

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023

In attendance: Cllrs Jane Bremner (ex officio), Melanie Harvey, Julie Leah, Katie Moore, Judith Sheppard and the Clerk, Lisa Tuck

FS23.23 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Judith Sheppard was nominated by Katie Moore, following no other nominations, this was seconded by Jane Bremner and it was

RESOLVED that Judith Sheppard be elected as Chair of the Foreshore Committee for the coming year.

FS24.23 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Katie Moore was nominated by Judith Sheppard, following no other nominations, this was seconded by Jane Bremner and it was

RESOLVED that Katie Moore be elected as Vice Chair of the Foreshore Committee for the coming year.

FS25.23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

Sally Roberts was in attendance with a view to becoming a Parish Councillor.

FS26.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Noel (holiday).

FS27.23 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

FS28.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FS29.23 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 25 April 2023 be agreed as a correct record and signed.

FS30.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FS31.23 PROGRESS REPORTS

a) Buoys to protect swimmers from powered craft – update

It was reported that these are ready and should be installed within the next couple of weeks. It is hoped that this will add reassurance to swimmers and will be a popular addition. The boat owners would be notified.

b) Sign by the bridge about the dangers of pollution in the river/no jumping – design and quote for consideration

A draft of the proposed A2 size sign was circulated to the Committee and it was agreed to the design along with acceptance of the quote of £79 plus VAT to produce. The very small change suggested by Sally King was agreed. The possibility of adding a second sign on the other side of the bridge was discussed but it was agreed to try one initially. The sign would be erected on two posts between the bridge and the Seadown fence.

c) Rock Fall Signage/general signage

Judith reported on a meeting she, Jane and Lisa had with Sally King, AONB regarding signage in general at the Foreshore:

- It had been suggested that lessening the amount of dog signs and streamlining their positions could be advantageous - this was already in hand.
- Some hand made signs to be replaced with proper official signs – this is in hand;
- The missing rock fall sign at the end of the prom should mirror the sign on east beach (which also needs replacing) and could be located on the wall to the right of the bridge to west beach – Sally is trying to source funding;

It was agreed to go ahead with the small changes but hold back on the major signage until there is more news on possible funding.

d) Interpretation boards

There won't now be a "house style" but Sally is able to help with the design of the plaques. The wording will be forwarded to her initially.

e) Charmouth Library Book Sales

As requested, the dates have been received and the Beach staff informed.

FS32.23 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT

There were no reports.

FS33.23 ITEMS TO REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

a) Consider renewal of School Parking Permits for 2023/24

Following a request from Charmouth Primary School to renew the "Drop off/pick up" parking scheme from Sept 23-July 24, it was

RESOLVED that this scheme be continued with permits rising to £25 each per school year (current year £20) in line with the general rise in parking charges last April.

b) Beach hut allocation

A report from the Office Administrator had been circulated which suggested amending the beach hut allocation system to ensure that there are always 5/6 green huts available for the resident's draw. This would be achieved by preventing automatic renewal of new full price customers moving forward. The system for allocation of the blue huts would remain for residents with school age children. It was

RESOLVED that the proposal to update the beach hut allocation system be approved.

c) Strimming by reed bed – confirmation of previously agreed plan

Following query from Julie about strimming around the reed bed, Judith maintained this was in line with the Foreshore Assent Document, page 18, "To maintain a safe edge within the perimeter hedge and or fence around the reed bed for safety reasons and to stop the spread of the reeds. Hedging / trees around the area can be cut back during the autumn / winter where branches are encroaching."

After a long discussion about how the practical management of vegetation should move forward, it was agreed to set up a Working Group (Judith, Katie and Julie, with expert advice being sought if necessary) to draw up a detailed document for the management of Council owned land in consultation with staff. This plan would be brought back to the Committees/Full Council in due course for approval. Jane stated that when a plan is agreed, specific guidance will need to be given to the staff to ensure they understand exactly what is required.

