

Charmouth Parish Council

Council Office The Elms St Andrew's Drive Charmouth Bridport Dorset DT6 6LN



Telephone (01297) 560826 E-Mail charmouth@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PLAYING FIELD, CEMETERY AND STREET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2021

In attendance: Cllrs Martin Sayers (Chair); Katie Moore; Andrew Lightfoot, Jane Bremner, Maralyn Hinxman, Peter Noel, Julie Leah and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

PCS10.21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

None present.

PCS11.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

PCS12.21 DISPENSATIONS

None were received.

PCS13.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

PCS14.21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Playing Field, Cemetery and Street Management Committee held on the 23rd February 2021 and circulated to members, were agreed and signed by the Chair.

PCS15.21 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Footpaths

i) Footpath gates

Cllr Sayers reported that some more vandalism had occurred to the gate at the playing field. This has been reported again to Dorset Council but no reply has been received.

ii) Footpath 12

Cllr Sayers reported that the fence obstructing part of the footpath had been removed.

iii) Coast Path

Cllr Sayers reported that Lyme Regis Golf Club had applied for planning permission for a fence along golf club path. This was reported for information only as the application would be discussed by the Parish Council's planning committee.

b. Highways England – A35 Roundabout planting

Cllr Sayers reported that a reply had been received from Highways England stating:

“Charmouth Roundabout is not on the list of biodiversity sites which is aimed at enhancing the biodiversity of wild flower species along the verges of the A35, however it has been added as a special case as an intervention extra to the project. Last year we set about clearing the roundabout and twice treating the invasive weeds on the roundabout, and spreading a wild flower seed mix. The plan for this season will be to revisit the roundabout to carry out additional weed treatment in the Spring, and to spread more wild flower seed mix. It may take a while for the roundabout to settle into its wild flower state so we’re asking for patience from frequent passers-by as it develops.”

PCS16.21 HAZARD / INCIDENTS TO REPORT

a. Vandalism to scout hut path lighting

Cllr Sayers reported that one of the lights leading to the scout hut had been vandalised. The Facilities Manager had arranged a repair and this had now been done.

PCS17.21 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Speeding

i) 20mph speed limit and ii) “Watch your speed” devices

Cllrs Lightfoot and Leah both raised the issue of reducing vehicle speeds in the village. Cllr Sayers explained that the Council had carried out a speed survey which showed that in general there was not a problem of people exceeding the speed limit. However, the Council had asked Dorset Council for a reduced limit of 20mph as asked for by the community when questioned about the Emergency Active Travel Fund - Tranche 2. There was currently no funding available. Cllr Sayers explained that in the meantime the Deputy Clerk’s reply to complaints about speed is to direct people to the Speedwatch scheme. Cllr Leah commented that the most effective method of combating speed was to change culture.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would contact Dorset Council to find out information about Speed Indicator Devices and information about ‘20 is Plenty’ initiative.

b. Zurich Insurance – Playground Inspection Report

Cllr Sayers highlighted the two items raised on the recent report. They were not of concern and the Facilities Manager was maintaining and monitoring the equipment.

c. Biodiversity

i) Playing Field Biodiversity – fruit trees, hedging and reduced grass cutting
iii) Village Biodiversity / Survey of Wildspaces / Free seeds for village

Cllr Sayers reported that as the issue of biodiversity and 'green' issues cut across Playing Field and Foreshore areas the Clerk is putting the suggestion of an Environmental Committee or Working Group on the agenda to be decided at the next Council meeting. The finer details of the planting etc. would be managed by that group. He asked Cllr Leah and Cllr Lightfoot if they would like to speak about their ideas.

Cllr Leah explained that the biggest issue was carbon sink. She said that she had set up Charmouth Green Group and that there are people in the village willing to help with time and labour. There is a Local Authority Treescapes Fund which has grants of £50 to £300k available for projects on hedging and tree planting. There are other organisations in the area that could be worked with. Funding for species trees in the playing field could be funded by donations.

Cllr Lightfoot spoke about engaging with the wider community and give the opportunity to be involved on a small scale basis. The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing identifying a number of wild spaces. He thought the starting point needs to find out what is there already. He proposed a wildspace survey. He also said one very effective way on engaging is bulb planting. He thought that would enhance the village. The other item was passing out wild flower seeds. There has been a lot of work by other local bodies and he wondered whether that was something that the Council could do. The Deputy Clerk pointed out that funding the supply of free seeds would not be allowed under the Council's normal statutory powers. It may be possible under Section 137.

ii) "No Mow May" suggestion

It was agreed that the Facilities Manager would trial "No Mow May" in areas where acceptable and that he would cut the grass if it got out of control. It was agreed to advertise what was being done on the council website and on the village noticeboard.

PCS18.21 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Fitness Classes

Cllr Sayers reported that Fit Again had emailed confirming they were restarting their fitness classes. They already had permission to use the far side of the playing field.

b. Yoga and dance class

Cllr Sayers reported that the Clerk had given permission for yoga/dance classes to take place on the far side of the playing field, fortnightly through the summer.

c. Email received about speeding

Cllr Sayers reported that Mr and Mrs Polley had sent an email about speeding at the bridge. The Deputy Clerk had sent a reply with the current information. A 20mph limit has been requested and is on Dorset Council's list for when they have any money. They were also advised about Speedwatch.

d. Scout Hut

Cllr Sayers reported that an email had been received informing that the new porch to the scout hut is being erected soon. This was previously reported to the council for approval and has planning permission.

e. Rainbow and Brownie Meeting

Cllr Sayers reported that the group has requested to hold meetings at the playing field and have use of the pavilion toilets. The Clerk has given permission. Staff will ensure that the toilet is "fogged" prior to their meeting and again the following morning before the Bowls Club use it again on Thursday afternoon.

PCS19.21 IN COMMITTEE

a. Football netting fence quotes

It was agreed to accept the only quote received and approve the cherry picker costs from PF General Maintenance.

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm.

Signed

Dated