

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 January 2019 in Chetnole Village (Meeting Number 5 – 2018-2019 council year)

Present: Councillors O Pope (Chairman), A Darley (Vice Chairman),
L Carroll, M Gallimore, W Henry, J Hume and J Meier.
(Cllr M Lawrence WDDC)

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Parish Clerk)
(Cllr M Penfold - DCC)

Public Forum

Cllr Penfold gave a brief resume of the formation of the new Unitary Council.

5.1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr L Carroll and Cllr M Lawrence (WDDC)

5.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2018.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Meier and seconded Cllr Pope and agreed unanimously that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

5.3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations
None

5.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2018

- The Chairman reported that the Chair of Yetminster Council is still trying to form a group with other local parish councils to discuss the implications of the new Unitary Council.
- The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken with the Council's Solicitor and she gave assurance that Chetnole Playing should be ensured safety in the future as it could never be sold off or disposed of without the Parish Council approval on behalf of the Village and the formation of the Unitary Council should not affect this in any way.

5.5 Planning:
The Clerk reported that no planning applications have been received for consideration.

5.6 Finances

5.6.1 Accounts for Payment (See Appendix A for details)

It was resolved to approve payment of £3,230.94 in total from the PC Current Account and £40.00 from the Playing Field Management Team Account.

Total assets at 12 September 2018:	Parish Council	£16,562.40
	Playing Field Fund	£2,232.47
	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	(Paid off 6.12.18)

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Gallimore and Seconded by Cllr Pope to unanimously approve the accounts for payment and balances recorded.

5.6.2 Budget and set the Precept for 2019/2020

Members were in receipt of a copy of the budget for 2019/2020. After consideration of the likely increase in expenditure due to the devolution of services and improvements to the Playing Field and Pavilion, it was agreed that the Precept should be subject to a moderate increase.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Meier, seconded by Cllr Pope and agreed to increase the Precept to £10,000.

5.7 Grants and Donations

There were no requests.

5.8 Chairmans Announcements

- ‘Shaping Dorset Council’ Newsletter – Cllr Pope noted the pay settlements made to the to the Chief Executives of both Dorset County Council and Christchurch Borough Council as both seemed excessive and were sourced from public funds.
- Finger Posts – Ned Kowowyk has kindly offered to head a team to assemble new finger post signs for the village, the existing signs have deteriorated in recent months. It was proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Meier to allocate a budget of £350 for the repairs and agreed to thank Mr Kowowyk for his generous offer.

5.9 Reports from Members on other bodies

5.9.1 Flood Warden – The Lead Flood Warden, Gordon Ratcliffe, submitted a written report to the meeting. The Sandbag Store is now completed and a 150 filled sandbags were delivered free of charge on 1 November 18. A sack trolley is available at the store at all times Agreed this should be advertised on the Parish Council website. The Wriggle has risen on several occasions making the ford impassable, the maximum level recorded was 1.40 metres on 16 December 18. Three incidents were reported, one of which could have ended with fatal consequences. All during the hours of darkness when the warning signs were flashing but were ignored by the drivers concerned.

At 5.30pm on 27th November a car driven by a young woman was swept about 150 metres downstream of the ford, with river level recorded at just below 1.0metre. She phoned 999 twice as the car gradually upturned and submerged and all three services attended. Paramedics were guided across the paddocks by to where the lady had been pulled out of the river by the police. Apparently she had been in the water for about 45 minutes and was hypothermic. Following this life threatening incident, the EA changed the telemetry of the electronic signs in Deep Ford Lane, so that they only flash when the level at the ford reaches 0.25metres. This now sends an SMS text message to the cell phones of two local Flood Wardens to prompt them to set up "Road Closed" signs which were sourced by Councillor Pope on behalf of the Parish Council. The remainder of the Flood Warden team also receive texts as back up. The EA is considering replacing the existing pair of electronic flood warning signs with ones with more succinct wording, however a cost of around £12,000 may be an obstacle. Mr Ratcliffe suggested thanks were due to the everyone involved in the rescue attempts on each occasion.

5.9.2 Home Watch – Nothing to report

5.9.3 Boyles Trust – Mr Bob Owen submitted a detailed report as Council representative on the Boyles Trust. The Trust was able to grant each of 14 individual qualified applications an award of £500 each to assist with the costs of their academic or vocational studies. Boyles also made a grant of £210 to the Joint Guiding Group. Three Governors (trustees) have resigned, a new appointment from Leigh is awaited and they are seeking out other possible new candidates to provide proactive assistance in the various tasks of the Governors which have recently become significantly more complex. The report continued to detail the current status of governance, finances and lettings.

5.9.4 STAG (Sherborne Transport Action Group) – Nothing to report

The Chairman thanked Mr Ratcliffe and Mr Owen for their comprehensive reports.

5.10 Highways Issues

5.10.1 The problems with traffic using Ford Lane was discussed further. It was noted that the Parish Council had commissioned and purchased new signs to inform the public that Deep Ford Lane is closed because of the river in full flood. These were in place when some of the incidents took place in December and despite that and all the other signage, the lane is still being used. The provision of a signs advising the public not to follow Satellite Navigation guidance was considered – such as ‘Do not follow Sat Nav – Deep Ford Ahead’ or ‘Road not suitable for Motor Vehicles’. The Chairman agreed that this should be investigated and advice taken on what signs would be most suitable.

5.10.2 The salt storage containers at Stockwood may need refilling and the Clerk agreed to look into this. It was suggested that the Parish Council might buy a pallet of salt bags, if storage can be found, for emergency use in extreme weather.

5.11 Footpaths

Cllr Darley reported that two gates had been installed during January, one at the entrance to the garden at Chetnole Mill House into the adjacent field and the other at the opposite end of that field. The further gate is the standard metal gate, the garden gate is wood construction.

Cllr Darley suggested that it would be beneficial to those using the footpath to have a similar gate onto Neals Lane, at present the gate is locked and there is a style which has to be climbed over. Cllr Darley agreed to pursue this.

5.13 Playing Field

The Chairman reported that works will be carried out on the trees in the Playing Field adjacent to the back of the garden of ‘Gorteen’ in Mill Lane. These works have the permission of WDDC and will be carried out using the same guidelines that the Parish Council requested for the work done adjacent to Church View, to reduce overhanging branches to next available pruning point over the boundary fence.

Cllr Gallimore queries the progress of the 5-Aside football provision. The Clerk and Chairman both explained that they understood that the project had been shelved due to lack of support within the village, the youngsters that were keen a few years ago have grown up and moved on.

5.14 Matters requiring the attention of the Council

5.15 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 13 March 2019

Public Forum – Nothing raised.

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Chairman