In the meantime, with regard to the reed bed, it is proposed that when it is strimmed again, a 1.5m strip be kept around the reeds and the rest of the area, along with the bank should not be strimmed until the end of September when it will be reviewed.

d) Amendment to car park sign

Judith reported that the main car park sign is being amended as it has been pointed out that in one place it says charges apply 9am-6pm instead of 9pm. This is at minimal cost and will be taken from the current Fsh Car Park Maintenance budget.

Any changes to charging times would need to be discussed when budgeting in the Autumn and effected for the following financial year, following the statutory advertising etc.

e) BBQ and boat signage

Following the signage meeting, these are being replaced to improve professionalism at a cost of £70 plus VAT in total for both signs (agreed by delegated authority).

f) Environment Group items:

To draw up practical management plans designed to maximize biodiversity in conjunction with the Facilities Manager and his team – this had been covered in c) above.

g) Car park machine upgrade from 3G to 4G

It was reported that there isn't a cost for replacing the SIM and it is hoped that this will improve connectivity.

FS34.23 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a) Filming Permissions granted:

- i) Dinomania – as part of a booked Fossil Hunting walk with CHCC – no charge;
- ii) National Film & Television School - Documentary Filming – low budget student production for educational purposes – no charge.
- iii) Photoshoot with RAC – use of overflow car park for half day – charge of £350 plus VAT.

b. Consideration for a webcam at Charmouth Beach

It was reported that a further request on behalf of West Dorset Leisure Holidays had been received and when this request was received several years' ago, it was agreed that there is no West Dorset Leisure Holidays Park in Charmouth (Charmouth has its own independent Parks) and that the Charmouth.org website is funded by advertising from local tourism businesses. There is only so much advertising which businesses can do. It was therefore

RESOLVED that due to the specific circumstances of the application, this request should be refused.

However, a further letter has been received from CHCC regarding the possibility of installing a webcam on the inside of the building, either linked to Newlands Holiday Park or to Charmouth.org. It was felt by the Committee that this is a more acceptable option for Charmouth and subject to a meeting with the Centre (Judith and Jane) to establish the finer details, a proposal will be made to Full Council.

c) Reedbed Survey

An email had been received from Natural England confirming they will be paying for a survey of the reedbed and the snail this year.

d) Disabled Toilet

An email had been received from lady regarding the poor state of the disabled toilets and this had been circulated to Committee members as requested. The comments were noted and the Committee were sorry for the experience. It was agreed that a response be sent explaining again that the toilets are operated by DC not CPC. However, the state of all the toilets had been monitored recently and they had been found to be acceptable with cleaning being undertaken at least twice a day (more in high season). It was confirmed that the disabled toilet can be locked from the inside by the user. It is still felt important that for all users, disabled and able bodied, that there is a toilet open 24 hours and it is hoped that visitors continue to have patience and understand when the facilities are under extreme pressure during the school holidays.

e) Spittles Lane Landfill Site debris

Following a request from Dorset Council, it was agreed that a large, pictorial sign like the one circulated, was not appropriate for Charmouth and the Council would include some wording on its new sign for the end of the prom in due course.

f) West Dorset Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct 2023

An email has been received from Chris Reedman, Jurassic Coast Trust regarding a further very minor amendment to the Code of Conduct.

g) Charmouth Local History Society request

An email has been received from Charmouth Local History Society seeking permission to put one of their trail maps on the side of the bin enclosure on the east side of the bridge for the summer. This was agreed but would be monitored.

h) Dorset Council consultation on a Dog related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Notice of the consultation which runs until 25 August 2023 has been received. This has been advertised widely on the notice boards and on the website as well as mentioned in Shoreline.

FS35.23 IN COMMITTEE

a) Lease 1 – correspondence

The Committee accept the decision but a further communication is to be sent seeking a slightly different solution.

b) Staff member 12 – update on dates and hours

Due to shortage of staff generally, Foreshore Committee cover is required at the beach for Sunday 27 August when no staff are on duty.

c) Thank you/complaint letters from members of the public

Both were noted. No further action to be taken.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Proposals to Full Council

FS33.23 c) Strimming by reed bed

FS34.23 b) Webcam request from CHCC