

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 June 2025

(Meeting Number 2 – 2025-2026 council year)

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)
Cllr C Kippax – Dorset Council

Public Forum

Nothing Raised

2.1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr E Hume and J Meier

2.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2025

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr Sturgess and agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May be signed as a correct record.

2.3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Hewitt declared an interest in Item 5.2 as she owns land adjacent to the site.

2.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meeting.

Cllr Demetz queried his membership of the Playing Field Committee but was prepared to remain on it.

2.5 Planning:

2.5.1 New Applications

None

2.5.2 Dorset Council decisions

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.

Conditional Approval Granted

Discussion on the approval of this application followed and the Chairman explained that it is not 'planning permission' in the usual sense, but a grant of permission to use the site for the dates quoted only (60 days), subsequent years will require further applications. 50 pitches is the minimum that can be applied for, but in this case the site is self-limiting. Flooding of the lane or difficulty with entrance or egress is not considered relevant by the planning authority, nor is the fact that it is in a Conservation Area. The Chairman intends to pursue this with DC Highways, although he has been advised that as it is a minor road so it may be considered irrelevant. Further discussion took place including the possibility of banning fires on site and whether this would be possible, the Chairman agreed to check this with the planning officers. The Council were in general dissatisfied with the way in which this application has been handled and remain perplexed by why permission is granted in this instance, despite all the valid concerns that remain relevant.

2.6 Finances

2.6.1 Accounts for Payment to 8 January 2025 (See Appendix A for details)

Payment of **£2,903.44** total from the PC Current Account and **£4.25** from the Playing Field Fund Account.

Total assets at 18 June 2025:

Parish Council £23,470.00
Playing Field Fund £ 2,843.37

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

Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

2.6.2 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

Members were in receipt of a copy of the Governance Statement.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr Troop to approve the Governance Statement for 2024/25

2.6.3 Accounts and Annual Return for 2024/25 and Certificate of Exemption

Members were in receipt of a copy of the Accounts and Annual Return. Cllr De-Metz queried whether recently elected members should be approving the accounts for a year when they were not in office and had no involvement. The Clerk gave assurance that this is normal practice. The accounts are available for scrutiny if required and the detailed information will be published on the Parish Council website.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Troop and Seconded by Cllr Hewitt and agreed unanimously to approve the Accounts and Annual Return for 2024/25

2.7 Grants and Donations

The following grants were approved as Proposed by Cllr Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr De-Metz

- **Chetnole PCC - £250**
- **Citizens Advice - £750**
- **Wriggle Valley Magazine - £150**

2.8 Chairman's Announcements:

No further correspondence.

2.9 Reports from Members on other bodies:

Cllr Troup :

Police report – circulated and noted

Boyles – Trust no report this month

STAG – Nothing to report

FOCH – Ian Wood stood down as chair and as a committee member. Rick Baker has taken over as Chair. CRP report, GWR withdrawn support for step free access, passenger numbers and potential loss of franchise are blamed for this.

Standing Orders were suspended to enable Mr Toby Hartwell to provide an update on the Wriggle Valley Plus Bus. Mr Hartwell explained how the service came about and what model scheme it is based on. The service initially supports Leigh, Chetnole, Bradford Abbas Yetminster and Thornford, it runs once a week on a Friday and alternates destination between Sherborne and Yeovil. Price per trip of £5. People need to register as a user and book their place in the lead up to the bus journey they wish to take. The bus costs £100 to run per trip and enough income per trip from fares needs to cover the costs, it is running at a loss at present, but is using CIL funds as a buffer, this will hopefully sustain it for 5/6 years. Contributions to the running costs are needed to sustain it further, Chetnole residents do use it, over last 7 months, 100 registered and of those 7 are from Chetnole. Regarding donations, Thornford and Bradford Abbas have given £300 towards it. Standing Orders were then re-

instated. It was agreed to make a nominal contribution of £50 at this stage and keep monitoring the number of Chetnole users as it moves forward.

2.10 Highways

2.10.1 Cllr Sturgess reported that the gate at Leigh has been repaired.

2.10.2 Cllr Troup agreed to look into having the roadside hedges cut again this year.

2.11 Playing Field

Fencing – Cllr Sturgess gave an update and noted that HAGS are due to visit in the near future and other play equipment firms are being contacted. The critical thing is to get the area for fencing off correct and that can only be finalised when there is an idea of what equipment may be incorporated and what space it will occupy. The incorporation of the Boules Piste within this fencing was considered, but was agreed that this might not be straightforward.

2.12 Update on the Parish Plan

Cllr Hewitt reported that there had been no progress on the small business category, proving to be not viable but perhaps there is some scope for pop-up businesses

Neighbourhood Plan – James will attend the Town and PC planning event on 17th July

Transport – progressing well apart from the blow from GWR

Traffic Barriers across Deep Ford Lane and Lond Ford, being pursued

Environment – village energy scheme, Cllr Hume seek volunteers.

Tree Planting in the Autumn, seeking volunteers

River Management - To confirm representation on the WRIG group.

Services – Cllr Sturgess and Cllr De-Metz are working on this.

Broken Fingerpost - kindly repaired by Ned Kozowyk

Community – Events have taken place this year, especially for Children – Christmas Party, Duck Race and Teddy Parachuting.

Summer Camp on Playing Field – hard to find qualified volunteers

Website – Updates in progress

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

None

2.14 Trees – Members were in receipt of a report prepared by the Clerk on the status of various tree works in the village, including the felling of some dead trees in the Jubilee Garden, the felling of a split Ash tree in the Chetnole Playing Field and the pruning of an adjacent Ash tree. Tree planting to take place in the late autumn in the Jubilee Garden and the Playing Field. An inspection has taken place of all Ash trees on council property and all are deemed safe and free from disease at present. The long-term plan to plant Oaks at Stockwood Common area and was raised and it was agreed that this should be revisited.

2.15 Date of next Meeting: As two members of the Council are unavailable on the scheduled date of 10 September, it was agreed to move the date later in September

Public Forum

- There was discussion on the new system of booking for dropping larger waste items at Sherborne tip.