised.

6.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meeting.
Cllr Clark, who was absent at the January meeting, felt that it would not be appropriate for him as Footpaths Officer, to lead on a specific whatsapp group for farming queries. This matter had arisen at the last meeting when endeavours were being made to avoid farming queries and complaints on the village whatsapp group.

6.5 Planning:

6.5.1 New Applications
None

6.5.2 Dorset Council decisions

- a) **P/HOU/2024/07073 (Full Planning) / P/LBC/2024/07074 (Listed Building Consent)**
The Cow Shed Hamlet Barns Yetminster Road Chetnole DT9 6NY
Erection of single storey extension and associated alterations and extension to hall entrance. Replace section of brick wall, window and door on south elevation. Insert 3no. rooflights
GRANTED

6.6 Finances

6.6.1 Accounts for Payment to 8 January 2025 (See Appendix A for details)
Payment of **£860.44** total from the PC Current Account and **£4.25** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 19 March 2025:
Parish Council £23,047.30
Playing Field Fund £ 2,584.12

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

6.7 Grants and Donations

None received

6.8 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr Troup gave an update on the Plus Bus, noting that the service is doing well and numbers using it are increasing. Members discussed the potential for a grant towards the service, but agreed they need to know more before making a commitment. Standing Orders were suspended to enable Mr Bob Owen to speak regarding STAG and the loss of the NORDCAT service, which sadly is no longer financially viable, probably due to the expansion of services which did not succeed. For that reason he advised caution on support of the Plus Bus. Cllr Meier suggested researching the Essex Community Transport scheme.

6.9 Reports from Members on other bodies:

Cllr Troup gave a report from WRIG (River Wriggle Improvement Group). He noted the phosphate levels are coming down and the river looks generally cleaner.

6.10 Highways

6.10.1 Members noted an emergency temporary Road Closure Notice for 20th March..

6.10.2 Speedwatch – Cllr Troup apologised for the lack of progress and the project will be reviewed.

6.10.3 Two blocked drains, corner of Neals Lane, also white arrows on the drains. Drains down Mill Lane, pouring off Nappers into the Main Road. This will be reported to Highways.

6.11 Footpaths

Cllr Clark consulted the Council on the possibility of resurfacing Church Path, the existing surface is very muddy in places and is not being used. It was gravelled some years ago by the kind donation of some stone from the owners of neighbouring properties. Unfortunately, the wrong type of gravel was used which made it difficult for those with pushchairs or wheelchairs to negotiate it. After discussion members agreed not to proceed with resurfacing the path at this stage. Hedge and verge encroachment and danger to cyclists and pedestrians, it was suggested that the farmers or landowners are asked to cut back the hedges a little further. There have been recent complaints about people not sticking to footpaths within fields, specifically those fields running from Foys to the Stockwood Road. Habitual walking has resulted in 'unofficial routes' which are frequently used and with no adverse effect, but when the field has livestock in it, then adherence to the footpath is important and all should respect that. The Clerk agreed to produce a map which indicates the exact location of the footpaths within the Chetnole and Stockwood Parish. This will be available on the website or by request.

6.12 Playing Field

Fencing - The Playing Field Management Team have held their initial meetings for 2025, the Clerk explained to them the necessity for a fence around the children's play area, the options are metal railings or wooden fencing. Agreed that the fenced area should be larger than the existing matted area to allow room for expansion when new equipment is installed. The Clerk in conjunction with the Management Team would obtain some relevant costings.

Duck Race – The Management Team are organising a Duck Race to be held in June 2025.

6.13 Trees – To discuss the Shelter Belt within the Playing Field and future tree planting

A resident of Mill Lane reported to the Council that one of the ash trees in the shelter belt within the Playing Field has developed split and also requested a reduction in the trees adjacent to their home. John Glashier of Woodland and Garden Tree Services has visited the field to inspect the ash and will fell it to the height of the split to preserve the ecology. He did not

recommend or favour any reduction of the existing healthy trees nor felling of saplings. He will also carry out some other minor work and carry out an inspection of all the Ash Trees in the field to check if any others have signs of Ash Die-back. It is hoped he will also examine the trees in the Jubilee Garden, remove any dead ones and grind the stumps in readiness for planting in the autumn. With regards to future tree planting and the Oaks that were intended for Stockwood, Cllr Meier suggested that these trees be planted within the hedgerows and this is something which again could be done in the autumn with the agreement of the new agents at Ilchester Estates.

The Chairman asked for a vote on whether there should be any reduction to the trees in the Playing Field shelter belt and it was agreed:

RESOLVED: To fell the split tree, but to not carry out any reduction or fell any saplings.

- 6.14** Future Planning – Members discussed the potential for the formation of a PC Working Group to evaluate the Council's preference for any future development that might take place within the parishes. It was generally considered good practice to have a readily prepared document noting local issues, such as details on local infrastructure, such as transport, roads, bridges, flooding zones and other specific issues resulting from local knowledge. Recent applications have contained inaccurate and out of date information. It was stressed that this plan is not intended to recommend or favour specific sites within the village, nor recommend areas for development.

The Chairman asked for a vote on the merits of preparing a plan on infrastructure and it was initially agreed that a plan should be developed, however further discussion took place and it was then decided to retract the vote taken and for Cllrs Hewitt, Meier and the Clerk to get together and prepare a draft plan for consideration at a future meeting.

6.15 Update on the Parish Plan

Cllr Hewitt was unable to attend the meeting this evening and so no report was available.

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

None

6.17 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 14 May

Public Forum

- There was concern about a tree which is overhanging the road at head height within the centre of the village, the Clerk will contact the owner of the tree.