

CHISELBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2020

Present: Mr R Brown, Mr A Pipe, Mr M Langdon, Mrs J Buckmaster, Dr R Bulley
In Attendance: Members of the public, Mr Mark Keating, Mr M. Hewitson, Mr M. Hamlin (Clerk).

- 1: **Apologies for absence:** None
- 2: **Declarations of Interest:** Dr R. Bulley Church and Planning agenda Item 7.
- 3: **Public Forum:** None.
- 4: **Minutes of the meeting:** Held on 12th February 2020. These were agreed and signed.
- Matters arising under:**
- 2018.11.15.3 Calendar/Welcome Pack. Work continued refreshing the calendar which was operational but needed improvement. The Welcome Pack was nearly finished, just waiting for an average mobile broadband speed.
- 2019.09.14 Water Drainage from Common. Cllr Langdon advised that he had consulted Wessex Water following a site meeting to ascertain if the water drainage could be directed into main drainage channels which had been refused by Wessex Water as the main drains are at full capacity. It was reported that the attenuation pool designed to hold excess water had breached during recent wet weather and that when this happened silt was washed down on to Old Road and causing difficulty with opening the gates due to silt build up. The attenuation pool had become very overgrown and needed clearing out with regular annual maintenance to ensure that it worked efficiently. The attenuation pool was installed by South Somerset District Council and D.Cllr Hewitson advised that the issue of clearance of the pool and regular maintenance should be taken up by the new District Councillor. Cllr Hewitson agreed to brief that person after the election. Further comment made for clarity that there is a compounding of the problem from water coming down New Road past the attenuation pool and then draining down the tracks back towards the houses creating a double source of flood water. Action points for new District Councillor and for Cllr Langdon to keep up the contacts with all sources of help.
- 2019.09.14 Broken Finger Post by Church Mr Ian Hodge had obtained a new more robust post and was in the process of putting the sign together with help from Mr Stuart Wright, and it was due to be installed shortly. Agreed that the Parish Council would reimburse Mr Hodge for the expense of the post. Thanks expressed to those who had worked to obtain the new sign.
- 2019.12.12 New Village mower. Cllr Brown reported that historically the Parish Council had provided the mowers used to cut the churchyard. There were 2 mowers one of which the Haytor had a hole in the carriage which had been repaired but it was expected to last the season. Cllr Brown had agreed with the PCC that should it not last the season, the Parish Council would provide funds for a new mower. If the need became pressing, Cllr Brown had identified a suitable mower costing approximately £400 adequate for the job and at a greatly reduced price to the mainstream makes of mower.
- 5: **District Councillor's Report: Mike Hewitson** The District Council had passed its budget which was a balanced budget. Chard and Yeovil town centre regeneration projects continuing, and improvements expected shortly. Reported that the tenant who had exhibited extensive anti-social behaviour towards Chiselborough

AP/New District Council Ward Member

AP/Cllr Langdon.

residents in Minchingtons Close had been evicted. Reiterated that SSDC Leader Val Keitch would come to discuss the future of Local Government in Somerset subject to availability and D.Cllr Hewitson would arrange it. The Chairman thanked D.Cllr Hewitson for his assistance over the previous 2 meetings.

- 6: **County Councillor's Report: Mark Keating:** C. Cllr Keating reported that County were working hard planning for Covid 19. Improved A356 signage was due to be completed shortly, (noted that there had been 2 serious accidents on the road involving rolled cars recently). The future of local government continued to be actioned and work carrying on to arrive at the best option with consensus. Noted that SSDC Leader Val Keitch had made an offer to come out to talk to Parish Councils about the options. In response to approach from Cllr Pipe, C.Cllr Keating agreed to follow up the issue of the continued closure of the path between Chiselborough and Norton, this being an important path used extensively to access the shop.

AP/Cllr
Pipe
email
C.Cllr
Keating

- 7: **Planning: Richard Brown:** Cllr Bulley vacated the Chair and handed the Chairmanship to Cllr Buckmaster. Cllr Brown advised that nothing had progressed greatly about the two planning applications in Skillgate Lane discussed in February. Cllr Brown advised that he had been told that new plans had been submitted in respect of the outline permission for two new dwellings on the farmyard, but these had not yet been received by SSDC. The application to build an extension to the Village Hall was still outstanding pending an ecological survey to check for the presence of bats.

At the end of this item Cllr Bulley resumed the Chair.

- 8: **VETS Update.** Cllr Brown advised that the painting of the phone box job had been issued to Dave Chant and that it had been agreed that the work would take place once it was warmer and dryer. Cllr Buckmaster advised that VETS leaflets had been printed for distribution to every house in the village giving the phone number and explanation of how the scheme worked. Agreed that the leaflet would be distributed as soon as possible noting that a national emergency regarding Covid-19 appeared imminent which could create situations where the VETS scheme would be more invaluable. Maps for the volunteers to assist with locating the emergency had been printed and would be distributed once laminated which Tony Perry had agreed to do. Cllr Buckmaster would distribute to volunteers.

9. **Community Land Trust:** Cllr Pipe reported that changes had occurred to the officers in post, but all positions had been filled. The land behind Minchingtons Close had been cleared and cut. The shop accounts showed a small reduction in turnover over last year attributed to lack of inclement weather this winter. Lease due to be renewed for a further six years. Early closure on Saturdays to 16:00 had been implemented successfully. Storm damage repairs to the shop roof were in hand. Funding agreed to purchase extra-long-life stock to help with possible contingencies regarding Covid-19. Long process regarding concluding the anti-social behaviour tenant but now successfully completed. Stock take and final accounts on track to be filed. Cllr Pipe agreed to enquire if deliveries could be made to those who were in isolation. CLT prepared to assist with Farmland acquisition if required.

