

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Chaffcombe held in the Village Hall on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mrs M Butler (Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council)

Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

1 Members of the public

Apologies - Mr R Bale, Mr D Bracher, Mr S Robinson, PCSO John Martin, Mr T Yates, Ms V Bucknell

1. Report of the Chair of the Parish Council covering activities for the years 2021/22

2021 was another year of Covid restrictions which were gradually eased, although for many families Christmas 2021 was again put on hold as a new, more infectious variant of Covid-19 swept the country, and continues to cause high infection rates. Thankfully now that most people have had at least 2 vaccinations, and in some cases 3, serious illness and hospitalisation has been greatly reduced.

The Government did not renew the regulations which allowed for remote meetings using Zoom which ended at the beginning of May 2021, even though most Village Halls remained closed until July 2021. This meant that the Annual Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council which is held in May had to be brought forward by 2 weeks.

The Annual Parish Meeting in 2021 was held at the end of April also using Zoom. Because that meeting was not well attended it was decided to hold another Parish Meeting in July when the hall was open. This was better attended with 4 residents feeling they could safely attend a face to face meeting.

In June 2021 torrential rain caused widespread flooding in the area including in Chaffcombe where a number of homes were flooded. Residents pitched in to help those whose homes were affected and to divert the water to prevent worse flooding. Ken Dunthorne stepped down as Flood Warden and Tony Yates was appointed in August as the new Flood Warden and immediately set to work to draw up plans to alleviate the flooding problem.

There were further flooding incidents in the summer of 2021 with homes again being inundated with floodwaters and a community meeting with Highways was called in November to plan projects in the village to divert or slow the water. These plans and projects are ongoing.

The Parish Council bought more sandbags which are stored in the container which has been moved to the front of the Village Hall to make it more accessible.

Drains and negotiations with Highways to clear them properly have continued throughout the year with some success although a number of drains are still blocked.

The War Memorial was cleaned in the middle of August and is looking bright again.

Our volunteer Footpath Liaison Officer reported that the footpath walking group have started to walk the footpaths again regularly now that Covid restrictions have eased. Maintenance of the paths has continued.

The diversion of footpath CH4/16 across the Avishayes Estate generated a few problems when it was proposed to apply for a second diversion of the path along the main drive. Because of the opposition to this second diversion the owners of Avishayes agreed to drop the application for the second diversion. The Parish Council had previously agreed that it had no objections to the first proposed diversion.

Repairs were carried out to the top gates in the Orchard Plot.

In November Ken Dunthorne resigned as Chair of the Parish Council and as a Councillor with immediate effect. Mary Butler, the Vice Chair, took the Chair and agreed to remain in office until the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May. It was agreed by Councillors not to advertise the vacancy and to wait until the local elections in May to fill the vacancy. Mr Dunthorne was thanked for the work he has done during his time as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Vijeh also announced that she is retiring as a County Councillors with effect from 1st January 2022. Mrs Vijeh was thanked for all the help and advice she has given the Parish Council.

The Golf Club applied at the end of 2021 to discharge various conditions of their planning application. Preparatory works for the course remodelling with start in July.

Broadband continued on hold during the year. By November 2021 the installation was in the activation phase with connections scheduled to happen very soon.

A new warden was appointed at the Reservoir. Warden Hannah Stanton and her Assistant Jack came to the Parish Council meeting in February to talk about their work at the Reservoir.

Plans are ongoing to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Jubilee mugs with the wording "Parish of Chaffcombe" so as to include Lydmarsch have been ordered along with a pack of coasters. It is planned to give all the children in the village a mug and to use the spare mugs and coasters for prizes. Residents can also buy any mugs or coasters which remain.

I would like to express special thanks to Lewis Bates for continuing to administer the website. It is a real asset to the village and keeps everyone informed of events as well as being a showcase for photos and for fulfilling our legal obligations to put the minutes, agendas and accounts in the public domain. Chaffcombe also has a local Community Facebook page which residents can use to let people know what is going on in the village.

I would also like to express thanks to Councillor Sue Osborne for her continuing help and advice over the year, to Tony Yates our Flood Warden for his ongoing work to help deal with flooding, to Tony Gray our volunteer footpath officer for keeping the paths open and accessible, to John Pudduck who keeps the Orchard Plot, Churchyard and Pound looking so well cared for as well as a number of other jobs around the village, to Geraldine Wills who has worked tirelessly to make Broadband a reality, to Sue Morley our Clerk, to all fellow councillors for their efforts, help and support, and to everyone in the village who has helped in whatever way during the past year.

At the beginning of May there will be an election for the new unitary Somerset Council and for the Parish Council. 6 people are standing for 5 vacancies so we will have a different council at our Annual Meeting on Monday 16th May 2022.

Mary Butler, Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council 2022

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting for 2021 was held on Zoom with very limited attendance. A public meeting was therefore held in July when the Village Hall re-opened. These minutes were available and were signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. Public Voice.

There was just one member of the public present and no matters were raised.

The meeting finished at 7.45 p.m.

Mary Butler

Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council.