

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE PLAYING FIELD, CEMETERY AND STREET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON TUESDAY 28th JUNE 2022

In attendance: Cllrs Andrew Lightfoot, Katie Moore, Peter Noel, Martin Sayers and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

PCS11.22 TO APPOINT A CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Martin Sayers and seconded by Cllr Peter Noel and

RESOLVED that Cllr Katie Moore be the Chair of the Committee.

PCS12.22 TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Katie Moore and seconded by Cllr Andrew Lightfoot and

RESOLVED that Cllr Martin Sayers be the Vice Chair of the Committee.

PCS13.22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

The meeting was attended by Dawn Heath who is the Senior Technical Officer for Dorset Council.

PCS14.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Jane Bremner is away. Maralyn Hinxman has resigned from the Council and the Committee were thankful for her contribution.

PCS15.22. DISPENSATIONS

None received.

PCS16.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

PCS17.23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Playing Field, Cemetery and Street Management Committee held on the 26th April 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

PCS18.24 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Scouts have had to cancel their camping on the playing field in July. Cllr Lightfoot asked if a reply had been received from the landowner about Barrs Lane. The Deputy Clerk said no reply had been received to date so she would chase a response. Cllr Sayers said that at least 75% of the Queen's Green Canopy trees were growing well. Cllr Lightfoot said that the beech trees in particular have struggled. If there is no rain he will do some watering. The Council now has the water bowser.

PCS19.22 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Highways Issues - Dawn Heath talked through the parking issues.

Cllr Moore asked if Charmouth could have a parking review as Lyme Regis was having one. Dawn would approach the Parking Services Manager and ask him if he could extend the review that was happening at Lyme. She said they are carried out very rarely so it might be possible to add Charmouth onto Lyme's review.

Cllr Moore also asked about cycling and provision for securing bicycles at the centre of the village and the foreshore area. Dawn said that she would contact Christopher Peck, who is the Cycling and Walking officer and see if he has any funding for that.

Cllr Moore asked about a Resident's Parking Scheme in the Wesley Close area. Dawn said that she has reservations about Resident's Parking. She does not think they are a good idea.

The public have to pay for the scheme and then they have to pay for visitor's permits. There is a fixed criteria that Dorset Council have for them and there has to be certain percentage of the residents who want it for the scheme to go ahead. She said that people do not realise that they are actually de-valuing their property because you then have to pay to park near your house. Their visitors have to have a pass that the property owner buys and they are only allowed a certain number of passes per year. If one area has it then those people disperse out and then those residents also want a scheme and it becomes a huge area that is then very difficult to patrol for enforcement. So basically, the residents have paid for a scheme that is of not any benefit, because it becomes so large it cannot be enforced as there are not enough civil enforcement officers to patrol it to the extent needed. Once a scheme is introduced it is very difficult to remove.

Cllr Moore spoke about the existing restricted parking being currently from May to September. However, the holiday season covers a wider part of the year. Would extending the restrictions be part of the parking review? Dawn said that it would be best to put it into the parking review if the Charmouth can get one. If the Council were looking to change it before then, the Council would have to put in an application. She would score the application against every other one in Dorset and if it scored high enough it would be done. Dawn said that she would need substantial evidence to show that the current restrictions weren't working and that is quite difficult to obtain to get the points required. They only do between ten and fifteen per year and their list is one hundred twenty eight.

Dawn said that Parking Services would be able to say how often the civil enforcement officers come to Charmouth.

Cllr Moore asked about speed limits in the village. There seems to be a perception that there is speeding in the village. There had been a number of surveys already carried out that showed that vehicles were not exceeding the speed limit in any number. However, it feels as if cars are speeding, as it is thought the limit is too high. Most complaints are about Lower Sea Lane which is a 30mph. The Council has already requested that it be considered for a 20mph limit.

Dawn said that Charmouth is currently on the list. A new policy has gone before committee at Dorset Council and she is expecting to hear if the policy is accepted in October. Sometimes a 20mph limit is actually a bad idea as Dorset Police will not come with their speed enforcement equipment and will not enforce the limit. So, by introducing a 20pmh limit into the village you are effectively taking away the only body of people who can do anything about speeding. She said that a more effective way would be for residents to set up a Speed Watch group. The Police will then confirm that they will bring a speed watch vehicle into the village. The other thing that can help is a speed indication device. The Deputy Clerk had already obtained the information about that.

Dawn's concern is that the Council seems to have already had its answer. The 30mph is actually working in the village. That is the normal speed limit in this country and vehicles are not exceeding it in the village, so in effect there is not a speeding problem. She said that if people think there is a problem the best idea for them to do is set up the Speed Watch group as it is the most powerful and it empowers the community. The Deputy Clerk said that every time residents contact the office about speeding, she gives them the details about Speed Watch but she never hears anything back from anyone willing to take the idea forward.

Cllr Sayers mentioned about the Speed Indicator Device being an easier and cheaper option. Dawn asked is it prudent to spend £2,500 on a device that isn't needed as there isn't a speeding problem in the village. The Council already have data from multiple surveys that shows there isn't a speeding problem. Obviously, people do feel vulnerable when you are walking along or cycling but it doesn't mean vehicles are speeding.

Dawn confirmed that no signage cannot be put on the public highway. However, people can put signs such as 20 is Plenty in their windows or on wheelie bins etc. The website 20splenty.org has lots of useful information.