AP/Cllr
Pipe

- 10: **Environmental Issues:** Nothing new to report and no reports or

	issues received.	
11:	Finance:	
11.1	The Clerk had distributed a financial review for the quarter ending 29 th February. This included the cash book made up to 29/02/20, bank statements to February, review of payments made against budget and projection to year end. This showed a surplus of £665.35 to end of year but this included £900 for a new mower which if not used would increase the surplus to £1,565.35. The Parish Council were satisfied that correct accounting methods had been used, that there was enough money to cover contingencies and that the Parish Council were in a good position to carry out its functions. The Clerk advised that he would make arrangements to reclaim the VAT that was due.	AP/Clerk
11.2	It was resolved to make annual donations to Village Organisations: Village Hall £250.00, Churchyard Grant £250.00, Parish Magazine £200, Citizens Advice £50.00.	
11.3	It was resolved to make payment of £512.49 to Corido being in respect of the cost of a new bench for the common to replace the one that was storm damaged. This money had already been reimbursed to the Parish Council thanks to the fund raising of a group of Common Side dwellers to whom the Parish Council were extremely grateful. Noted that the bench was in the process of being made and hopefully would be in situ by the end of April.	
11.4	It was resolved to pay the sum of £411.34 being Clerk's wages and expenses for the quarter ending February 2020, and £94.40 being payable to HMRC for the income tax deducted from wages.	
12:	Risk Assessments: Cllr Pipe advised that the Risk Assessments carried out in October would be typed up and circulated to the Council.	AP/Cllr Pipe
13:	IT, Website & Communication. A productive meeting was held on 6 th March Cllr Bulley, Cllr Buckmaster, Cllr Pipe and Martyn to talk about improving our communications and how to move forward involving the website and email channels to make information more readily and easily accessible. The Chiselborough Matters Facebook page would be utilised more and a link to it from the website. It was hoped to have a more up to date website probably in 2021 with help from Sarah Morley who was keen to work with Cllr Pipe on this project starting with a village consultation probably commencing in the fourth quarter of the year. Photographs of Councillors and Clerk on the website would be of great help to new residents to help them to know who their Parish Council are.	
14:	Reports from Councillors: Ranger: Cllr Langdon reported that SCC were aware of the potholes along Norton Road. It might be the case that the Ranger would need to be employed to clear the grips along that road. The ditch was full, but this was the landowners responsibility. Agreed to ask Mr Holloway first if he would clear the grips and if not, authority given to Cllr Langdon to employ the Ranger to clear them. Highways: Mr Hodge had enquired by email about the possibility of improving the visibility splay at Cat Head Cross. This had been discussed with Mr Charlie Field at the last meeting who had indicated that SCC as the landowner would look sympathetically on this, but initiation had to come from the Parish Council. Noted that there is in fact a stone wall on the left-hand corner approaching from Cat Street. Agreed that Cllr Langdon would ask Lee from Highways to give initial advice. The large sink pothole near Balham Hill Farm had resulted in road closure and was being actioned by Highways. Cllr Langdon would	AP/Cllr Langdon AP/Cllr Langdon

pass on all information held about the physical geography of the area to Lee from Highways

Parish Land: Cllr Bulley reported that a meeting of the Land Committee had been scheduled for 27th March, if this was not possible a later date would be arranged. An updated plan and draft lease had been received but there were some discrepancies between the plan and the land so awaited response from Mr field. Cllrs Bulley and Buckmaster had attended a meeting about Community Housing at Seavington Hall, which related to housing for the village and contained some useful information.

Common: Bramble Cut had been postponed due to the wet weather and would have to be left until October due to bird nesting. The dawn chorus walk had been cancelled and would be held on 16th April providing the situation allowed. If not, publicity would be given to any new date. Wildflower seed had been purchased and sown round near the hedge laying and where the bonfire took place saving some to be sewn around the new bench.

The letter regarding the gravel issue reported in February had been posted on 29th February with a 28-day reply deadline.

Burridge Copse: Contact with the Wessex Scout Group had been rescinded. Cllr Pipe reported that he had yet to receive a response from SSDC who had agreed to put together a long-term management plan for the copse. Cllr Pipe had emailed Phil Poulton the SSDC tree officer as well and Oliver Frost of O. Frost Forestry who represented the company recommended by the company who made the finger post. He would also attend and advise on objectives and on possible grants and resilience his charge was £40 an hour plus travel so at this stage agreed to get the advice from SSDC before moving to a commercial provider.

Rights of Way Footpaths: Cllr Pipe advised that there had been a fallen finger post at the entrance to pubblescratch the field leading to Norton coming out at the rec/Lord Nelson that had fallen but had now been put back up again

Thanks expressed to landowners Jo Oliver and Paul Richards who had cleared a fallen tree on the bridleway within 24 hours of it falling during the first named storm. Letter of thanks to go to Jo and Paul.

AP/Clerk

Reported that the handrail along Hempalong had not been fixed, Cllr Pipe to chase.

**AP/Cllr
Pipe**

The broken gate on Old Road was not currently on a dedicated right of way and clogged with silt causing problems with opening the gate. Agreed that Cllr Pipe would assess the situation and then consideration to be given to employing the Ranger to remedy.

**AP/Cllr
Pipe**

15:

Correspondence: None

16:

Points for New Business: None

The next meeting will be held on a date to be announced.

Signed _____

Date _____