

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 25th JUNE 2019 AT THE ELMS

In attendance: Cllrs Judith Sheppard (Chair), Paul Oatway (Vice Chair); Kay Solomon; Maralyn Hinxman; and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

FS10.19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There were five members of the public present. Mr James Carroll spoke in favour of his application to conduct fossil walks. Mrs Jan Coleman spoke on behalf of the CHCC in favour of funds being granted for CHCC organised beach clean events.

FS11.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Judy Fellingham, previous engagement.

FS12.19 DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations requests were received from Judith Sheppard and Paul Oatway regarding items FS16.19 (h) and FS18.19 (b) and were approved by the Parish Clerk.

FS13.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

FS14.19 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Paul Oatway be Vice Chairman.

FS15.19 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 26th February 2019 circulated to members, were a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

FS16.19 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Flood Warden

The position had been advertised but no responses have been received. It was decided to keep advertising for the time being.

b. Shoreline Management Plan 2

Cllr Oatway reported that he is currently drafting various Freedom of Information requests to progress this issue.

c. Foreshore Toilets

- i) Ceiling re-painting – Cllr Sheppard reported that this had been done.
- ii) Contingency Plan – still no response had been received regarding agreement to the erection of a notice. It was agreed that the Facilities Manager should confirm that supplies are held at the beach office in case cleaners do not come.
- iii) It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter of thanks for the Chair of Council to sign to Dorset Council, acknowledging the vast improvement in the quality of cleaning.

d. Coastal Communities Fund bid

A meeting had taken place on 12th June 2019 between Charmouth Parish Council, Charmouth Coastal Communities Team, Dorset Council and a Consultant Engineer. A Summary Note of the meeting, which was about the proposed access ramp to Charmouth Beach, had been circulated to the Committee members. In the report it was noted that the Parish Clerk would be asked to send a letter the Environment Agency to thank them for their funding support. Cllr Oatway explained that the bid was progressing. Dorset Council's engineers would be looking at the site this week and a design should be available within six months. There is active work being done by Dorset Council for second stage funding.

e. Kayak store construction

It was reported that the kayak store has been built and has been very popular and is already full. It was decided to see how it works for this season before thinking about providing further spaces.

f. Factory Building Damp

- i) Planning application has been prepared by Cllr Oatway and is with the Clerk for completion
- ii) The Facilities Manager had expressed concern over the drain on the south side of the building. Cllr Oatway said that he had already given instructions that the staff would have to keep the drain areas clear of sand.

g. Renewal of Soft Rock Cafe Building

Planning permission has been submitted and a decision is awaited.

h. Fossil Warden Working Hours

Further to the meeting attended by Cllrs Sheppard and Oatway in January a report had been received by the Jurassic Coast Trust which had been circulated to the members. It had been requested that funding for a second fossil warden be provided for overlapping cover during spring, summer and autumn school holidays. The additional cost would be for 32 hours cover in school holiday with expenses and would total £3500. Based on current funding there is a shortfall of £2500. Cllr Sheppard pointed out that as Charmouth has the use of the Fossil Warden most of the time, surely its contribution should be greater. Cllr Oatway pointed out that there were four other

beneficiaries who had been contacted about increasing their contribution also. As there were no budgeted funds for any increase, Cllr Sheppard proposed and it was agreed that an increase of £800 be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

- i. Leaking Window at CHCC – This work was being done week commencing 30th June 2019.
- j. Plastic Free Charmouth
 - i) Beach Clean Boards – Cllr Solomon explained that a Beach Clean Board was an A frame board that displayed items for beach cleaning such as litter pickers, bags and gloves etc. It would be sponsored. Cllr Sheppard said that she had been over to Lyme Regis where they had one that was told that the items had all been stolen so the board had been removed after a week or so. Cllr Solomon explained that as the board was sponsored there would be no involvement from the Council other than the permission required to display it. Cllr Oatway proposed that the item be agreed, subject to the sponsor and the details of board's size and location being acceptable.
 - ii) Water Bottle Refill – It had been requested that the tap at the Beach Office be made available for people to refill their water bottles. This issue had been before Council before and it had been decided not to allow this because the cleanliness of the tap could not be guaranteed. Cllr Oatway proposed and it was agreed that quotes be obtained to move the water supply higher up the wall and install a proper public drinking water tap with a stopcock inside the office.
 - iii) Bottle top collection – It was decided that there was nowhere suitable to provide a bottle top collection point.
 - iv) Lantern Release – Cllr Solomon explained that the Plastic Free Group had asked if the Council had a policy regarding the release of lanterns/balloons on its land and if not, would the Council sign up to the Charter that West Dorset District Council had signed up to? The Parish Council does not have a policy on lantern/balloon release. It was agreed that Cllr Oatway would draft one.

k. Web camera

Cllr Oatway reported that he was progressing this item and had arranged for a quotation.

l. Dorset Council Sea Defences

Cllr Solomon expressed concern over the protruding metalwork sticking up from the sand by the sea defences. Cllr Oatway explained that he had previously spoken to the Project Engineer at Dorset Council and unfortunately there was not much they could do about the shuttering metalwork. The mesh reinforcement was to be rendered over with a specialist concrete repair.

