

CHISELBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2019

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

- 1: **Apologies for absence:** Mr M. Keating, Mr A. Vaughan
- 2: **Declarations of Interest:** Dr R. Bulley Parochial Church Council.
- 3: **Public Forum:** Mr John Ball addressed the Council on the issue of the water drainage from the common (the written text of which was later received for the benefit of the Council). Main points were that any solution to the flooding issue must have regard to all the properties in the area and nothing should be done to alleviate flooding of one property which would increase the risk to another. Before any engineered solution was agreed all the effected residents should have the chance to be consulted. These points were taken on board sympathetically by the Council.
- 4: **Minutes of the meeting:** Held on 13th November 2019. These having been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed. Cllr Buckmaster was granted permission by the Chairman to clarify issues which had been raised by a member of the public by email. Hedge laying had taken place on Tuesday 3rd December but this was an informal arrangement taking place at short notice so previous volunteers were contacted to see if they could help, using the Youth Club email circular which would reach all the volunteers who had attended the first public session. The Clerk and Chairman apologised that the information about the informal hedge laying had not made it to the website notice board or Parish Council mailing list. The VETS meeting held on 27th November was for the people who had volunteered to be first responders for the purpose of the emergency telephone system. The open meeting held on 4th September was widely publicised and it was at this meeting that volunteers came forward, receiving their training on 27th November. The village map which was compiled for the benefit of the VETS responders to enable them to immediately pinpoint the location of the emergency, was also to be made available for the whole village in large scale in the bus shelter, additionally small hand size copies would be made available at small cost. Clarification was received that the Youth Club email is a Village Newsletter produced voluntarily, available to all just by requesting to be added to the list. The Chairman commented that significant progress had already been made in updating the Councils communication strategy which was ongoing, and constructive comments were always welcome. It was agreed to check the requirement for, and obtain if necessary, a D7 certificate to enable fires to be lit on the common. Also, to check out the liability for maintenance of the hedge on the common, as prima facia it appeared that the liability was with the adjoining landowner.
- Matters arising under:**
- 2018.11.15.2
Large Delivery
Vehicles
- Cllr Brown confirmed that he had followed up with Highways the matter of changing the sign from 2.5 to 2.2 meters and had been assured the order had been raised with contractors and would be

AP/Clerk

2018.11.15.3 Calendar/Welcome Pack	progressed in due course. The Clerk confirmed that he and Cllr Pipe would meet on 10 th January to review the village calendar and discuss the content of the welcome pack.	AP/Clerk & Cllr Pipe
2018.09.14 Water drainage from Common	Cllr Langdon clarified that the comment regarding possible redirection of flood water from the 2 houses that had experienced problems in a different direction, was made by a Highways Official during conversation. The official in question had come to inspect potholes and had no direct responsibility for flooding issues, and Cllr Langdon apologised if he had spoken out of turn and misled the public when recounting this comment. Cllr Langdon had emailed D. Cllr Vaughan on 6 th December asking for a site meeting and his response was awaited. He had asked for a meeting with D. Cllr Vaughan and a flooding expert. Cllr Langdon to follow up.	AP/Cllr Langdon
2019.09.14 Broken finger post	Cllr Pipe reported that the new post should be finished by the end of the week (the lower part was with Mr Hodge) and once the top part with the writing was received, the new post would be installed.	AP/Cllr Pipe
2019.09.15 Tree policy	A request for a volunteer tree warden had been made on the website. To date no response had been received. West Chinnock Parish Council had written seeking collaboration with Chiselborough regarding their plans to formulate a tree policy. A copy of the draft tree policy had been sent to them.	
2019.10.15 Request to partially resurface track	A site meeting took place on 15 th November with Cllrs Bulley and Buckmaster regarding the application from Mrs Hassell to resurface the track leading to her property. It had been suggested that the track be resurfaced using netting, also that Mrs Hassell could purchase a piece of the common to park her car on with right of access to it. Mrs Hassell had stated that she did not wish to pursue either of these proposals and would endeavour to remove the mud that had built up on the track.	
2019.10.16 Digital Mapping	Cllrs Buckmaster and Pipe agreed that the digital mapping could be a good tool albeit that it was really designed for bigger parishes where there were lots of issues to keep track of. It would be a lot of work to set up and would require a person who was technically proficient to spend time doing it. It was agreed that Cllr Pipe and Martyn would take an exploratory look at it during their meeting on 10 th January. Mr Wickins kindly volunteered once the various layers Chiselborough needed were identified, to voluntarily take on and map one of the layers. Other volunteers in the community could be sought. Mr Wickins also advised that he would attend the meeting on 10 th January if that would be helpful for which he was thanked.	AP/Cllr Pipe and Clerk
5:	District Councillor's Report: Mr Anthony Vaughan D. Cllr Vaughan was not in attendance and no written report had been received	
6:	County Councillor's Report: Mark Keating C. Cllr Keating was not in attendance. His December written report had been received and was on the website.	
7:	Planning: Richard Brown The decision had been received to allow the alterations to Cavil Cottage, the comment by the Parish Council that the window overlooking the adjoining property should be obscured glass had been accepted and included as a condition in the permission. The decision was awaited on the application for the extension to the Village Hall for which the Parish Council had no objections.	
8:	VETS Publicity, painting of phone box, maps: Cllr Brown	

advised that he had received a second quote and would need to speak to both the contractors to be able to assess like for like, which was the best value. He envisaged that the work would probably take place in the spring when the weather was better. Noted that the light in the phone box was still not working. Clerk to contact CHT.

AP/Clerk

Noted that CHT had the technology to overcome the problem of phones with call screening services enabled on them.

It was agreed that Cllr Buckmaster would arrange a meeting shortly after Christmas with Cllr Brown and Martyn to discuss how the emergency number would be communicated to all the village and to arrange a date to test the system with all the volunteers.

