

# 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 VIRTUAL FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

In attendance: Cllrs Judith Sheppard (Chair); Paul Oatway (Vice Chair); Peter Noel; Maralyn Hinxman; Katie Moore and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

### FS1.21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There was one member of the public present, Mr Mike Seaman.

### FS2.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none received.

### FS3.21 DISPENSATIONS

None were received.

### FS4.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

### FS5.21 MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 circulated to members, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

### FS6.21 PROGRESS REPORTS

#### a. Flood Warden

The Deputy Clerk will continue to update the Flood Plan with information provided from the Emergency Plan that Cllr Sheppard and Cllr Oatway are working on.

#### b. Shoreline Management Plan 2

It was agreed that Cllr Oatway and the Deputy Clerk are to work on how to progress this item and obtain the information that is being sought from Teignbridge District Council.

#### c. Beach Access Stepped Ramp

The Chair reported that as the original planning application was to expire in March a new application had been submitted.

d. Cement Factory Building Cladding

The Chair reported that the cladding has been fitted. She was very happy with it and the other members were also very pleased and commented that it appeared to be standing up against the storms well. Cllr Noel thanked the members for their perseverance with the project.

e. Web camera

Cllr Oatway is progressing this item and will report to the next meeting with a plan and some costs.

f. The Old Cement Factory - Pointing Works

It was agreed by all for the ongoing costs to be dealt with by the Re-Pointing Sub-Committee.

g. Shower provision

Cllr Oatway is looking at this and will report to the next meeting.

h. Access steps

The Chair reported that this week an excavator will be off loaded at the foreshore and there will be a delivery of rock which will be stored on beach. There will be one or two loads delivered a day - about twenty rocks in total. Then they will be put in place during first half of w/c 1st March. This should help to protect the steps.

i. Carbon Footprint

It was reported that the Facilities Manager had inspected the Council's properties and was replacing lamps for energy saving ones as required. It was agreed that the previous decision to write to the Council's foreshore tenants asking them to use energy efficiently should be done later in the year, as they have enough to be dealing with for now.

#### **FS7.21 HAZARD / INCIDENTS TO REPORT**

None.

#### **FS8.21 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

a. Possible barriers to be installed between private and council car park

It was reported that the Facilities Manager would like to put in some more permanent wooden posts in position to stop the confusion between car parks. Over a busy weekend last summer, vehicles were driving from the Beach Car Park into the boat park. It was agreed that if the barrier was of wood the decision of approval would be deferred to the Chair, who would meet with the Facilities Manager to discuss what exactly he had in mind.

b. Signage at the bridge at West beach

The Chair reported that there is a new sign near the bridge leading to Evan's cliff, indicating the new path onto Stone Barrow. Unfortunately, the poll sign stating that the path is closed and giving the detour has been left in place. The Deputy Clerk has contacted Footpath Department and is waiting for a reply.

c. Toilet area lighting and drop off

The Chair reported that the Facilities Manager had contacted Dorset Council about faulty lights at the toilet area which Dorset Council had now fixed. He had also reported to them about the steep drop off. Dorset Council had replied to him that they would speak to their conservation department to get some idea if any permission is going to be required and what sort of hand-rail they may be happy with. There is already a hand-rail close by going up the ramp to the Heritage Centre so it will likely be that they would follow that example.

Cllr Oatway said that when the steps were renewed at the toilet area, Dorset Council assessed the risk of that step and came to the conclusion the amenity that the step provided outweighed the risk. Cllr Oatway was worried that if Dorset Council put barriers in, the Parish Council would have similar issues and complaints that they had when the rails were put up at the deflection steps.

d. Wooden ramp at end of promenade

Dorset Council were contacted about the bridge as it was in need of some repairs, which have been done. The Chair reported that Dorset Council engineer Henry Middleton had said this timber ramp/bridge over the rocks is not a coast defence asset but because it was installed in 1994 when the rock armour and concrete walls were constructed any requests for repairs have usually ended up with them and that there ought to be a bit of discussion about this as the structure is a bit rickety and will need replacing in some shape or form – possibly in the next 5 years or so. Henry is going to speak to the coastal rangers within D.C. to get their thoughts.