FS17.19 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Community Event – Have A Go Day

Cllr Sheppard and Cllr Oatway had met with Esther Wyatt to have an informal chat about community events she wanted to organise. She had been provided with a copy of the foreshore covenants, contact details for Charmouth Events Committee and also pointed to Charmouth.org.

- b. Mammal Policy - Cllr Oatway will re-write the Policy with the Facilities Manager.
- c. Fire Door at CHCC

Due to the necessity for this to be dealt with quickly, the Clerk had approved for the door to be replaced with funds from Factory Maintenance budget. The contractor should be doing the work on the 29th June.

FS18.19 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Welcome to Charmouth Sign

The members were shown a photo sent in by a resident of a weathered sign at the foreshore. It was agreed that it does need replacing but would be done when the visitors guide was issued with the correct map. The rules, regulations and control orders listed on the sign also needed to be reviewed.

- b. Beach Cleaning Events

The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC) had requested funding to support their beach cleaning events. Cllr Oatway thought that the application for funding should be subject to the terms of the Council's Grant Policy. It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard to donate £500 and all agreed that this proposal should be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.

- c. Low Carbon Projects

An email had been received about Low Carbon Dorset, a three-year programme of activities to help stimulate growth in Dorset's low carbon economy. A link to the website had been previously circulated. The website states that they offer free technical support and grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Low Carbon Dorset helps businesses, community, and public sector organisations in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. The programme is run by Dorset County Council (DCC) and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It aims to help improve energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and aid the development of new low carbon products. The Committee were asked to think of any projects that might be viable for discussion at the next meeting.

- d. Re-Application for Private Guided Fossil Walks

Cllr Oatway spoke about the complaints received by the CHCC about the numbers of people using the beach for fossil hunting and being over populated. Cllr Noel pointed out that if people are with an experienced guide at least they are fossil hunting responsibly rather than just going on their own. The numbers on the beach would be the same. It was agreed that there was no objection if the Clerk decided that there was sufficient capacity to authorise an additional fossil walks permit.

- e. Electric Vehicle Charge Points

The members agreed that the only possible place would be at the Dorset Council car park in Lower Sea Lane.

f. Fossil Display Board

Mr M Steele had written requesting permission to display a small collection of fossils at the foreshore. This would be used to engage in discussion about the biblical interpretation of fossils. Cllr Oatway pointed out that the Council is a secular organisation and therefore should be neutral in matters of religion. It was agreed that the application to display a biblical fossil interpretation board should be denied.

g. A resident had sent in photographs of the rock armour at the foreshore. Cllr Oatway explained that discussions had already taken place with Dorset Council who are the owners of the defences. They are not willing to make any changes at this time, because of planning constraints.

h. Summer Parking Permit for Boat Licence Holders – See item i. below.

i. Summer Parking Permit for Beach Hut Tenants / Evening Pass for Residents

The members discussed how to provide reasonable parking costs to the beach users. The members had sympathy with the elderly and local people who have mobility issues etc. but recognised that reducing the income from the car park would mean less could be spent on other areas of the village maintenance and facilities etc. It was agreed to defer any decision until the members had an opportunity to propose about a workable solution.

j. Dorset Coast Forum ENews – had been circulated to the members and was noted.

FS19.19 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. Kayak store permit

It was agreed that an application for a reduced rate for the kayak store be approved. Cllr Oatway suggested this could be taken from Chairman's Funds budget. As this is not a Foreshore Budget it was referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

b. Lease Issue 5

Correspondence had been received from a private landowner and Council tenant. As this was a private matter the Committee would not comment.

c. Retaining Wall Crack

A budgetary quote had been received to enable the members to decide on a future course of action. Cllr Oatway proposed and it was agreed that the Facilities Manager monitor the crack by way of photos etc. to see if there was any movement and therefore worth the Council paying for professional monitoring.

d. Lease Issue 3

It was agreed to allow the use of an A Board during opening hours, as long as it was positioned within 6ft of the premises.

e. Lease Issue 6

It was agreed to propose that the Finance & General Purposes Committee renew the lease on the current terms.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Proposals to Finance Committee:

- F16.19 h. Fossil Warden further funding
- F18.19 b. CHCC Beach Clean funding
- F19.19 a. Reduced Kayak Store Rate (IN COMMITTEE)
- F19.19 e. Lease 6 (IN COMMITTEE)

Signed

Dated