

## **CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER**

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

Mr K Woodman  
Mr T Brandt  
Mr P Seib

Mr M Batstone  
Mrs R Parsons  
Mrs K Taylor

3 Members of the public  
Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

The meeting commenced after an Open Session for Chilthorne Domer Parishioners only, Mr Melvin informed the meeting that there had been a call-out this month to assist in Somerton due to the flooding, the team provided breakfasts, and the Taunton team were also out all night.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None received.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Seib declared his standard interests and also declared an interest in item 8, allotments.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR** – Andrea Blaney, being eligible to stand, put herself forward. There being no further candidates, Ms Blaney was fully supported and duly appointed to Parish Councillor.
- 5. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Cllr Seib gave his report from Somerset Council, this included updates on the financial position of Somerset Council, confirmation that 550 posts at Somerset Council are being made redundant and the interview process for those persons identified as being within ringfenced positions is due to start. Cllr Seib also informed the meeting that the number of rough sleepers in the County has unfortunately risen significantly, £400,000 of funding is to be used to ensure that there is somewhere for people to go during the inclement seasonal weather and to help with pathways to permanent accommodation. The boundary Commission has unusually extended their consultation period with the public by 6 weeks, proposals are being put together for generally single Councillor wards, with a small number of double Councillor wards. Mr Brandt looked for clarity on boundary review proposals. A discussion was held over the possible benefits and disbenefits of various options. Mr Brandt offered to put some notes together to be circulated amongst councillors and if all agree, they will be sent to the Boundary Commission.
- 6. HIGHWAY MATTERS**
  - a) SID – The SID is currently outside the school. While on the A37 recently the average was just below 40mph with the maximum toward Ilchester of 112mph and a maximum toward Yeovil of 86mph, speeds of over 100mph were recorded four times in the two-week period. While on Tintinhull Road the average speed was 30/31mph in both directions, with a maximum speed of 71mph coming into the village and 74mph going to Tintinhull, the majority of the speeds were below 60mph. The issue of the permanent running water on Chilthorne Hill Lane was raised, this water is causing the water to collapse at the edges. There are ongoing issues at Pond Corner on Chilthorne Hill Lane. The clerk is to contact Highways to obtain a quote for the removal of the weeds on Main Street.

The bus shelter on Tintinhull Road needs to be refreshed, particularly the noticeboards, this is to be added to the Agenda for the March meeting.

- 7. COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – No report from the police, despite the promises at the LCN meetings.
- 8. ALLOTMENTS** – It was agreed that the agenda title for future meetings is to be changed to 'Garden Plots'. For the benefit of anyone within the room that wasn't aware of the issues to date Mr Brandt gave a brief history. Mr Brandt suggested that there are two strands of work to be carried out going forward, the negotiation with Somerset Council and the management of the plots in the future.  
Mr Seib left the room for the discussion.  
Following a discussion the Parish Council concluded that the strands of work as suggested by Mr Brandt are correct and further information from Somerset Council is now awaited. The Parish Council are content to allow Somerset Council to continue for the time being and hope to receive some idea of timetable for the devolution of the management/lease considering the current 10-month lease.  
Mr Seib returned to the meeting.
- 9. LCN UPDATE** – There has been no meeting since January. Mr Seib informed the meeting that the Crewkerne LCN seems to be working well.
- 10. FOOTPATHS** – Nothing to report.
- 11. FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**
  - a) Receipts: None – Noted.
  - b) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC. – Agreed unanimously.
  - c) Grant requests: None – Noted.
- 12. PLANNING MATTERS**
  - a) Applications: None – Noted.
  - b) Decisions: None – Noted.
  - c) Appeals: None – Noted.
- 13. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**
  - a) Local Plan Workshop – Mr Brandt and Mrs Taylor will be attending the meeting in Chard. Mr Seib gave insights from his experience with a different venue/time of this meeting.
  - b) Martock Parish Council Community Initiative – Following discussion of the emails forwarded to the Councillors Mrs Taylor offered to get in touch with Mr David Hill.
- 14. VILLAGE HALL** – Mr Brandt reported that a review of the electricity use of the hall for the past year has been carried out. The costs are approximately £3000 for the year and the fees are ensuring that users are paying a reasonable amount for the level of power that they are using. Mr Brandt has done the calculations, and these have concluded that the payback for solar panels would be likely to be over 20 years and would be very technically difficult to achieve.  
The Hall is reasonably sound financially. The committee is still looking for a secretary and a chair for the committee, although there is a potential candidate for the chair post. It is looking likely that there will be another weekly user on a Saturday.
- 15. RECREATION TRUST** – Nothing to report. Unfortunately, Mr Brandt was unable to attend the last meeting.
- 16. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** – None raised.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:13**

- 17. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – 6 March 2025.**