

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

k

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 May 2025 in the Chetnole Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Hewitt (Deputy Chairman) Cllrs A Clark, E Hume and G Sturgess

In attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Clerk). Cllr C Kippax (Dorset Council)

PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing raised.

- 1.1 **Election of Chairman** - It was proposed by Cllr Hewitt and seconded by Cllr Clark and resolved that **Councillor James Troup should continue as Chairman.**
- 1.2 **Election of Deputy Chairman** - It was proposed by Cllr Hume and seconded by Cllr Sturgess and resolved that **Councillor Naomi Hewitt should continue as Deputy Chairman.**
- 1.3 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr G De-Metz, Cllr J Troup and Cllr J Meier
- 1.4 **Playing Field Committee and Playing Field Management Team:**
 - 1.4.1 **RESOLVED:** Agreed to approve continuation of the membership of the Playing Field Committee as: Cllrs Meier, De-Metz and Sturgess.
 - 1.4.2 **RESOLVED:** Agreed to approve the membership of the Playing Management Team as: **Mr D Orton (Chairman), Mr J Beaumont, Cllr G Sturgess, Mr H Woodford and Mr J Woodford.** The Parish Clerk will continue to act as Clerk offering admin support and as a team member. Noting the resignation of Mr D Russell and thanking him for his support.
- 1.5 **Representatives on outside bodies – confirmed as follows:**

Boyles Trust	Mr R Owen
Floodwatch/WRIG	Mr O Pope/Cllr J Troup
STAG	Cllr Troup
Homewatch	Mr S Crumpler
FOCH	Mr Rick Baker
- 1.6 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hewitt declared an interest in Item 9.1 as she lives adjacent to the site in question, she would not take part in any discussion.

Cllr Hume declared an interest in Item 9.1 as he lives adjacent to the site in question, he would not take part in any discussion.
- 1.7 **Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr Hewitt and seconded by Cllr Sturgess that the Minutes of the meeting of 12 March 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.
- 1.8 **Matters Arising from the Minutes of 12 March 2025**
 - i) The Clerk has prepared a Map of the area detailing footpaths, bridleways and any other rights of way throughout the combined parishes of Chetnole and Stockwood. This is following a suggestion that the public be made aware of the exact location of

- the footpaths to avoid any debate about where they run when there is stock in the field or an area is fenced off.
- ii) It had been suggested at the last meeting, in his absence, that Cllr Clark might wish to take responsibility for a specific whatsapp group for the reporting of farming issues, Cllr Clark was concerned that this was not part of the role of Footpaths Officer and preferred not to take on this responsibility.
 - ii) Cllr De-Metz had requested to discuss tree management within the village, but this was deferred until a future meeting.

1.9 Planning

1.9.1 P/PARC/2025/02261 Use of land as a temporary recreational campsite for up to 50 pitches from 01/07/2025 to 29/08/2025 (60 days). - Land off Deep Ford Lane.

Members discussed this application and were very concerned about the potential impact. Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to voice their concerns. Issues of flooding, access for the emergency services, fire risk, proximity to adjacent thatched properties, noise nuisance, sewage disposal and contamination and traffic management were all considered. It was also understood that the gateway to the site had been widened without prior permission. It was suggested that the Case Officer should visit the site before making any decision. It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft submission indicating that the Council oppose this application and detailing its concerns, to be circulated to members before submission to Dorset Council. Cllr Kippax asked to be kept informed and be copied into any relevant correspondence.

1.10 Playing Field:

Members discussed the proposal to fence off the Children's Play Area. The Management Team proposed fencing a larger area than that currently covered in rubber matting, so making provision for further play equipment with a different type of safety surface. Various types of fencing were considered, Cllr Sturgess suggested the most economical would be a basic stockproof fence with treated wood and pig netting, the same as that used in the Leigh play field. The Clerk had looked into metal fencing, which was aesthetically pleasing but very expensive or a picket fence, which could be provided at a more reasonable price. Further details will be sought before the next meeting.

1.11 Annual Approval of Parish Council Policy Documents and Arrangements:

Members were in receipt of copies of the following policy documents and arrangements to note and approve:-

- 1.11.1 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- 1.11.2 Council's Press and Media Policy
- 1.11.3 Council's Complaints Procedure
- 1.11.4 To approve Risk Management Policy
- 1.11.5 Freedom of Information Policy and GDPR
- 1.11.6 Asset Register
- 1.11.7 Insurance renewal for 2025/26
- 1.11.8 2025/26 Meeting Calendar
- 1.11.9 Internet Banking, on-line payments and the use of direct debits

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Hewitt and seconded by Cllr Hume to approve the above Policy Documents for 2025/26

1.12 To consider any matters arising from the Parish Meetings held on 14 May 2025 (prior to the present meeting).

Concern about missing and misplaced signage. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council.

1.13 Reports from External Bodies

1.13.1 Boyles – Mr R Owen had submitted a written report on the Boyles Trust, which had been previously circulated to Members. Cllr Owen read the report for the benefit of those present.

1.13.4 FOCH Report – Mr Ian Wood has resigned as Chairman of the Friends of Chetnole Halt and the post has been filled by Mr Rick Baker.

1.14 Accounts

1.14.1 Accounts for Payment (See Appendix A for details)

Payment of **£2,654.31** in total from the PC Current Account and **£54.25** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 14 May 2025: **Parish Council: £27,168.35**
Playing Field Fund: £2,525.62

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Hume and seconded by Cllr Sturges to approve the accounts for payment and balances recorded.

1.15 Matters requiring the attention of the Council (that may be brought forward for resolution at a subsequent meeting).

- Tree Management
- Plus Bus
- Fencing off the Children's Play area.

1.16 Next Meeting

The next meeting was brought forward to **18 June 2025** to accommodate signing off the end of year accounts and the availability of some Members and the Clerk.

.....
Chairman

PUBLIC FORUM

1. The usage of the Plus Bus was discussed and it was suggested that further detail on the recorded usage by Chetnole residents and some information on running costs were obtained. The Council had previously considered a donation to the scheme. It was agreed to invite Toby Hartwell to a future meeting to provide further details.
2. Cllr Kippax reported on the basis for the increases in Council Tax this year, explaining that since its formation in 2019 and up to the end of the 2023/24 tax year, Dorset Council received a cumulative Revenue Support Grant of 3.1 million. For the 2025/26 year, Dorset received only 1.7 million of this. Cllr Kippax noted the underfunding for rural areas in favour of urban areas, with councils in London receiving considerably more, some as much as £46.3 million. Another contributory factor is the demographic of Dorset requiring 60% of the budget to be spent on Child and Adult Housing Directorates, most of which is spent on meeting the statutory need to some of the most vulnerable people and households. A third of the population in Dorset is aged over 65 compared to an England wide average of 19%.

