

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Chaffcombe held in the Village Hall on Monday 29th April 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mrs J Miles (Chairman Parish Council)
Mrs M Butler (Vice Chairman Parish Council)
Mr K Dunthorne
Mr S Robinson
Mrs L Vijeh (County Councillor)
Mrs S Osborne (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)
11 Members of the public

Apologies - Mr R Bale,

2. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council covering activities for the year 2018/2019

This time last year we were having a presentation on Broadband from BT and Gigaclear. Unfortunately very little has changed. Gigaclear are behind on their roll-out and we have not attained the status of construction yet as we will be the last area to be developed. I spoke to them today and they are still discussing the way forward as they have had to start from scratch as Carillion was contracted to do the work for them. Any build will take 9 – 18 months to complete. There is a rumour that BT are upgrading the Chard Exchange and this may be a possible future choice.

Planning Applications are still a major part of our responsibilities but this year there were only 3 applications. The first was for internal alterations on a listed building in Lydmarsch which was approved. The second was for a change of use for the Viridor site from Deardens. This proved to be contentious and 19 residents turned up at the November Council Meeting which Mrs Dearden also attended. The application went to the Area West Meeting and was unanimously approved by the Councillors present as they could find no planning issues to refuse it. The third application is for an extension to the porch of the Village Hall and this has just started to go through due process. There has been no further mention of the Golf Club application.

Highway and drain concerns rumble on. The annual inspection of the roads has been dropped which is a shame. The subsidence on the road over the railway bridge just outside Chaffcombe has finally been addressed after a false start. I drove down Cricket Lane recently and was horrified to see how badly it has deteriorated. The pothole outside Rose Cottage has reappeared and the drain remains totally blocked leaving the road edge under water, flooding of the road past Kerris Vean continues as the drain is partially blocked and cannot handle any degree of rain other than a light shower. The drain by Wisteria Cottage has been jetted and would appear to be coping. The one by Crossways hasn't been touched and is consistently being covered by mud as lorries try to turn in to the two farms. I again urge you to be proactive in keeping Highways alerted to these road surface incidents; the more people write in the more they will take notice (hopefully). If you don't know how to please contact Councillor Ken who is doing a sterling job trying to keep flooding at bay but please take personal responsibility for your neighbourhood and send a copy of your email to the Parish Council. On a positive note the drains going from Water Meadow down past Bramleys have been completely renewed and the risk of injury from ice forming on the road is significantly reduced.

Tony Gray our Footpath Warden again continues in his role walking all the paths, keeping them clear and clearing gateways and stiles whatever the weather. He continues to lead a monthly walk mainly on Tuesdays for everyone to walk some of the paths to keep the brambles and nettles down using secateurs and loppers. This is essential to keep the paths clear. Should you be interested in going on another day please contact Tony or Mary Butler. Tony Yates has also volunteered to organise walks on Saturdays if anyone is interested. Out of village walks are also organised for those wishing to walk further. So thank you again Tony. The official time spent this year by Tony with volunteer help amounts to 272 hours walking all the paths as volunteer hours are now added on.

The Website continues to be a conduit for more information from the District and County as the PC receives information by email rather than by posters as well as providing the reports for the PC and Village Hall. Thanks again to Lewis Bates, Mary Butler and Elaine Drewer for the content and their time. Lewis has suggested that the website needs to be revitalised and an extra officer be recruited. This will be discussed once Mary is completely back on her feet.

Thank you to Rowland Butler who continues to look after the water wheel which the Parish Council has now insured. Also to John Puddock for his management of the War Memorial, Orchard Plot and the Pound which continues to provide an array of spring flowers. John, with the help of Willow, has attacked the gremlins on

the footpath through the Orchard Plot and it is now much safer to traverse. If you look closely you will notice that the sculpture is changing. Also thanks go to Will Gould for his trimming of the War Memorial Hedge and not forgetting Val and David for their sterling work on the Phone Box, now bedecked with hammerite paint which should look good for years to come as everything was stripped back to the metal. A long job but one that looks well worth the effort.

There is to be an Election for Parish Councillors on May 2nd. Please take the time to vote in this contested election for 5 Councillors. Also Sue Osborne is up for election again.

A few changes have occurred since last April namely the installation of a grit bin for Chaffcombe Gate and 3 Dog Bins around the Village which have made an improvement for everyone. Unfortunately not everyone sees it as their responsibility to pick up after their dogs but most owners do. Another successful First Aid Course was attended by 15 residents and this was funded by a grant from Linda Vjeh who was successfully returned as our County Councillor. At long last the final lorry sign has been installed to deter lorries going up Cricket Lane. The Precept remains unchanged for another year.

Finally a big thank you again goes to our 4 Councillors: Mary, Rob, Stan and Ken. Ken continues as our liaison with CRISP and SRA. Also Linda Vjeh (County Council) and Sue Osborne (District Council) for attending the meetings and providing help and insight. Another thank you goes to those unseen people of the Parish for their efforts to keep our area litter free and planted up with spring flowers and finally, but not least, thank you to Sue Morley for the usual endless research, advice and typing pages and pages of minutes.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Copies were distributed to all attending. There were no amendments or additions and the minutes were signed by Mrs Miles as a true record of the last Annual Parish Meeting.

4. Public Voice

(a) Highways

Concern was expressed about speeding in the village particularly for people walking. The Police have said there is nowhere safe to do a speed watch. White lines were suggested but Highways are not keen on that idea. The Police say speeding is a constant problem. Several suggestions were made: a 40 mph limit through the village, "Please Drive Carefully Through Our Village" signs, SIDS which would need to go through the Police and Highways, or speed bumps.

It was agreed to check with the Police and Highways about a speed limit, either advisory or legal and look at the possibility of signs and other suggestions and take advice from Highways.

(b) Dogs on the road without a lead

People were asked to keep a note of the times of day which could be passed on to the Police.

(c) Dog Fouling

People coming from the footpath are not using the dog bin provided in the Village Hall car park. It was agreed to put up a sign along the path indicating that there is a dog bin available and indicating where it is.

(d) Waste Paper

It was suggested that a shredder service could come out at intervals to shred and take waste paper away. Geraldine Wills offered to organise this.

(e) Road Sweeping

It was commented that this is not done regularly but it was done recently and is looking good.

(f) Phone Box

This took a lot longer to do than expected because using Hammerite when it was cold was difficult.

(g) Drains

The one outside Crossways was cleared by the chicken farm. It needs a concrete chamber to keep it clear. Mrs Vjeh will contact Highways.

(h) Councillor Osborne

At the end of the meeting Mrs Osborne wished good luck to all those standing in the upcoming elections. She also thanked Mrs Miles, who is standing down as Chairman of the Parish Council, for all her hard work and support over the years. Parish Councillors are all volunteers and it can be a thankless job at times.

There being no further comments or questions the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.