

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 19th November 2021

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr K Dunthorne (Chair) (resigned)
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)

Apologies

PCSO John Martin

In Attendance

Mr Tony Yates (Flood Warden)
10 Members of the public

2. Resignation of Chairman

Mr Dunthorne announced his resignation at the beginning of the meeting. He handed the Chair of the meeting over to Vice Chair Mrs Butler, and then left the meeting immediately.

3. Public Voice

A resident brought along a flyer received regarding the website/app Next Door which she was concerned about and whether it was a scam. Several people had heard of this app which seems to be a new community social media platform and the advice was to ignore it.

4. Report By County Councillor

Cllr Vijeh announced that she is standing down as County Councillor with effect from 1st January 2022. She was thanked for her work on behalf of Chaffcombe and all the advice she has given and the information she has circulated.

With regard to the new unitary authority, Cllr Vijeh said that pilot groups of local parishes are being set up to work together when the new authority is formed. On the planning side there is movement on the phosphate issue.

Cllr Vijeh said she is sad that Mr Dunthorne has resigned.

5. Report by District Councillor

Cllr Osborne said she is also sad to see that Mr Dunthorne has left and is very sorry that Cllr Vijeh is retiring. She thanked Cllr Vijeh for all her support and advice over the years.

Cllr Osborne reported on the recent meeting with Highways regarding the flooding in Chaffcombe. It was a very positive meeting with a lot of good ideas which may help alleviate further flooding. The planned flooding forum has been cancelled until next March. There is a meeting at the Shrubbery Hotel in Ilminster next week to discuss flooding and it would be helpful if someone from Chaffcombe could attend as it is open to all, not just to Ilminster.

With regard to the Golf Club planning application there is an application to discharge various conditions. The recent application has gone through Cricket St Thomas parish meeting but was not sent to Chaffcombe.

SSDC has a large backlog of planning applications.

6. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held on Monday 16th August 2021.

Correction to Minute 8(a) - This has been disputed by the landowner concerned who has said that the situation is not as reported in the minute. The landowner has said that he agreed a remedy for unblocking the drain which has no relevance to the crop removal or to SSDC's obligations to carry out maintenance on the flood ditch. As a consequence of his meeting with Highways no further input is required from the landowner. The ditch at Kerris Vean is still blocked.

After agreeing the correction councillors approved the minutes which were signed by Mrs Butler.

7. Planning Applications

- (a) App No 21/03123/HOU
Proposal Demolition works, erection of two storey rear extension & internal works.
Location Sunshine Mill House, Chaffcombe Road, Chaffcombe
Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

- (b) App No 17/02084/CPO
Proposal To discharge conditions attached to the consent
Location Cricket St Thomas Golf Club

It was noted that there has been an application to discharge conditions but the parishes who made representation to the original application have not been informed by SCC. Cllrs Vijeh and Osborne have contacted SCC to ask why parishes were not informed.

8. Highway Matters

- (a) Drain at Kerris Vean - This is still blocked.
- (b) Drive to the Church - This is crumbling on the left-hand side. The Clerk to report it to Highways. **ACTION - The Clerk**

9. Footpaths

- (a) Avishays Estate Footpath CH4/16 Proposed Diversion
The landowner reported that they are waiting for a draft from SCC.
- (b) Walkers were asked to take their secateurs to cut back overhanging vegetation when walking the footpaths.

10. Flooding

There have been three flooding incidents now which is very distressing for those affected. Community spirit has been fantastic and people came to the aid of those who were flooded. On 11th November there was a community meeting with Highways to share information about how people had suffered from the floods and to plan a strategy to move forward. It was a well attended meeting, the majority of whom had been affected. There are also issues at Chaffcombe Gate. Cllr Osborne was thanked for organising the meeting which resulted in a commitment to undertake projects in the village to divert or slow the water. Money is tight but Highways are looking at putting something in the budget for April. Another meeting will be set up to go through the issues.

The first step is to prepare a flood resilience strategy to provide a co-ordinated plan and to explore possible funding and links to other funding mechanisms. Some land owners have expressed concern that if they do things they might become liable but it was felt that if there is a central plan then landowners may feel more comfortable.

