

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mrs M Butler (Chair)
Mrs G Wills (Vice Chair)
Mr R Bale
Mr S Robinson
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr D Bracher
Mr Tony Yates (Flood
Warden)
Mr Tony Gray (PPLO)
Mrs S Osborne (Somerset
Councillor)
Mrs V Keitch (Somerset
Councillor)
PCSO Wesley Ashbrook

In Attendance

4 Members of the public

2. Public Voice

A consultation notice has been sent to Chard residents regarding a development of 358 houses in Chaffcombe Road. Chaffcombe residents have not received the notice. The Clerk was asked to contact Greenslade Taylor Hunt for a copy of the notice.

ACTION - The Clerk

3. Report by Somerset Councillor

Cllrs Osborne and Keitch sent apologies.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held on Mon 15/5/23

The minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair.

5. Planning Applications

- (a) Proposal: Notification of intent to Fell No. 3 Trees within a Conservation Area.
Location: Chaffcombe Cottage Knapps Lane Chaffcombe Chard Somerset TA20 4BJ
Application Type : Tree(s) in Conservation Area
Application Number: 23/01585/TCA

Chaffcombe Parish Council considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

- (b) Proposal: Creation of a shallow pond (dimensions 20m by 13m), for the purpose of Natural Flood Management and habitat creation.
Location: Land Adj To Woodlands Knapps Lane Chaffcombe Chard Somerset TA20 4AP
Application Type : Full Application
Application Number: 23/01575/FUL

Chaffcombe Parish Council considered the application above and had no objections to the proposal.

6. Highway matters.

Potholes have been reported in Summer Lane and Redscript Road. Roads are also very muddy and road signs are obscured by vegetation.

ACTION - Highways to be contacted again

7. Footpaths

Chaffcombe Parish PPLO Update Report August 2023 was read out as follows:

"There have been a number issues to report on the Parish Footpath Network as follows:-

Footpath CH4/16 Diversion Avishays Estate

Work is well under way by the estate with new fencing and gates installed along the line of the footpath diversion with a new access gateway cut through the embankment slightly higher up Whitmore Hill. The new fencing and gates are of a high standard and the new route provides very good views over the Blackdown Hills and Quantock Hills as well as a pleasant walking route. There remains signage etc to be installed to define the new route but it seems unlikely that this will be formally opened until on or about 11 th September at the earliest. This is because although the formal order has been issued for the diversion there is a very faint chance that there could be a legal challenge in the courts in the next 4 weeks. This considered to be very unlikely.

However Avishays Estate have shown good will in carrying out work on this diversion before the expiry date of any possible challenge.

Footpaths CH4/20 and CH4/21 (South of the A30)

I have reported defective stiles to both footpaths which are currently making these paths unsafe to use. The stile to CH4/20 is to be replaced with a self-closing gate but the landowners of CH4/21 wish to retain the original double stile. I will check progress on these works.

Footpath CH5/40 Mill House

I have reported that the new owners have in effect made it very difficult to use this footpath with hurdles secured with knotted binder twine in two places across the path, suggesting that there is an attempt to dissuade walkers from using this path. I am currently awaiting a response from Rights of Way.

Parish Footpaths Generally

We are still carrying out monthly walks over parts of the network to ensure that they are kept clear and apart from the above issues those we have walked are clear to use."

There were no other footpath issues.

8. Flood Warden Report

The Chaffcombe Parish Council Flood Officers Report 18th August 2023 was read as follows:

"Flooding Events

There have been no flooding events during the past 3 months.

Project Development

Plans to instal attenuation infrastructure at Woodlands continue but works are yet to commence. No other plans for attenuation or water management have been brought forward in the previous 3 months

Flood Risk

Parts of the Parish are identified on the Government's long term flood risk service as at medium to high risk of surface water flooding. (Learn more about this area's flood risk - Check your long term flood risk - GOV.UK (check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk). (maps can be seen).

The risk rating is associated with speed of water rather than depth, with additional maps showing max depth at less than 300mm.

These maps may be taken into consideration by lenders and insurance companies when determining willingness to mortgage or insure properties in the affected area.

As previously discussed surface water volumes are associated principally with upland runoff from Knapps Lane and surrounding areas as indicated below.

Future works and funding should ideally concentrate on stemming and attenuating surface water flows from this geographic area. I suggest that the Parish Council engages with the upland landowners both sides of Knapps Lane including the Golf course on future plans.

Other Matters

The Flood Officer is no longer residing full time within the Parish and is unable to provide the same level of support or coordination as in the past. The PC may wish to consider whether another member of the Parish would be better placed to take on the role. The Flood Officer will continue to provide support as availability and presence locally allows."

Councillors agreed a new Flood Warden should be appointed. **ACTION - Agenda item November**

9. Defibrillator

The Village Hall has re-imbursed the Parish Council for 50% of the cost of the defibrillator. The existing one is not being replaced but is being fitted with new batteries. Mrs Butler to enquire about training.

ACTION - Mrs Butler

10. LCN Meetings

Mrs Wills attended the first LCN meeting and her report is as follows:

"I attended the Local Community Network launch meeting on 15 th June, at Donyatt Village Hall.

It was well-attended not only by representatives of the various parish councils but by officers of Somerset Council who had set it up. The meeting was efficiently run and we divided into groups to discuss what we wanted to achieve from future meetings.

The overall wish was for various topics of interest to be addressed at specific meetings, ideally with an appropriate 'expert' from the local council to talk and be questioned on the subject. Popular areas of concern were:

planning/housing,
traffic,
dog fouling,
public transport,
road maintenance,
health provision,
broadband,
grants/funding/budgets
drainage/flooding
social provision for elderly and young.

The plan is to hold a meeting every two months, but with the ability to subdivide for smaller specialist subjects. It should be possible for non-designate delegates from Parish Councils to attend these specialist meetings if they wish. I am currently awaiting the schedule for the forthcoming meetings."

11. Internal Audit

The Internal Audit was completed successfully.

12. Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) The balance at the bank as at 31/07/2023 - £11,947.72
- (b) The following cheques were raised:
 - 000418 - £ 150.65 - Salary and admin expenses
 - 000419 - £ 37.60 - HMRC, paye
 - 000420 - £ 9.00 - Admin expenses

13. Matters and Items to Report

- (a) Apples in the Pound

A resident has a juicer so that the apples can be used. There are also charities who will distribute apples to those in need.

- (b) Septic Tank replacement / Phosphates

A developer is offering to replace septic tanks in order to mitigate the phosphate issues. Surveys are starting this week for those registered. Currently around 50 local development projects are held up because of the phosphate issue.

14. Date of next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council - Monday 20th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaffcombe Village Hall

The meeting finished at 8.15 p.m.

Mary Butler - Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council