

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PLAYING FIELD, CEMETERY AND STREET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2021

In attendance: Cllrs Martin Sayers (Chair); Katie Moore; Andrew Lightfoot, Maralyn Hinxman, Peter Noel and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

PCS1.21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There were two members of the public present. Julie Leah and Melanie Harvey. Julie Leah spoke about re-greening. She is involved in various environmental groups. She was thinking about how Dorset Council has declared a climate emergency, but it is difficult feeding that into local council action. One area that is cheap and quick to help initiate a change is to increase the density of the green area that we have. There is existing hedging that could be thickened or new hedging and there are various grants that she knows about and she is offered free plants.

PCS2.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

PCS3.21 DISPENSATIONS

None were received.

PCS4.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

PCS5.21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Playing Field, Cemetery and Street Management Committee held on the 25th February 2020 and circulated to members, were agreed and signed by the Chair.

PCS6.21 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Footpaths

- i) Footpath gates replacement – The gates are still broken. The Deputy Clerk has chased Dorset Council Footpaths department about repairs. She will chase them again.
- ii) Footpath 12 – Dorset Council are still dealing with the issue of properties' fencing narrowing this footpath.

b. Bench at Lower Sea Lane –

The Chairman reported that the dog bin has been moved and the cost reclaimed and paid.

c. Highways England – A35 roundabout pruning

Cllr Sayers explained that the Deputy Clerk had contacted Highways England about what was going to happen to the A35 roundabout now that the vegetation had been cleared. A response was received from their contractor saying that they understand this will form one of the Highways England biodiversity sites, but they are not sure at the current time what planting will take place.

PCS7.21 HAZARD / INCIDENTS TO REPORT

There were none to report.

PCS8.21 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Events Committee shed replacement

Cllr Sayers explained that at the last meeting it had been reported that the Events Committee had requested permission for a new shed. Nothing further had happened. Cllr Noel explained that his understanding was that many of the Events Committee members had resigned and that the organisation was in limbo due to the lack of volunteers. It was therefore assumed that the issue of a new shed was moot.

b) Street Lighting

It was agreed at the last meeting to contact Dorset Council about increasing the lighting options.

A reply has since been received from Dorset Council which said that the road lighting was not brought up as a contributory factor at the time of the collision in The Street or reported as such. The highway lighting in The Street, Charmouth was replaced and renewed last in 2010, with modern equipment that is specified to look heritage. The light source and optic are standard highway type equipment which is in good condition and operation. The lighting on the highway will therefore meet or exceed the minimum requirements of British Standard 5489, while also meeting Dorset Council's specification and policy for highway lighting – including a requirement to switch off at midnight. It is physically impossible to increase the brightness.

c) War memorial refurbishment

This had been done and the members were pleased with the results.

d) 2025 deadline to register all freehold land owned by public sector authorities

The Land Registry (the body responsible for registering ownership of and interests in land and buildings in England and Wales) has set a target of 2025 to register all freehold land owned by public sector authorities, including parish, town and community councils.

It was agreed to register Council land. Cllr Lightfoot said that he would be happy to look into this issue with help from Cllr Oatway who had experience after previously registering land at the foreshore.

e) Football Netting Fence

There had been complaints about footballs going over the netting at the Playing Field and into a back garden. Cllr Sayers had asked for quotes to replace the entire existing system. The one quote received was around £12,000. It was therefore agreed that the staff would be asked about concreting in the

existing posts and replacing the top part of the netting. Quotes would be needed for the hire of a cherry picker and other costs to be reported to next meeting for a decision.

f) Bowls Club - theft of mower

In April 2020 the Bowls Club shed was broken into and the mower which is rented from the Council was taken along with other things. As the Bowls Club are currently happy using a spare mower of the Council's it was decided not to purchase a new Greens Mower at the present time but to keep the existing Reserve amount of £2274.47 specifically for this, for future use.

g) Allotment Society agreement renewed

It was reported that the new agreement has been signed.

h) NHP Pre-Submission Consultation Comments from Residents

Comments made in the consultation were received from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. They are comments made as part of the pre-submission consultation which are not related to the NHP but issues for the Parish Council generally to consider.

Street lighting – inadequate (3 comments) –

“I would prefer brighter street lighting in The Street, it is very dull and depressing in winter. Especially dark from Higher Sea Lane down to beyond the church as no house lights apart from The Royal Oak.”

“I do support this policy and fully accept the need to try and keep light pollution down to a minimum but there are various areas within some main parts of Charmouth, e.g. parts of The Street, that even with the present available lighting remains quite dark at night. I would like to see increased lighting levels in such main pedestrian area”

“My only thoughts are regarding street lighting which I understand are not covered in this document, but I would like to put on record how bad the street lighting is especially at the end of the street towards Bridge Road, it does not make one feel safe in the dark.”

- It was agreed that in line with the reply received from Dorset Council (reported above) there was nothing further the Parish Council could do about lighting.