e. Dog Bins at the foreshore

A full discussion took place at the request of Cllr Hinxman about installing additional dog poo bins at the foreshore. The Deputy Clerk shared a map of the existing sixteen bins in the area that could be used for dog poo. It was felt there was no suitable area for an additional bin that would be of benefit. The members discussed whether extra bins would encourage people to pick up their dog's poo. It was thought that those people that don't pick up, would not then pick up just because there was a bin a bit closer. It was agreed to monitor the situation and discuss again later in the year.

f. Water pipe leak

The Chair reported that a water leak had been identified in a pipe leading to the Old Cement Factory building. Wessex Water had visited site but could not dig an exploratory trench without the landowner's permission. The land is not owned by the Council and the landowner refused to give permission without a list of conditions being met. The Council's insurance company have been notified. They are arranging for a specialist contractor to arrange to visit the site and see if they can identify the leak without digging a trench. If not and the Council have to involve the landowner,

then the Clerk would like to contact the Council's Solicitor as she is not comfortable with agreeing to the landowner's demands without advice.

#### **FS9.21 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Email received about strimming on edge of reed bed.

It was reported that an email had been received about the cutting of the area around the reed bed. The Clerk had already replied that the area around the reed bed has to be cut twice a year, as part of the beach management plan, to control the spread of the reeds. This has been approved by Natural England in relation to the SSSI. The email and reply were noted by the members.

- b. River Cottage foraging days

A request from River Cottage had been received asking for permission to hold foraging days on 11th and 12th May 2021. This was approved in line with Government guidelines and at the same fee as last year.

- c. Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021 Charmouth collections

It was noted by the members that permission had been requested and the Clerk has already approved.

- d. RNLI Christmas day swim

Permission had been requested for the Christmas Day Swim and the office has received insurance details and risk assessment. The members approved this request.

- e. Email received about installation of bird nest boxes on factory building

An email had been received asking if more bird nest boxes will be put up on the East facing wall. The members agreed that no further boxes would be installed at the present time.

- f. Endurancelife - Trail Running Event

A request had been received from a trail running events company asking if they could use the Foreshore Car Park to park participants for any proposed event. They also asked if any of the grass areas in Charmouth are managed by the Parish Council that they could use. After discussion it was agreed that the covenants in place at Evans Cliff would prohibit any use of the land for an event. It was also felt that a large scale event of four to five hundred people would be detrimental to the enjoyment of Charmouth to other visitors and residents. The members agreed to refuse this request.

#### **FS10.21 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. Riverside Footpath

At the last foreshore committee meeting it had been agreed to lay a trial area of a 10m<sup>2</sup> of grasscrete. This would enable the Committee to see how it would withstand the winter and also for the residents to see what the proposed path might look like. With the coronavirus issues this timescale has now passed so the Chair asked the members about whether to continue with the project. It was proposed and agreed to defer the decision to the September meeting of the committee, when issues around ground disturbance and funds were better known.

b. Email received about the water leak/supply

An email from a lease-holder at the factory building was received and responded to by the Clerk, which were noted by the members.

c. Shelter around car park machine - quotes to consider

The members agreed to look at the issue of having a shelter around the car park machine after the summer in September.

d. Blocking of drains by lease-holder's activities

The Chair reported that the drains behind the Factory Building was again blocked with fat but had now been cleared. The Chair had asked the Facilities Manager to check the drain on a regular basis. It was agreed that if drainage blockage caused by cooking fats continued to be an issue, that the leaseholder would be asked to pay for the clearance.

e. Car park machine maintenance contract renewal

The Chair reported that a new contract for the year has been signed at a cost of £662.13 for the fully comprehensive agreement.

f. Shutter replacements at factory building

The Chair reported that the shutters are rusting so it had been suggested to have a set of completely new shutters made at a cost of approximately £1500. The issue is that it is difficult to take down the existing shutters for repair as there would be a security issue. If a second pair were made then there would be a pair to swap over so that you could repair and maintain them. Cllr Oatway said that any new shutters should be galvanised. The Chair said she didn't think this was something that had to be done at the moment. It was agreed to defer to a meeting later in the year, when finances are clearer.

g. TV filming enquiry at foreshore location

The Chair reported the request from a production company to use Charmouth foreshore for filming. The members all agreed that the disruption and loss of income if the company were to use the whole of the foreshore car park was too great. The members also felt that having the film company obstructing the whole of the parish council car park would not be a good experience for tourist visiting after the pandemic. The request was therefore refused.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....