

# Charmouth Parish Council

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



Telephone: (01297) 560826 E-Mail: clerk@charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk

## MINUTES OF THE PLAYING FIELD, CEMETERY AND STREET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

In attendance: Cllrs Jane Bremner, Andrew Lightfoot, Katie Moore (Chair), Peter Noel (ex officio), Martin Sayers (Vice Chair) and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

### PCS01.23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

No public in attendance.

### PCS02.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Judith Sheppard (Footpath Warden), away.

### PCS03.23. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

### PCS04.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Peter Noel declared an interest in Item PCS11.23 IN COMMITTEE - a. Playing Field rents review.

### PCS05.23 MINUTES

It was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Playing Field, Cemetery and Street Management Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

### PCS06.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were none.

### PCS07.23 PROGRESS REPORTS

#### a. Highways Issues – A35 meeting with National Highways update

The Chair explained that Cllrs had all been given information on the previous decisions made by the Council regarding speaking to National Highways about issues including those raised by John Calder. It has already been agreed that all correspondence with National Highways is to go through the office and it was agreed that this should continue.

The Chair reported that Cllr Lightfoot had written a piece on the A35 for inclusion in the Council's Shoreline article.

Cllrs Bremner and Lightfoot attended a meeting with Andy Gale and Ian Cole of National Highways. Cllr Bremner explained that it was a very productive and positive meeting. The A35 is still under a thirty year agreement with the current contractors, that is due to come to an end in about three years' time., then National Highways will take back control of the maintenance. They want to ensure that the verges are in the best possible condition when they take them back. The roundabout is managed by a completely different team and contractors, to the one that works on the verges.

**b. Footpaths**

**i. Bridge over river at foreshore shut for repairs**

The Chair reported that the bridge work took longer than expected and the members have had a copy of the statements issued by Dorset Council. The bridge was opened late on Thursday. There was still some work to be done, but they can do this with the bridge open.

**ii. Footpath 12**

The Chair confirmed that the members should have all received a copy of the letter issued by the Definitive Map Technical Officer of Dorset Council about Footpath 12. This reported that the proposal to modify the definitive map had been considered by the senior managers and they had accepted the recommendation that an Order be published.

**c. Jubilee Garden – To discuss planting and upkeep of**

The Chair reported that Cllr Sheppard had kindly come up with a plan for planting the Jubilee Garden with plants that like shade, making it possible to keep the tree rather than cutting it down. The maintenance could be done by the staff. Linda Bearpark had only volunteered to arrange the cutting of the tree and paying for it. Angela Turner who had volunteered has withdrawn her offer.

The members discussed the idea of advertising for volunteers to be involved in the setting up of the planting. By being involved in the planning stage, that would make people more invested in its future maintenance. It was agreed that the office would email the existing volunteer list. Judith's plan could be used as a starting point for planting ideas. The trees would be cut back by the staff. Cllr Lightfoot agreed to send an invitation for volunteers to the office for circulation. The project would be referred to the Finance Committee for a budget, which would come from the South West in Bloom funds.

**PCS08.23 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT**

There were none to report.

**PCS09.23 DISCUSSION ITEMS / TO BE NOTED**

**a. New 20mph application system for Town and Parish Councils**

Cllr Sayers reported on the webinar meeting attended by himself and Cllr Moore. Dorset Council seem to have had a change of heart and there was encouragement for 20mph speed limit areas. However,

they cost between £6,000 to £10,000 per site if they are very simple. There would need to be four areas chosen for speed surveys and each would have to be monitored for a year. Any near misses should be recorded. It was highly unlikely that there would be any money from Dorset Council and so it would have to be funded by the Parish Council. The members would give thought to the location of the survey sites and discuss again at a future meeting.

There was a recording and presentation slides for the meeting which the members agreed could be shared with the Speedwatch Group.

There is £2,000 in the budget for a SID and the members discussed whether it should be reallocated. It was agreed to keep it in the current budget for the time being.

#### **b. Environment Group – requests/updates to the Committee**

##### **i) Entry to South West in Bloom to be submitted**

The Chair reported that there is a fee for entry to be approved. This can come from the surplus budget being arranged by Finance Cttee. All the members agreed to the Council's South West in Bloom application for 2023.

##### **ii) Community orchard to be accommodated on the playing field, below the bowling green**

Cllr Bremner reported that she had spoken to Ivor Clist, who had been attended the Environment Working Group, for information on apple trees for a community orchard. It was previously agreed in principle by Full Council in July 2021 with a costing of £60 per tree. Cllr Bremner had looked into the current cost of trees, stakes, guards, root grow etc. which was approximately £470, so well within the cost previously agreed. As the cost is to come from the South West in Bloom funds, the item was referred to the Finance Committee.

##### **iii) Commemorative oak to be accepted**

Cllr Noel is chasing the Rotary Club about the tree.

##### **iv) Hedging proposals for the playing field to be subject to consultation**

The Chair reported that planting has been deferred until the autumn.

##### **v) Sites to be allocated for differential mowing**

The EW Group had also previously requested approval to implement some areas of differential mowing in the playing field. Cllr Bremner explained that differential mowing would be in non-recreational areas. There were concerns about the exact location proposed. Cllr Bremer pointed out that it was just some longer grass that could be cut and the paths adapted to suit. Cllr Bremner proposed and it was

**RESOLVED** that the plan put forward by Cllr Leah, with adaptation to the area around the bowling green, be approved, and that if the staff have concerns, they speak to the PF Chair before any cutting takes place. The item could be reviewed again within six months.

##### **vi) Planters**

Cllr Lightfoot proposed the purchase of two new, natural wood planters for Lower Sea Lane, either side of the notice board, to accommodate trees and perennials. It was

**RESOLVED** to purchase two new planters. The size approximately 50cmx80cm. At a cost of approximately £80 each. The cost to come from the Planters budget of £250. Referred to the Finance Committee.

vii) Existing planters to be planted with Erigeron glaucus.

The members agreed to the proposals for planting with the funds from the Planters budget.

**c. Additional Play Equipment for play area – National Lottery Grant applied for**

The Chair reported that the Deputy Clerk had put in an application for £10,000 towards the cost of approx. £17,000 for new play equipment. A reply should be received within 12 weeks.

**d. Playing Field Wall – damage/erosion**

The Chair reported damage to the wall in the Playing Field. It was agreed to write to the property owner and ask them to repair the damage.

**e. Tree surgery work**

The Chair reported that the tree surgeons have started some work at the cemetery last Tuesday and will be doing more work this week and next. The work in the playing fields will have to wait 6 to 8 weeks as approval needs to be gained from Dorset tree officer to carry out that work.

Cllr Lightfoot spoke about his displeasure at the way the tree surgery quote was agreed through the Finance and General Purposes Committee. He had previously raised this at the Full Council meeting in January. Cllr Noel explained again about the need for a quick decision and that is why the quotes did not go through the Playing Field Committee first. The members agreed to ask that in future any work needed to trees in the Cemetery or Playing Field go to the PF Committee first.

**PCS10.23 CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

**PCS11.23 IN COMMITTEE**

**a. Playing Field rents review**

It was proposed by Cllr Moore, Cllr Lightfoot abstained, agreed by the members and it was

**RESOLVED** that the rents would be increased by 4.48%.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

**Propose to Finance**

PCS07.23(c) - Jubilee Garden

PCS09.23(b)ii - Environment Group – Community Orchard

**Propose to Full Council**

PCS09.23(f) Tree surgery work

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