**AP/Cllr
Buckmaster**

The volunteers had all signified what size map they would find most useful and the printing was in hand.

- 9: **Community Land Trust:** Christmas orders were doing well. The ground rent for the land that the Minchingtons Close houses were sited on was increasing bringing in extra revenue. The viability of a tree nursery on the land behind the houses was being investigated, which would complement the solar array and help to look after the land with possible additional revenue. Volunteers were sought for the shop, anyone interested please call in to the shop.

10: **Finance:**

- 10.1 The Council had received financial documents for the quarter to 30/11/19 comprising of the HSBC bank statements, bank reconciliation document, details of the three restricted funds for Burr ridge Copse, The Common and the defibrillator, the cash book made up to 30/11/19 and the budget document showing expenditure against budget to date and projections forecasting expenditure to the end of the year. The Council were satisfied that the budget was on track and that enough funds were available to cover contingencies, that proper accounting procedures had been observed and that the Council were well placed to be able to carry out its functions. It was proposed by Cllr Langdon, seconded by Cllr Pipe and resolved that the financial review was satisfactory.

- 10.2 It was resolved to authorise and pay cheques for £120 for hire of the Village Hall.

£428.74 for Clerk's wages and expenses.

£94.40 Cheque to HMRC for tax deducted.

- 11: **Reports: Ranger:** Cllr Langdon reported that following the visit from John Brown Ranger Manager, 3 days work was identified predominantly clearing of all the clogged grips including the ones along Norton Road. Agreed that we would ask John Brown for a chart showing the grips that needed clearing. Agreed that it was important to get them cleared. It was still hoped that SSDC would clear the grips along New Road to be discussed at the site meeting. Proposed by Cllr Buckmaster, seconded by Cllr Brown to commission 2 days Ranger work clearing the most important grips. Three action points;

- 1) Ask John Brown for a map/chart showing the clogged grips
- 2) Identify the grips most in need of clearing
- 3) Follow up the site meeting with Anthony Vaughan re the flooding issue and clarify whether SSDC would clear the grips along New Road.

**AP/Cllr
Langdon**

Highways: Cllr Langdon reported that the grit bins had all been filled. He was waiting for Lee from Highways to come back to

AP/Cllr

him about Cat Head Cross, which he had promised to do, but he was extremely busy. Cllr Bulley reported that Potholes and Highways issues could be reported by any member of the public on the SCC website and that SSDC had a facility whereby anyone can create an account to report any district council issue. Everyone encouraged to make use of these resources.

**Langdon
follow up**

Parish Land: Cllr Bulley reported that there had been no movement at all and no communications. Await events.

Common: Cllr Buckmaster reported that arrangements had been made for an additional key to the Church shed be cut for Parish Council use and the Parish Council tools could be stored in it. Awaiting arrangements for the Parish Stocks to be moved out to Valley Farm by permission of the Holloway family to make room. Thanks to all who had helped with the hedge laying on Tuesday which had made the area look beautiful. Possibly an informal working party on Friday to which all volunteers would be very welcome.

Following an email received from Mr Tony Perry regarding a rare shrub *Sambucus gaudichaudiana* it was explained that there used to be a hedge of this plant on the common which was eaten by sheep. The plant is a very rare white elderberry, not unique but no other known examples in Somerset. Mr Perry had nurtured three plants in his garden. It was agreed that the Common Working Party would try to find an area on the common where the shrub could be planted and preserved for the village without risk of being eaten by sheep.

**AP/Cllr
Buckmaster
and
Common
Party**

Reference was made to an email from Tim Cook service delivery at SSDC requesting Parish Councils to try and find an Environmental Champion for their village to move environmental issues forward in their localities. Mrs Morley later advised the meeting that her husband Mr Grant Morley had signified his willingness to accept the role of Environmental Champion for Chiselborough, unless there was someone else who would particularly like to do it.

Burridge Copse: No reply had been received from Mr Scammels or Wessex Scout Group regarding future involvement of that group. Cllr Pipe was waiting to hear back from SSDC about what assistance might be available from them. All was looking satisfactory at the copse.

Rights of way footpaths: Cllr Pipe would at a suitable time put on a presentation in the Village Hall to show people how to use the ROAM facility available on SCC website.

The path which had been closed between Chiselborough and Norton for six months was still not showing as an extended closure so as far as was known it was now open. There was no evidence of any repair having taken place. If Cllr Pipe later found out it was still closed this would be communicated. Cllr Pipe to check.

AP/Cllr Pipe

12:

Correspondence: an email had been received from the PCC asking if the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of new mowers for the Churchyard. Cllr Brown agreed to have a look at the mowers and appraise exactly what state they were in. Noted that it had also been suggested that if we make a grant as in previous years this could be used towards the cost. Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Buckmaster that in principle the Parish Council supported contributing towards one mower subject to Cllr Brown's inspection as to their state. Email had been received from SSDC advising that the new

**AP/Cllr
Brown**

precept figure had to be submitted by 31 January. This would be considered by the Parish Council outside of the meeting.

13:

Points for New Business: Cllr Buckmaster raised the subject of charging points for electric cars. This had been brought up at the cluster meeting she attended with other Parish Councils at SSDC. As the environmental agenda moved forward, there would be an increasing need for charging points as people switched to electric cars. There were many properties in Chiselborough where it would be impossible to charge a car from their own supply meaning that a communal point would be necessary. Help was available from the government to set them up and there was scope for profits to be raised to be used for the benefit of the community. Noted that currently there is no universal industry standard of charging point that would suit every type of car. It was agreed to carry out further research and discuss again later. Further agreed to have Environmental Issues (which would include the tree warden) as a running agenda item.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th February.

Signed _____

Date _____