Footpath, Wesley-Riverway - “The footpath from Wesley area to River Way. Map 9.2. If the kerb stone were dropped and centre pole removed. (what is it there for?) People on mobility scooters would have better access to the beach. Rather than going up to Lower Sea Lane.”

- It was agreed to recommend to Full Council the removal of the pole and instalment of a dropped kerb.

Parking restrictions near beach/manning of car parks Parking – “Car Parking is inadequate in the busy summer months which results in residential roads becoming blocked in some instances, residents have been unable to gain access to and from their properties. Parking restrictions should be imposed in these areas. The main carpark used to have an attendant at busy times to supervise parking thus maximising the number of cars able to park. This should be re-introduced.”

- The members felt there was nothing that they Council could do about this issue. The parking had been made worse this year by the number of people visiting due to coronavirus. The parking available at the foreshore is the maximum for the space. Parking restrictions are in place and any

infringements can be reported and are dealt with by Dorset Council highways department and their warden. The Council car park is staffed. The other car parks are privately owned.

Running track – “I support the provision of a running track in the recreational Ground. Pre Covid 19 I was delivering Athletic activities to under 15's in the village. Having a purpose built track would help to enhance the delivery of running activities to this age group and older runners as well. In my spare time I am a Professional Running/Fitness Coach & I would be happy to support this. As a Professional Project Manager I would be happy to volunteer my services to develop and deliver this project.”

- It was agreed to find out more information from the commenter about the details and if grant funding would be available. It will then be brought back to a future committee meeting for discussion.

i) Coast Path over Lyme Golf Course

Cllr Noel had reported to the Deputy Clerk that the coast path from Charmouth to Lyme Regis over the golf course appeared to be open, although the Parish Council hadn't been officially told about this. He also pointed out that between the trees, there is a sheer drop which hasn't been fenced off. He asked whether there should be some sort of barrier stopping people using it if it isn't?

The Deputy Clerk contacted Dorset Council who replied that this route is not yet open for public use and they have arranged for signs to be installed clarifying this and hope that the public adhere to them. Barriers are slightly more difficult, but they are considering installing them at entry/exit pinch points.

PCS9.21 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Email received about burning of rubbish

An email had been received about the burning of rubbish and asking that the banning of garden fires should be actioned long term not just during Covid 19. The Clerk had replied stating that the Parish Council has been asked to consider this issue in the recent past but unfortunately it is beyond its control. She suggested that concerns should be addressed to Dorset Council either by an enquiry from through its website to the Environmental Health Department or via your local elected representative, Cllr Daryl Turner.

b. Goal net area wear

An email had been received about the netted goal area at the Playing Field. They said that of late the area around the goals has become worn and has filled with big rocks and flint. They requested that the area to be re seeded. The Facilities Manager thinks the best way forward would be to level the area out, then re turf the area and cordon it off for a while. It was too wet in the autumn and so it has now been programmed for the work to be done in the spring.

c. Football Club

An email had been received saying that Charmouth FC will not be going ahead with a team this season, with the new regulations and guidelines regarding COVID and a lack of player numbers it was not possible to take the team forward this year. They are hoping to reform the club again next season.

d. Cemetery fly tipping

An email had been received about the access drive to the allotment is being severely damaged and fly tipping of garden waste and cut timber into the wild borders. Cllr Sayers reported that it was the Parish Council staff who had put cut vegetation onto the land by the allotments belonging to Highways England. As soon as the email was received by the Clerk, she had replied to the email confirming that the cuttings would be removed and disposed of responsibly. She apologised that this action occurred and gave assurance that it will not happen again. The damage to the track caused by a delivery lorry going to the allotments will be rectified when the ground is drier.

e. Offer of donation of fruit trees

A member of the public would like to donate two fruit trees for the playing field. She would like the village to enjoy the blossom. As Julie Leah, a member of the public in attendance at the meeting, had experience in this, it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would liaise with them and arrange for two suitable trees to be planted at the Playing Field.

f. Charmouth Scouts change of leadership

Kevin Payne emailed to inform the Council that he has stepped down as Group Scout Leader and Melanie Harvey and Karen Southcott have taken his place. He will be concentrating on helping with the Cubs & Scouts.

g. Hedging for bank on the western approach to the village

An email was received from Julie Leah who wanted to plant some spare hedging to the newly exposed bank area. This is the bank on the western approach to the village which had been cut back and the Parish Council have taken over the maintenance of, on an agency agreement from Dorset Council. Discussion took place about the fact that the land is owned by Dorset Council not the Parish Council. The subject of planting also ties in with the Wildspaces referred to in the Neighbourhood Plan and ideas of planting in other areas of the village that Julie would like discussed at committee. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the next meeting so that the information could be circulated in advance and where there would be more time for discussion.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed

Dated

Proposals to Full Council

PCS8.21(h) Footpath, Wesley/Riverway - It was agreed to recommend to Full Council the removal of the pole and instalment of a dropped kerb.

Finance Committee:

PCS8.21(f) Budget – Agreed to keep the existing Reserve amount of £2274.47 specifically for new mower for future use.