

CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 2 JANUARY, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER

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

Mr K Woodman
Mr P Seib

Mr T Brandt
Mrs K Taylor

2 Members of the public
Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

The meeting commenced after an Open Session for Chilthorne Domer Parishioners only, the issue with missing/damaged 'S' bend signs on Tintinhull Road was raised.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were received from Mr Batstone.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Seib declared his usual interests, along with a potential conflict with his role on Somerset Council for item 7.
- 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 confirmed that there had been little business since the report that he had circulated in December. Cllr Seib reported that Somerset Council has applied to central Government for additional help for the next financial year, there is a wide range of options being investigated, including permission for a higher Council Tax increase than currently permitted (5%), normally this is only permitted after a S114 notice has been served, however, the Council has acted in a way that the Government recognises as 'proper' in their efforts to deal with their financial issues. Mr Brandt asked Cllr Seib how Somerset's Council Tax levels compare to other authorities. Cllr Seib explained that several years of 0% increase has not helped the situation that Somerset now finds itself in.
Mr Brandt asked about the level of 'gaps' in departments such as Planning. Cllr Seib explained that there are some shortages which are being dealt with as well as they can be given the financial pressures. At this point Cllr Seib gave a short history of the restructure, unification and social care pressures for the benefit of the members of the public present.
- 5. HIGHWAY MATTERS**
 - a) SID – No report available. Mr Brandt explained that he is currently struggling to move the SID as frequently as he would like. The SID is currently opposite Chilthorne Hill on Tintinhull Road. The possibility of another post opposite Villa Verde was raised. The issue of the gully clearing and what progress had been made was raised. A brief discussion was held. The issue of the gateway signs and what progress had been made was raised. A brief discussion was held.
- 6. COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – No report has been received from the police. Mrs Taylor reported that she had spoken to the owner of the dogs and offered some help. Mr Brandt reported that he understands that a letter from Somerset Council has been received by the home-owner.

- 7. ALLOTMENTS** – Mr Brandt gave a recap of the issues regarding the allotments. Cllr Seib gave an update on information from Somerset Council, the Estates Manager has changed and the new Officer has taken a different approach. Cllr Seib has explained the Parish Council's position to Somerset Council. The various options were set out by the Parish Council Councillors. It was noted that Minehead Council have just agreed to adopting land elsewhere in the county, so example documents are available.

Cllr Seib left the room.

An in-depth discussion over the options and the way forward was held. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Seib should be asked to formally approach the Estates team to facilitate a formal offer to the Parish Council via the clerk regarding devolution of the land for community use, gifting the land to Chilthorne Domer Parish Council. A draft of the request to Cllr Seib is to be circulated in advance of sending.

Cllr Seib returned to the room.

- 8. LCN UPDATE** – Mrs Taylor confirmed that she would be attending the virtual meeting on 6 January. Mr Brandt reported that the minutes of the meeting held at The Manor Hotel had been received, Mr Brandt expressed disappointment that the minutes seemed to have been watered down from what was agreed.
- 9. FOOTPATHS** – Nothing to report. Mr Brandt offered to look at the potential fly tipping at the Halfway House during his walk around the various watercourses with the Yeovil Rivers Group on behalf of the Greensteps group.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS

a) Budget: The budget as proposed by the RFO was discussed, it was unanimously agreed that the precept be raised to £10,000

b) Receipts: None

c) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC, ElanCity (warranty) £716.40. – Agreed unanimously.

d) Grant requests: None

The clerk raised the possibility of changing bank accounts to allow for dual signatory with online access. The council agreed that the clerk continue to look at this and bring options to a meeting, the requirement to subsequently change the Financial Regulations of the Council to allow this was understood.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications: None

b) Decisions: None

c) Appeals: None

Mr Seib informed the meeting about the current call for sites being held by Somerset Council. The issues of the threat to the nature of Chilthorne Domer were discussed. It was agreed that Mr Brandt and Mr Seib would draft a letter to Sarah Dyke MP to express the concerns held.

12. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

a) Community Health and Wellbeing Grants – Noted.

13. VILLAGE HALL – Nothing to report.

- 14. RECREATION TRUST** – Thanks were expressed to all for their help with Christmas tree, and the support at the function. The tree will be taken down on Saturday 6 January. The options for grass cutting of the pitches will likely be discussed at the meeting in mid-January and a report to the Parish Council will be submitted.

- 15. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** - There is an unsafe tree on Tintinhull Road as you approach the 'S' bend. The clerk is to report it on Fix My Street.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

16. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – 6 February 2025.