

## **CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2024, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER**

Emma Meecham, Clerk, 15 Meadow Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5PB  
Tel: 01935 415361

Mr T Brandt  
Mrs K Taylor

Mrs R Parsons  
Mr M Batstone

Mr P Seib

1 Member of the public

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

Mr Ferguson enquire what, if any, progress had been made regarding the flooding outside Rectory Cottage. Mr Ferguson also queried the gritting, or lack thereof, of the 'S' bend on Tintinhull Road.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were received from Mr Rowsell and Mr Woodman.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Seib's usual declarations were received.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record.

- 4. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Cllr Seib gave his report to the meeting. He noted that for obvious reasons the last month has been very budget dominated at Somerset Council. The budget gap has been reduced significantly but there are still savings to be found. It is unlikely that Central Government will approve the request to increase Council Tax above the 4.99% cap, therefore the remaining gap will need to be covered by borrowing, which could then be paid off after the sale of assets. Some services currently funded by Somerset Council will be picked up and funded by more local bodies, Yeovil Town Council for example will be taking on The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil Recreation Area, Westlands, and Yeovil's CCTV. MR Brandt asked when it was likely that enough detail to enable the Parish Council to consider any services that they wish to take on will be known. Cllr Seib noted that many of the services received in Chilthorne Domer are statutory services.

- 5. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

The Council discussed the issue of the flooding near Rectory Cottage, it was agreed that the clerk is to write to Somerset Council Highways to request that a site meeting be arranged with Mr Batstone and Mr Brandt. The site meeting is to discuss the flooding issues, along with other issues including discharge of sewage into drainage from Halfacre House, and the discharge of water and subsequent highway deterioration in Chilthorne Hill Lane.

#### **Clerk to contact Highways and request site meeting**

It was confirmed during the meeting by Mr Seib that Tintinhull Road is on the gritting route. Immediately before the cold spell there had been a lot of rain and this resulted in a lot of water run-off from the fields near the 'S' bend. The cold weather resulted in a lot of ice on this stretch of road which unfortunately led to 4 accidents, including one vehicle that ended up on its roof. The clerk is to request details of when the gritting took place. The Council discussed the possibility of purchasing some ice warning signs.

#### **Clerk to contact Highways regarding the gritting.**

**Clerk to source costs for signs.**

- a) SID – The SID is working and is currently in place on Tintinhull Road, near Chilthorne Hill Lane, it is due to move to the A37 soon.
- b) Village gateway signs – Ongoing. Mr Brandt and Mr Batstone will get together to measure the available verge space and note the locations by GPS.
- c) Sweeping response – The clerk reported that the road sweeping is undertaken by Streetscene services, the email that had been forwarded to them as part of the response from highways has received no answer. The clerk is to continue to chase StreetScene.

**Clerk to chase StreetScene**

**6. COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – No report received.

**7. LCN UPDATE** – Mrs Taylor updated the meeting on the latest LCN meeting.

**8. DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL**

- a) Parish Ranger – The Parish Ranger scheme is currently under threat due to the financial emergency as it has been discovered that the previous charges had not been covering the costs of the Ranger. It may be saved if sufficient interest at the new rate is received. It was agreed that the clerk, with help from the Councillors, produces a list of things that the Parish Council has been doing, or would like to do, that the Parish Ranger could help with.

**Clerk and Councillors to compile the list.**

Mr Seib informed the meeting that there is also a Highway Steward scheme for minor highways works.

**9. FOOTPATHS**

- a) Response regarding gate posts – The clerk informed the meeting of the response received from the PRow team – namely that due to the financial emergency they could not fund the replacement gate posts. It was agreed to put gateposts on the March agenda for possible Parish Council funding. Mr Brandt informed the meeting that he has a document that forms a framework for what can and can't be funded, he will seek it out in the meantime.

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**

- a) Receipts: None – Noted.
- b) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC. – Agreed unanimously.
- c) Grant requests: None – Noted. Mr Brandt informed the meeting that there is still likely to be a request from the Rec for grass cutting.

**11. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Applications: None – Noted.
- b) Decisions: None – Noted.
- c) Appeals: None- Noted.

**12. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

**13. BROADBAND** – The meeting discussed the slow progress by Wessex Internet, the latest forecast is that it will be mid-February for any connections. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received an email from Gigaclear offering to take part in a meeting with the Council if required. The email has been forwarded to the Councillors.

**14. VILLAGE HALL** – Mr Brandt informed the meeting that the Village Hall is doing reasonably well and that the financial situation is OK. The Booking system seems to be working well. Hopefully there will be some new bookings coming in soon.

**15. RECREATION TRUST** – Mr Brandt informed the meeting that the budget for next year is being considered. Unfortunately 2 out of the 3 trees planted last year have been severely damaged, but it is hoped that they might recover. The defibrillator box has been reinstalled and the defibrillator is in there, there is also a bleed kit available next to the defibrillator.

**16. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** – Mr Batstone handed in a quote for the works to the railing near the war memorial, and a grant

request from the Church. The clerk is to bring the quote to the next meeting and to send the grant request form for completion.

**Clerk to send Grant request form for completion.**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:04pm**

**17. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – 7 MARCH 2024 19:30.**