

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

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

Monday 16th November 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 S Robinson
Mrs L Vijeh (County Councillor)
Mrs S Osborne (District Councillor),
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)
3 Members of the public

Apologies - Mr R Bale, Mr D Bracher, PCSO John Martin

2. Minutes of the meeting held remotely on Monday 17th August 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. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held remotely on Monday 22nd September 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.

4. Report by County Councillor

Councillor Vijeh's reports have been circulated to all councillors by email. She said there is nothing much to add to the report.

Position regarding phosphates on the levels - any major planning applications are on hold for the foreseeable future across the entire area.

Broadband - Broadband speeds across the country appear to be much lower at the moment because a lot of people are at home using broadband.

5. Report by District Councillor

Unitary Authority - SSDC have a meeting in early December to endorse the final Somerset bid to go to the Secretary of State. There are two bids, One Somerset from SCC and Stronger Somerset from the district councils. The district councils' Stronger Somerset bid proposes two unitaries, South Somerset and Mendip, and Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State and it is important that people engage with the consultation when it comes.

Emergency Support - SSDC are administering a new emergency support grant which is a fixed grant for the duration of the new lockdown for businesses forced to close. Village Halls etc will be eligible and you can claim this time as well as last time.

Broadband - Councillor Osborne has written to Councillor Keitch, the leader of SSDC who also chairs the committee to oversee local enterprise partnership. She may be able to help with the problems currently being experienced with setting up Broadband in the village. Hopefully the committee will have some influence. Councillor Vijeh will raise the matter with County. At the moment it seems that BT and Open Reach, while essentially being the same company, are trying at the same time to undermine each other and the installation of Broadband in the village is becoming more and more difficult. Mike Otterbeck who has been heading up the effort has been doing as much as he can and it is not clear what more can be done to get the installation completed.

Planning White Paper - The consultation closed on 29th October and there appears to be a lot of unhappiness with the new proposals. There was a report in the paper suggesting that the planning algorithm may be changed.

6. Planning Applications

- (a) App No 20/02653/S73
Proposal Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning approval 20/00826/FUL to allow changes including omission of basement, omission of orangery to east elevation and dormer windows to the south elevation, alterations to overall design, fenestration, roofs and ridge heights.
Location Chaffcombe House Cricket Lane Chaffcombe Chard TA20 4BE

There were no objections to this application.

7. Highway matters

- (a) Welcome to Chaffcombe signs - The sign by Crossways which is loose has not yet been fixed.
(b) Drains - The job card for jetting the drains in Knapps Lane has been issued. All the drains in Knapps Lane will be done.

8. Footpaths

Footpath CH4/16 Avishayes Estate - Nothing more has been heard about the proposal to reroute footpath CH4/16 crossing Avishayes Estate land.

9. Broadband

This was discussed and reported under item 5. It is proving very frustrating to get Broadband installed. What appeared to be a relatively straightforward project is becoming more and more difficult. Connecting Devon and Somerset have offered to talk to Open Reach and offered to underwrite the costs and we may not need a legal entity.

10. Accounts

- (a) The balance at the bank at 31/10/2020 was £9,683.06
(b) The following cheques will be raised and signed:

000363 - £200.00 - Salary & admin expenses
000364 - £ 50.00 - HMRC - PAYE
000365 - £ 7.66 - M Butler, reimbursement of website costs
000366 - £ 63.18 - SALC, subscription
000367 - £375.00 - J Puddock, War Memorial, Orchard Plot and Pound maintenance

Mrs Vjeh left the meeting at 8 p.m.

11. Precept and Budget

The Clerk circulated details of income and expenditure to date and the budget for 2021/22. It was noted that the projected carry forward amount at April 2021 will be £5,877.37. It was agreed to keep the precept at £3,000 for 2021. **ACTION - The Clerk**

12. Keeping the Village Tidy

Councillor Dunthorne expressed the thanks of the Parish Council on behalf of residents for the sterling work which John Puddock and Will Gould do in keeping the village tidy. Thank you very much to both of them.

13. Matters and items to report

- (a) War Memorial - In 2014 the war memorial was refurbished but it is looking very tatty again. We need to ask why it has deteriorated so quickly. There is a coating that can be used but the previous stone mason was not in favour of using it. Councillor Robinson will investigate the cost of cleaning it. The Clerk will check with the War Memorial Trust whether we need any permissions. **ACTION - Councillor Robinson / The Clerk**

- (b) Mr Botterill asked that the Village Hall Committee be mindful of the possibility of legionella when the Hall is re-opened. Councillor Butler said the Committee are already aware of this problem and the water tanks will be properly flushed out.
- 14. **Date of next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council** - Monday 15th February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaffcombe Village Hall or via Zoom to be decided based on Government advice.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

Ken Dunthorne / Chair