

# 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](mailto:charmouth@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)

## MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2021

In attendance: Cllrs Judith Sheppard; Katie Moore, Julie Leah and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

### FS32.21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There were none.

### FS33.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Noel who is away, and Cllr Maralyn Hinxman.

### FS34.21 DISPENSATIONS

None were received.

### FS35.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

### FS36.21 MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 circulated to members, be signed as a correct record.

### FS37.21 PROGRESS REPORTS

#### a. Beach webcam

The issue of the beach webcam was discussed again. It was decided that as there was no real benefit to warrant the expense it was

**RESOLVED not to pursue the installation of a webcam at the foreshore.**

#### b. Reed Bed

Cllr Sheppard reported on the state of the reed bed being overrun with weeds and the recommendations given by Natural England after their visit to site. It was agreed to follow their recommendations which were:

Cut back the perimeter hard between now and November and that all the green waste can be burned on site. This would cause minimal disturbance to birds and wildlife as the spring / summer cuts would be fairly minor affairs.

Himalayan Balsam – To cut a route through the reed to the worst affected area so that it can be pulled more easily at the right time of year in the future.

### **c. Beach Management Plan review**

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had advertised for comments on the existing plan and circulated to interested parties. These comments could then be considered when drafting the reviewed plan. Cllr Sheppard explained again that the Beach Management Plan is a control and permission document for permitted works to the physical aspect of the Foreshore with Assent from Natural England to carry out the work documented on an SSSI site. She suggested having a separate Standard Operating Procedure document created to list the day-to-day actions required as to how the work would be carried out. The members agreed that this was a good idea and should be implemented.

### **d. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons**

Cllr Sheppard reported regarding the Platinum Jubilee Weekend of 2nd - 5th June next year. It had already been agreed to take part and that staff could be asked to help and paid, if needed and available out of hours. Cllr Sheppard suggested a working group be set up to organise the event which would consist of herself, Cllr Noel, Cllr Moore and the staff member who would be involved on the night. The members agreed.

### **e. Environment group proposals**

At the previous meeting it had been agreed to propose acceptance of the Environment Group's proposals for approval. However, at the Full Council meeting Cllr Sheppard asked that the item *Hedging put in to replace hedging removed (when ?) alongside Thallatta to re-establish a key resting site for incoming migrating birds. Mixed species including tamarisk to look attractive. Planting regime dense with trees allowed to grow every 6 meters*, be brought back to the Foreshore Committee which was agreed.

Cllr Sheppard had thought that a wild flower area instead of hedging might be nice, but on further reflection decided that the hedging was the best ideal. The members discussed and all agreed that hedging would be better and it was agreed to proposed this to Full Council.

## **FS38.21 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT**

### **a. Drug paraphernalia**

Cllr Sheppard reported that the beach staff had found two instances of drug needles on the sand in front of the blue beach huts.

### **b. Broken glass**

Cllr Sheppard reported that the beach staff had found large amounts of broken glass on the promenade from bottles thrown from the upper area. This had been a one-off incident.

## **FS39.21 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **a. EV charging points at foreshore carpark**

The idea of installing Electric Vehicle charging points was discussed by the members. Some preliminary investigation had been done by the Deputy Clerk who reported that the cost for one straightforward

installation point would be approximately £3500. It was agreed that this would be worth considering in future and to that end it was agreed to ask the Finance Committee for £2,000 from next years budget to go towards building reserves for this project.

#### **b. Drop from walkway near toilets**

Cllr Sheppard reported that the possible installation of a handrail was with Dorset Council who were waiting for funds to become available.

#### **c. Metal beach steps**

Cllr Sheppard reported that she had met with the Facilities Manager and the engineer from Dorset Council about the drop that is left from the bottom of the metal steps when the tide has washed the sand away. The engineer suggested a wooden sleeper could be put there but might be washed away. He would give the problem some thought and report back. Cllr Sheppard said that it was pointless spending money on more ironwork to the steps as the sea just rips it away. The other members agree to leave the steps as they are for the time being and wait to see what the engineer suggests.

#### **d. Candles on the cliff event**

An application for permission to hold a charity "Candles on the Cliff" event run by the PTFA for Charmouth Primary School was received. The members discussed the application and had concerns about the hazards of having candle on uneven ground near the beach huts. It was agreed to support the event and grant permission if candles would not be placed on the grass but on the concrete wall area in front of the beach huts and along the promenade. It was also agreed to make the foreshore car park available free of charge and ask that donations be made to the fundraising instead. It was suggested that they ask Dorset Council if the toilets could be locked later than normal when the event has finished and also that visitors be encourage to take their litter home. The Deputy Clerk would draft a reply letter and the Chair of the Committee would confirm.

#### **e. Bathing water classification gap**

A letter had been received and circulated to the members about the gap in data for bathing water classification and how the Environment Agency were going to deal with the problem. The contents of the letter were noted.

#### **f. Filming at the foreshore taking place**

Cllr Sheppard reported that a company called Immediate Media are filming on the beach this coming Thursday on behalf of CPRE. This is a semi promotional video about donations made to them in people's wills and as they are a charity and we are members, the Clerk has charged a nominal fee. They are a small crew, have been informed that it will be busy and reminded that the enjoyment of regular beach users should not be compromised.

#### **g. Possible flood issues through resident's actions on private property**

Cllr Leah reported that a resident of the village had filled in a water course with gravel against the advice of Dorset Council's Flood Management team. Unfortunately, the Parish Council do not have any legal powers to take action against this issue. It was agreed to monitor the situation and see if any flooding is caused because of this.

## **h. Charity Fund transfer from car park takings**

Cllr Sheppard explained that funds were taken from the car park takings and put aside in a charity fund that local groups could apply to for funding. It was agreed to request the Finance Committee transfer from the car park takings to the charity fund the amount of £1200 (£900 for youth groups and £300 for non-youth groups).

## **i. Environment Groups meeting notes**

The notes of the Environment Group had been circulated and were noted.

### **FS40.21 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a. Email from Mr Randall about the Reed Bed**

An email had been received about the weeds in the reed bed and the issue had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **FS41.21 IN COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business in view of the likely disclosure of confidential matters about information relating to an individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

#### **a. Fire Door quotes**

It was agreed that the quotes were very expensive and that any problems should be looked at again and new quotes obtained if necessary.

#### **b. Staff matters**

It was reported that the seasonal evening worker had now finished.

#### **c. Clock maintenance quote**

It was agreed to look into this further about the specifics of the quote and if other providers of the service were available. It was agreed to give the Chairman delegated authority to accept the existing quote if no cheaper option was found. Funds from budget, Factory Maintenance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

## **Referred to Full Council**

FS37.21 e. Environment group proposals - Hedging put in to replace hedging removed alongside Thallatta to re-establish a key resting site for incoming migrating birds. Mixed species including tamarisk to look attractive. Planting regime dense with trees allowed to grow every 6 meters,

## **Proposals to Finance Committee**

FS39.21 h. Charity Fund transfer from car park takings - Transfer from the car park takings to the charity fund the amount of £1200 (£900 for youth groups and £300 for non-youth groups).

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