Mr Yates has started to draft a plan which is split into different areas and identifying properties affected. They are looking at attenuation to slow down the water. This could be one of the major things which will help properties in Knapps Lane. A local landowner is keen to help and to erect a barrier to slow the water. In the long term improved drains are needed.

There is still £800 remaining from the £1,000 donation which was given for road / drain improvement. This has therefore been earmarked for the barrier.

There is a meeting at the Shrubbery Hotel in Ilminster this week to discuss flooding which is open to all, not just Ilminster residents. It would be helpful if representatives from Chaffcombe can attend and present their experiences. There may also be some funding available to help with projects. Cllr Osborne suggested the SSDC Community Grants Scheme.

It was agreed to move forward with separate flooding meetings to address this issue.

Mr Robinson commented that during the last flooding incident some people did extraordinary work. One resident spent the whole day clearing drains and removing rubble and other people provided meals for those affected. There are too many to name individually and thanks are extended to all those who helped.

To ensure that if this happens again before any of these projects have been finished, it was suggested that the storage bin for the sandbags be moved to a more convenient place so that sandbags are easily accessible. **ACTION - Mr Robinson and Mr Yates**

Mr Bale reported that there was also flooding at Lydford and residents came together to help each other and clear the water.

11. Sandbags

30 sandbags were filled and some gel bags were bought. There are two types: those that are single-use and those that are filled with water and gel up and are re-useable. Gel bags can be emptied into the compost. These have to stay somewhere dry. There has been flooding at Chaffcombe Gate and they need about 20 bags which they can access quickly and which should be stored locally. It was also felt that bags should be available in the Pound for everyone to access. Mr Yates will draw up a plan. **ACTION - Mr Yates**

12. The Pound

The Information Board will be made by Rowland Butler. This is still outstanding

13. Orchard Plot

John Pudduck has done the repairs to the gate. The Council thanked John for all the work he does for the Village at no cost.

14. Broadband

Geraldine Wills reported that the Broadband installation is now in the activation phase. She has been trying to get up to date information but so far has not succeeded. There is currently a backlog but we should be done by March at the latest. As soon as road closure notices have been issued we will know that installation will be fairly soon.

15. Jubilee in June 2022

Mrs Butler said she will start thinking about planning for this event after Christmas.

16. War Memorial

The War Memorial has been cleaned.

17. Accounts

(a) The balance at the bank as at 31/10/2021 = £10,442.02.

(b) The following cheques were raised:

000376	- £ 7.32	- Website
000377	- £ 810.00	- Luke Graton, cleaning war memorial
000378	- £ 450.00	- Chaffcombe PCC, churchyard maintenance
000379	- £ 375.00	- J Pudduck, maintenance war memorial and orchard plot
000380	- £ 150.10	- Salary and admin expenses
000381	- £ 37.40	- HMRC, paye
000382	- £ 87.48	- I Butler, reimbursement for sandbags

18. Precept and budget

The precept last year was set at £3,000. Expenditure this year is expected to be just under this. The precept has remained at £3,000 since 2015. We are currently carrying forward £7,664 of which £800 is restricted for expenditure on the roads and drains and £1,000 was budgeted for the cost of signs.

The precept needs to be set before the next meeting in February. At the moment we do not have the tax base figures so the percentage of any increase cannot be determined. It would be possible to raise the precept to cover flooding projects. At the moment Chaffcombe has quite a low precept. An extraordinary meeting could be called to consider the precept.

It was agreed to re-consider the precept in December or January. An extraordinary meeting will need to be called.

ACTION - The Clerk

19. Matters and items to report

(a) Website

Councillors were asked if there are any changes they would like to make to the website, or any additions. Councillors unanimously said they are very happy with the layout of the website which is an asset to the village and works very well. There are no changes or additions they feel are necessary. Lewis Bates was thanked for his continuing oversight of the website and guidance for the administrators who load some of the information onto the site.

(b) Reservoir Warden

Mr Bracher said that the Warden at the Reservoir will come to the next meeting.

20. Next Meeting - The next Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council will be on Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.10 p.m.

Mary Butler - Vice Chairman Chaffcombe Parish Council and Chair of the meeting.