Cllr Lightfoot asked if Dorset Council car park in Lower Sea Lane could accommodate more car bays as coaches don't use it that much. Dawn confirmed that the coach spaces have been made available as multi use spaces for larger vehicles such as motorhomes. Cllr Noel raised that the Parish Council would have been interested in taking over the Lower Sea Lane car park. Dawn said that she could raise that again with Mike Westwood, Parking Services Manager.

The Deputy Clerk asked about worn road markings and faded street signs. Dawn said that when her team are doing road inspections, they only have a statutory function to maintain stop, give way and double white markings on the roads. They assess them and they do not intervene until they are 75% worn. Other road markings in relation to parking are refreshed by parking services if they feel that a conviction would not be possible on a ticket because the lines are so faded. The roads are reviewed depending on the classification of the road and this can be monthly, quarterly or yearly. Dawn believes that funding has been approved for the re-introduction of parish maintenance units. When those units are back, they will be cleaning the signs.

Cllr Lightfoot asked if there was any way to stop people parking on the pavement opposite the Nisa store? Dawn said that currently their civil enforcement officers do have the power to issue a ticket, it is a Police matter.

Dawn said that she had seen the Parish Council has had complaints from residents of Wesley Close again. She said that it might be possible to put some lines down one side of the road if the fire engine is still having a problem getting through. Of course, if they do put double yellow lines in, that would reduce the parking available. However, if the fire service say they do not have a problem, then it would not get to the top of the list. She could possibly put a 'keep clear' at the narrowest part of the road.

b. Planters at Lower Sea Lane

Cllr Lightfoot has had discussions with the Facilities Manager about this. The planters on Lower Sea Lane are dark brown and can't be stained to a lighter colour so they are going to stay the same. The Environment Group suggested additional ones each side of the bench at Lower Sea Lane. The extra planters we have left are too wide for the pavement and so can be used at the foreshore. New planters will need to be purchased for the bench area. Cllr Lightfoot spoke about the mishmash of information signs, noticeboards etc. in the Lower Sea Lane area and suggested a review of the area which the new planters could be part of an organised scheme. The idea is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

c. A35 Issues

i) A35 Roundabout

The roundabout on the western side of Charmouth looked overgrown, the Deputy Clerk had been asked to contact Highways England about the alleged treatment of the site. Correspondence had been circulated to members.

ii) A35 Verges

John Calder had also sent an email about the roundabout and verges on the A35 which had been circulated to the members.

PCS20.22 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT

None reported.

PCS21.22 DISCUSSION ITEMS / TO BE NOTED

a) Environment Group Notes

- i) South West in Bloom** – Cllr Moore asked if it was a village endeavor not just the Parish Council? Cllr Lightfoot explained that the actions suggested would be carried out by different organisations across the village. The members supported in principle the actions in the report from the Environment Group.
- ii) Community Garden** - Cllr Lightfoot explained that the idea was to have a community garden by the new tree planting area. He just wanted the Committee to agree to the idea before the

Environment Group spent time researching the project. The members agreed to the idea in principle.

- iii) Support 'Environment Day' in September/October –The Environment Group need to work out a format for a workshop and the expenditure. It would likely be Saturday 1st October as part of the Big Green Week. The members supported the idea in principle.

b) Differential Mowing

Cllr Lightfoot explained the idea of having some areas cut in patterns which are fun for children and allowing different grasses and clovers. Cllr Moore said that at the end of 'No Mow May' the ground staff had difficulty mowing. It was agreed to try a small area at the playing field and see what the implications are.

c) Zurich Insurance Playground Inspection Report

- i) Signage – Recommendations include installing a sign, which was also raised through the recent H&S audit (RoSPA requirements sent separately). Cllr Sayers offered to speak to the Clerk to draft a sign as he had experience from when he had purchased the playground equipment. The other members agreed to Cllr Sayers working with the Clerk on a sign template.
- ii) Maintenance items – These general items were being dealt with by the Facilities Manager.

d) Footpaths

- i) Footpath 22 - Coast path from Charmouth to Lyme Regis

Cllr Lightfoot said that there is a footpath sign that isn't correct as it doesn't say Lyme Regis. The Deputy Clerk asked the members to email her with any issues about the footpath.

- ii) Footpath 12 - Parking on footpath - Parking of a van at Black Venn has been reported to Dorset Council.

The Deputy Clerk reported that other footpath issues have also been reported such as overgrown paths. These complaints have been replied to from Dorset Council as being fixed. The steps and gate at the cliff footpath have been fixed.

e) Green Event

It is proposed to stage an event on one of the Saturdays of the Great Big Green Week of 24th September – 2nd October. The members agreed to this in principle as discussed earlier in the meeting.

PCS22.22 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Request received from the Scouts to camp on the Playing Field in September and they will confirm the exact dates nearer the time. The members agreed to this request.
- b. Scout Group AGM 30 June 2022. Cllr Moore will attend the AGM.

- c. Email from Pete Wild informing of cancellation of joint event in the Playing Field – Noted.
- d. Email received from Phil Tritton on behalf of Events Committee requesting permission for Party In the Park event on 6th August – The members agreed to the request to hold the event.

PCS23.22 IN COMMITTEE

None.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed

Dated

DRAFT