

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 15th August 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mrs M Butler (Chair)	Mrs S Osborne (District & County Councillor)	3 Members of the public
Mrs G Wills (Vice Chair)	Mr Tony Yates, Flood Warden	
Mr R Bale	PCSO John Martin	
Mr D Bracher		
Mr S Robinson		
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)		

2. **Public Voice** - There were no matters raised by the public.

3. **Report by County / District Councillor** - Councillor Osborne sent her apologies.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held on Mon 16/05/22

The minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair.

5. Planning Applications

3 planning applications were considered during the 3 month period since the last meeting:

- (a) App No: 22/01496/COL
Proposal Certificate of Lawfulness Application for the existing works to change double roman tiles/glazing on rear section of extension
Location The Forge, Main Street, Chaffcombe TA20 4AH

Chaffcombe Parish Council considered the above application and have no objections to the proposal. The application has now been approved.

- (b) App No 22/01940/S73
Proposal S73 Application to vary condition 2(approved plans) for the erection of replacement garage etc
Location East Lodge, Whitemoor Hill, Chaffcombe TA20 4AE

Chaffcombe Parish Council considered this application and have no objections to the proposal. This application is awaiting a decision from the District Council.

- (c) App No 22/01937/HOU
Proposal Conversion of existing stone barn and attached garage to artist studio and ancillary accommodation
Location The Forge, Main Street, Chaffcombe

Chaffcombe Parish Council considered the above application and have no objections to the proposal. This application is awaiting a decision from the District Council.

6. Highway matters.

- (a) Drain at Kerris Vean - Mrs Wills and Mr Yates met with Highways to look at the problems here. Highways propose to dig out across the road at the corner of Kerris Vean and raise the inside of the bend so that the water will drain down the hill on the outside of the bend. Hopefully this should solve the problem.
- (b) Permanently wet spot outside the Kerris Vean drive - There was no evidence to suggest what is causing this and it will be investigated further.
- (c) Openreach manhole in front of the village hall - This is always full of water which never drains and it becomes a hazard in the winter when it freezes. This has now been flagged as a problem by Highways and passed to a member of the team for investigation.

7. Footpaths

- (a) Avishays Estate Footpath CH4/16 - proposed diversion to the side of the main drive - Mr Willcox, the landowner, has emailed to say that this proposed diversion has been scrapped.
- (b) Avishays Estate Footpath CH4/16 - proposed diversion around the clocktower - Mr Willcox has reported that this proposed diversion has received an objection and that despite considerable support for the new route from the Parish Council, local walkers and both the Open Spaces society and the Ramblers Association, this single objection means this proposal

may also be scrapped. Mr Willcox is looking at the possibility of making contact with the objector to try to allay any concerns.

Mr Gray, our PPLO, followed up the one objection with Somerset Rights of Way Manager but has had no response as yet to his email. He has been told that SCC Rights of Way have neither the resources nor the money to take the objection to court to test the validity of the objection.

- (c) Avishays Estate - there have been numerous youths trespassing at Avishays and scaling the scaffolding currently erected for works on the clock tower, with the theft of some tools and graffiti on this listed building. People were asked to please be vigilant and report any trespassing or vandalism they witness. A Councillor reported the theft of a garden chair and the thefts of bins were also reported.

8. Flood Warden Report

- (a) Attenuation Pond - Subsequent to the visit by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), a grant has been offered to do an attenuation pond on the Boffey's land in Knapps Lane. The work will probably start in October. With the consent of Mr and Mrs Boffey, Mr Bracher will make a photographic record of the insects, birds and wildlife of the area because this will change after the pond has been constructed. Suitable plantings will be made around the new pond.

Councillors thanked Mr and Mrs Boffey and FWAG for their considerable help in achieving such a positive result for the village.

- (b) Flooding - Mr and Mrs Boffey have built a waterproof barrier around their property and Church View and Sunnyside have constructed a bund.
- (c) Temporary hump by the bridge - Highways have proposed replacing the temporary hump at the bridge with a dip which will channel water into the stream.
- (d) Knapps Lane - Further up the lane Highways will clear the entrance to the stream and put grills across a dip in the road to take the water into the stream. It is difficult to make provision for the water under the road but providing a covered dip should control the surface water.
- (e) Work on the Golf Course at the top of Knapps Lane has started and this will provide an attenuation pond which will relieve the run-off into Park Wood.

9. Broadband

As of 13 July the system went live and everyone could order their internet provider. There was a 100% take up. BT had some administrative problems with several addresses for the same property but this has largely been sorted out with just one property remaining to be changed. There are a few ongoing problems with providers and BT have said they need to close the road again to put in a cherry picker to finish some work. Those residents who have arranged their connection are very happy with the result.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Mrs Wills for keeping on top of everything and for keeping everyone informed. It has not been an easy task.

Councillors also noted that the project would never have got off the ground at all if not for Mike Otterbeck who started everything off and brought in a television crew to show how difficult it is not to have Broadband. This clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mike and Alison Otterbeck with a gift of a bottle of wine and box of chocolates.

ACTION - The Clerk

10. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The Jubilee Celebrations went very well and made a profit. There were donations of £1,230.69p which included the film night money. Mrs Butler and Mr Robinson went to a Lions meeting at Dillington House and met a volunteer from Chard Nightingale which has been set up to help Ukrainian refugees in the area learn English. They have a lot of volunteers willing to help and are fundraising to be able to provide more help to the refugees and their children. The profit from the Jubilee was given to the Lions who will make it up to £1,500 to help Chard Nightingale. It is hoped to raise more money for Chard Nightingale which is a very worthwhile organisation. There is a coffee morning planned for Ukraine.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Mrs Butler for organising the Jubilee event. The Parish Council bought mugs for the children and coasters. 14 mugs were given to those eligible and the rest were sold for £3.50 a mug and £2.00 a coaster. Some coasters were given as prizes. There are a few coasters left which will be used as prizes when required. £96.00 was raised from the sale of mugs and coasters. Mr Bracher put photos of the event on the Chaffcombe chat site.

11. Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) The balance at the bank as at 31/07/2022 - £10,405.06
- (b) The following cheques were raised:
- 000395 - £ 166.25 - SSDC Election expenses
000396 - £ 149.90 - Salary and admin expenses
000397 - £ 37.60 - HMRC, paye

12. Matters and items to report

- (a) Bird Hide at the Reservoir - This is open 24 hours a day at the moment as part of a pilot scheme to see if having it available to the public and to children on the trail around the reservoir will be successful. There have been some objections because the previous bird hide was burnt down. So far the experiment has been a success and there are no signs of vandalism. The scheme will be reviewed at the end of the school holidays.
- (b) Proposed Relief Road for Chard - This issue was raised by a member of the public who is concerned that the proposed relief road will cut off Chaffcombe and adversely affect the reservoir. The resident has found it impossible to get a proper map of the proposed road or to find out if she can attend an Area West meeting where it will be discussed. The Clerk was asked to investigate further and to find a map of the route. **ACTION - The Clerk**

13. Date of next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council - Monday 21st November 2022 at 7.30 p.m.
at Chaffcombe Village Hall

The meeting finished at 8.45 p.m.

Mary Butler - Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council