

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

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

Monday 15th February 2021 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 remotely on Monday 16th November 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. Report by County Councillor

- (a) Councillor Vijeh's reports have been circulated to all councillors by email.
- (b) Unitary Authority - a consultation is expected and there will be an announcement next week.

4. Report by District Councillor

- (a) Unitary Authority - There have been briefings about Stronger Somerset and how this will work. A consultation is expected but not until the end of February. The consultation will be aimed mostly at stakeholders rather than the general public.
- (b) Phosphate Issue - There is further work to be done to ensure consistency across all of Somerset.
- (c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - There is to be an audit to make sure the CIL contribution from developers is being collected and passed to the respective parishes.
- (d) Planning re-imagined - There can be problems with deadlines if they fall outside the usual parish council cycle of meetings. Some parishes pass round the planning applications for consideration so as to meet the deadline, which is the way Chaffcombe Parish Council considers applications.

5. **Planning Applications** - There were no planning applications.

6. Highway matters

- (a) Drain by Kerris Vean - It was reported that the drain by Kerris Vean is still not clearing and photographs showing the overflowing gully and the tree root filled outfall of the cross road drain in the empty manhole directly opposite. Highways cannot currently meet on site because of the Covid lockdown but as soon as the protocol changes they will arrange to meet and bring along the jetting report. The residents of Kerris Vean would like to be invited to the meeting.

- (b) Knapps Lane - The job card for jetting the drains in Knapps Lane was issued some time ago. The work is done by contractors so it is a matter of waiting until the work can proceed. All the drains in Knapps Lane will be done.
- (c) Drain by Crossways - The water is coming out of the stopcock. It appears to be the drain opposite which is blocked. It is not a leak because the water only comes out after it rains. It may be possible to put a channel to get the water into the ditch.

7. Footpaths

Footpath CH4/16 Avishayes Estate - The footpath officer at SCC retired and Chaffcombe's PPLO has contacted his replacement about the Avishayes footpath. The Parish Council and the owner of the estate are anxious to get the matter resolved to prevent unauthorised access over the estate from walkers attempting to follow the footpath marked on OS maps. A temporary permissive path has been set up on an informal basis. So far no reply from SCC has been received. The PPLO will keep chasing.

8. Broadband

The installation of Broadband is still proceeding with a number of difficulties. The Chairman had a very helpful and useful telephone conversation with the MP. The Department of Digital Culture Media and Sport has also been emailed to try to get things moving. The voucher scheme ends in March but this should not affect Chaffcombe's application which is already on the way. It is hoped that when it finally arrives it should be a minimum of 30meg. which will be better than many parts of the country. The Chairman asked Councillors Vijeh and Osborne if they can speak to whoever they think could help to expedite the installation.

9. War Memorial

Mr Robinson has had a quote for £675.00 plus vat to clean the war memorial from Luke Grafton who did the renovations in 2014. The war memorial was listed on 30th March 2015 as Grade II after the previous renovations were completed. The Clerk approached SSDC to let them know that the Parish Council plans to clean the war memorial and make sure there is nothing needed in terms of planning. SSDC replied with a comment that the plan 'sounds good' but if the Parish Council wants a formal response, a request for pre application advice needs to be submitted. Whether the Parish Council submits such a request for advice is up to the Parish Council. It does not appear that any planning consent is required just to clean the memorial and Councillors did not express a wish for any advice.

The quote from Luke Grafton was discussed and there were concerns that the memorial may need cleaning every 6 to 7 years which is a big outlay for a small parish. Luke Grafton is considering setting up a scheme to clean war memorials every 3 - 4 years which would be cheaper in the long run and could be added to the budget. The worst part of the memorial is the base where the water runs off in the middle.

This is the only quote which has been obtained. When the original work was done a number of quotes were received and Luke Grafton came in very favourably. The Council were very pleased with the work he did. This is a summer job but if it is to go ahead it needs to be booked in very soon. Mr Robinson proposed the quote from Luke Grafton is accepted, seconded by Mr Bracher. All Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quote.

An issue was raised about whether money may be needed for Broadband. It had previously been agreed that if there is a shortfall in the amount for Broadband installation, the Parish Council would make an interest free loan. It was therefore agreed to provisionally accept the quote for cleaning the war memorial but to delay until the situation with Broadband is clear. This should happen very soon and then Mr Robinson can book Luke Grafton.

ACTION - Mr Robinson

10. Seat in the Pound

The seat in the Pound is in a very bad state of repair. John Pudduck has made a new seat and all that is needed now is to paint it. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mr Pudduck from the Chairman.

ACTION - Mr Dunthorne

11. Accounts

- (a) The balance at the bank at 31/01/2021 was £9,015.40.
- (b) There were no cheques issued this month.

12. Matters and items to report

- (a) Hedges in the Pound and Orchard Plot - Mr Bracher commented on the impressive work of John Pudduck in laying the hedges round the Pound and the Orchard Plot and what a lot of very in depth knowledge Mr Pudduck has of nature and wildlife. Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Pudduck for everything he does for the village.

- 13. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting** - This is a village meeting, not a parish council meeting, and is usually held on the 3rd Monday in April when the Chairman gives his/her review of events in the village during the year and residents can voice their concerns. Last year the Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to Covid. April may be too soon to think about a meeting in the village hall. It would be possible to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the same day as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which is held on the 3rd Monday in May. The current regulations to enable remote meetings run out at the beginning of May so unless they are renewed all meetings after the 7th May will be in person.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the same day as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

- 14. Date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** - Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. provisionally at Chaffcombe Village Hall or via Zoom to be decided based on Government advice.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Ken Dunthorne / Chair