

# CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held by remote connection using Zoom on

Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the public were invited to attend the remote meeting using Zoom and to contact the Clerk prior to the meeting with any questions or comments they wished to make. Due to time constraints members of the public were advised that they would not be able to speak at the meeting.

#### 1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr K Dunthorne (Chair)  
Mrs M Butler (Vice Chair)  
Mr R Bale  
Mr D Bracher  
Mr S Robinson  
Mrs L Vijeh (County Councillor)  
Mrs S Osborne (District Councillor),  
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)  
1 Member of the public

**Apologies** - PCSO John Martin

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th February 2020

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council were approved and will be signed by the Chairman when it is possible to do so.

#### 3. Annual Governance Statement

This was approved by all Councillors. The external auditor still requires a physical signature on all forms and the Clerk arranged for the forms to be signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Internal Audit

The annual internal audit has not yet been carried out due to the restrictions of lockdown. The paperwork was collected today and should be back by the end of the week.

#### 5. Presentation and approval of accounts to year end 31/03/2020

Accounts to 31/03/2020 were distributed to all Councillors. Approval of the accounts was agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk arranged for the Chairman to sign the Annual Accounting Statement required by the auditor.

#### 6. Accounts payments and receipts

(a) The following income was received - precept - £3,000.00 / Donation £1,000.00

The Chairman explained that we had received a donation of £1,000 to be used to carry out two specific jobs on drainage. One of the jobs has been done at a cost of £200.00. The second job will be done. Any money remaining is available for other parish requirements.

(b) The balance at the bank at 31/04/2020 was £10,925.82

(c) The following cheques were raised:

000355 - £200.00 - V Bracher - reimbursement expenses on drain clearance  
000356 - £246.19 - BHIB - Insurance  
000357 - £ 46.57 - AL Bates - website  
000358 - £ 50.00 - HMRC - PAYE  
000359 - £200.00 - Salary & admin expenses

## 7. Planning Applications -

- (a) App No 17/02084/CPO  
Proposal Importation of Inert Subsoil etc  
Location Cricket St Thomas Golf Club, Windwhistle, Cricket St Thomas

Additional details relating to Construction Traffic/ Construction Environment Management Plan

Councillors considered the additional details relating to this planning application and made the following comments: *"The Parish Council's previous comments which you have on record remain the councillors' current feelings. The Parish Council would also like to say that the traffic movements need to be carefully controlled and all site traffic must enter AND leave the site via the A30 and not go through Cricket Malerbie for any reason. Failure to abide by this could cause problems along Redscript Road and at the top of Knapps Lane at the entrance to the site."*

- (b) App No 20/00826/FUL  
Proposal Replacement new dwelling for Chaffcombe house involving the demolition of existing fire damaged property, erection of new dwelling and buildings etc  
Location Chaffcombe House, Cricket Lane, Chaffcombe

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

## 8. Highway Matters

Not much is happening in the village at the moment because of the lockdown although Highways are continuing to do patching.

- (a) Welcome to Chaffcombe Signs

These have all been put up. The sign by Crossways is unstable and rocking. It has been reported and Highways will rectify it. Highways will be painting "slow" signs on the road near to the signs.

- (b) Knapps Lane

The tree felling in Knapps Lane is coming to an end. The work involved a large number of huge lorries to collect the felled trees. Once the work has finished the Highways Service Manager will inspect the road and arrange to clear the drains and make good any damage. The Chairman will ask Highways to treat this as a priority because of the current condition of the lane.

- (c) HGV sign at top of Knapps Lane

This has been knocked over and the sign has been taken, the post has been left. Highways believe it must have been damaged by one of the large lorries involved in the tree felling and they will contact the owners of the woodland to make good the damage.

- (d) Potholes

There are a number of potholes to be reported to Highways. Some have already been marked up.

## 9. Footpaths

- (a) Footpath CH4/16 Avishayes Estate report on meeting with land owner

A meeting was held with the owner of Avishayes Estate on Tuesday 10th March. The owner suggested a new route for the footpath which will enter the field above the house near where the permissive footpath ran, and then skirt the field to go around the clock tower. He feels that this is a nicer walk, the views are better, the land is drier and follows a more regular natural route. The footpath will still go up the main drive and then on up which will give a beautiful view of the Quantocks. It will also enter the estate from Whitmore Lane. It was agreed to apply for a legal diversion and the footpaths officer said he will work on the diversion immediately. The paperwork can take a long time, even longer if there are objections. He feels that it is unlikely that the Ramblers Association or the Open Spaces Society will object because the proposed diversion is a good one. In the meantime the owners will open a permissive path. At the moment because of lockdown it is probably all on hold.

This information will be put on the Village Facebook page.

- (b) Footpath CH4/1 Village Hall to Chaffcombe Gate

This is definitely a footpath a right of way. The issue of vehicle right of way is still being investigated.

#### **10. The Pound wildlife information board**

Two quotes have been received which are both very expensive. Mr Bracher will keep working on the information board.

#### **11. Defibrillator**

This is in situ. There is nothing more to report at the moment.

#### **12. Broadband**

Mike Otterbeck has been working hard on getting Broadband to Chaffcombe. He had an interview with ITV. The cost has come down from over £100,000 to £55,000 and if everyone who expressed an interest goes ahead there will be enough with the grant money available to cover this. Open Reach will be carrying out a survey of the village as soon as they can.

#### **13. County Councillor Report**

Mrs Vijeh's reports have been circulated to all councillors by email. She said there is nothing urgent or new to report regarding Chaffcombe.

There has been a huge increase in the amount of recycling being collected during lockdown as people do all their outstanding jobs.

#### **14. Matters and items to report**

- (a) Tony Yates has reported that there have been 5 incidents of human excrement and tissues deposited in the entrance to Gaylard Lane. He has suggested he is happy to make a small sign with a suitable symbol and CCTV symbol. Mrs Butler has spoken to Chris Gould who says this is a common lane and not owned by anyone. He and another have right of way for vehicles. The matter has been reported to the Environmental Health department at SSDC and the Police and will be reported again if there are any new occurrences.
- (b) There have been 2 complaints about speeding. It was suggested that the registration number of the car is taken and it is reported to the Police. (This has now been done.)
- (c) From the Police - There has been a steady increase in rural crime thefts with a few Quad bikes disappearing as well as other farm related items. The Police also thanked the village for their support to each other over the Covid 19 lockdown, and please stay safe.
- (d) The waste recycling centre is now open with an odd / even car number plate system. It was noted that this works very well.
- (e) Business Support Grants are available for businesses such as the Village Hall to cover loss of income during lockdown. It was confirmed that the village hall trustees are considering applying for the grant.
- (f) Garden waste collections - these restarted on Monday.

**15. Date of next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council** - The next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council will be on 17th August 2020 at 7.30 p.m. If possible it will be held in Chaffcombe Village Hall but if the emergency continues it will be held remotely.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

Ken Dunthorne / Chair