

## CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER**

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

Mr K Woodmand  
Mr P Seib  
Mrs R Parsons

Mr M Batstone  
Mrs K Taylor

0 Members of the public

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

There being no members of the public present no items were raised during the open session.

### **AGENDA**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were received from Mr Brandt and Mr Rowsell
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Normal declaration from Mr Seib, no other declarations received.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Mainly due to a massive increase in demand for both Adult and Children's social services, and the increasing costs thereof, Somerset Council are faced with a significant funding issue and are being faced with the looming prospect of having to submit a S114 notice, effectively declaring bankruptcy. There is a current overspend of £27.3m, this can be covered this year by reserves, however, this relies on costs staying steady, which is unlikely. It is currently anticipated that the Council will not be able to set a balanced budget for next year, with a shortfall in the region of £100m from a budget of approximately £1b. Somerset Council is one of approximately 100 councils in the same situation. The issue has been raised with Central Government. Should the Council be required to submit a S114 notice all commitment to new spending will stop, and it is likely that Central Government will appoint commissioners to will come in and make decisions that may be unpalatable regarding spends for services which may reduce them to absolute legal minimum along with increasing council tax above the current maximum increase threshold. At the LCN meeting last night the subject was discussed that local organisations, such as Parish Councils will have to come together to do more. Also, at the LCN meeting highways were highlighted as a major problem, mainly to get drains and gullies cleared, or the issue of trying to get in touch with anyone. Mr Batstone noted that he has noticed someone in the village taking photos of the signs that have been reported but no work has been done.
- 5. HIGHWAY MATTERS**
  - a) SID – No report. Mr Woodman expressed concerns regarding the lifespan of the batteries, he has mentioned it to Mr Brandt who is going to take a look.
  - b) Signs – No update  
Mr Batstone reported that there was another bad collision at the Vagg crossroads involving a car and a van.

Mr Woodman noted that the cone has been placed on the highway on Tintinhull Road again at Rectory Cottage.

Mr Batstone reported that the drains on Tintinhull Road between the old garage and Chilthorne Hill Lane aren't being rodded, although they have been 'sucked'. Mr Batstone is to send photos to Mrs Taylor who offered to report the problem on FixMyStreet.

6. **COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – No report received from the police.
7. **LCN UPDATE** – Mrs Taylor has sent notes from last night's meeting which was a bit of a re-run of the first meeting. In the group that she was in they had a public health officer, who suggested that the best thing to do was to get on and do rather than spending hours discussing things. Getting local organisations to get together and do more may put an onerous load on parish councillors (and Parish Councils) who may not have the time and motivation to do it. The priorities from last night's meeting were highways and anti-social behaviour – what can you do for young people in rural areas? Precept setting – is there anything in the local area that Somerset Council would normally be relied upon that the Parish Councils can fund instead?
8. **ALLOTMENTS** – No update. There was an activity planned for Hallowe'en, but it isn't clear if it went ahead.
9. **FOOTPATHS** – Footpath Y4/1 where it meets Tintinhull Road is blocked, it has been promised to be cleared for approximately 2 months, but it hasn't been done yet. Footpath Y4/7 as discussed at the last meeting – Mrs Taylor hasn't spoken to the homeowners but has cleared it herself, she offered to talk to Home Farm about clearing it in the spring in preparation for Home Farm Fest.
10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**
  - a) Receipts: None - Noted
  - b) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC – Agreed unanimously
  - c) Grant requests: Projector system – The request for funding was discussed. Mr Batstone proposed that the Parish Council grant £2000 (as in the budget), Mr Woodman seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.
  - d) Budget – The proposed budget as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer was discussed and the meeting unanimously agreed that the precept remain at £9500.
11. **PLANNING MATTERS**
  - a) Applications: None – Noted.
  - b) Decisions: None – Noted.
12. **CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE** – The clerk reported that she is due to have surgery on November 24<sup>th</sup> which will put her out of action for a period of time that will include the December meeting, it was agreed that the December meeting be cancelled and delegated powers for minor planning applications were granted to the clerk and the Chair, with the Vice Chair stepping in whilst the clerk is unavailable. Any more major applications will require a meeting to be called at the earliest opportunity. Delegation for financial matters were delegated to the Chair and Mr Seib during this time.
13. **BROADBAND** – Nothing to report.
14. **VILLAGE HALL** – No report.
15. **RECREATION TRUST** – No report.
16. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** – Mr Batstone noted that there are no gateway signs on the A37 welcoming people to Chilthorne Domer – to be added to the Agenda for January.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30**

17. **DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – 4 JANUARY 2024 19:30.**