

# CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 17th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

### 1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mrs M Butler (Chair)	Mr R Bale	2 Members of the public
Mrs G Wills (Vice Chair)	Mr D Bracher	
Mr S Robinson	Mrs S Osborne (Somerset Councillor)	
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)	Mr Tony Gray (PPLO)	
	Mrs V Keitch (Somerset Councillor)	

2. **Public Voice** - there were no issues raised by the public.

3. **Report by Somerset Councillors** - Somerset Councillors were not in attendance.

### 4. Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Monday 18th November 2024

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

### 5. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held on Monday 18th November 2024

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

### 6. Planning Applications

Additional information received:

Proposal: Change of use and conversion of an agricultural barn into a dwellinghouse & associated works

Location: Barn At Sunshine Mill House Chaffcombe Road Chard Somerset TA20 1RR

Application Type : Full Application

Application Number: 24/02359/FUL

Councillors had no objections to the proposal.

### 7. Highway matters

#### 7.1 Temporary barrier at the bridge

The Clerk was asked to remind Highways that the work is still outstanding. **ACTION – The Clerk**

#### 7.2 Railway Bridge

Highways have asked for a photo of the crack. It was noted that the bridge is officially inspected once a year. Cllr Wills will go and have a look and take a photo. **ACTION – Cllr Wills**

### 8. Footpaths

Chaffcombe's PPLO reported as follows:

"Monthly walks on the Chaffcombe Parish Council footpath network continue despite ground conditions being extremely wet.

The three large trees that fell down during recent storms and obstructed Whitmore Hill and the Lydmars track have been expertly cleared as well as a further tree on the track through Youngs Copse. The two sinkholes that appeared halfway down Whitmore Hill due to spring water and were full of glutinous mud have been filled by Cllr Bale, so thanks are due.

A walk last week noted that the handrail to the staircase off Knapps Lane on footpath CH4/13 leading to the stream has a rotten support post but I have not yet reported this to Rights of way as I believe work will be carried out within the village.

Otherwise nothing further to report at present."

Anthony Gray, Chaffcombe Parish PPLO.

#### 8.2 Insurance Provision for volunteers

The Clerk checked the Council's insurance policy and confirmed that it includes a £10 million public liability cover. This covers councillors and also volunteers provided they are working to carry out work

agreed with the Parish Council and not work which has not been agreed. The Parish Council must be satisfied that the volunteers who are working for the Council are competent to do the work they are asked to do and must undertake a risk assessment. Contractors who are paid to do a job should have their own insurance.

## **9. Flooding**

### **9.1 Village Hall**

During the recent storm the Village Hall was flooded for the first time. Water came from the road and flooded the car park and the Hall. Cllr Bracher was going to speak to FWAG for a professional opinion on the best way to prevent this in the future. One possible solution is to cut holes in the back wall for the water to escape. There is a grant for flooding works but this must be applied for by 25th February so time is short to have a project costed in time for an application to be made. It was felt that these grants will probably be available again in the future.

### **9.2 Drain**

Some flooding was caused by a blocked drain underground. Cllr Wills will contact Highways.

**ACTION – Cllr Wills**

## **10. LCN Meetings**

Cllr Wills reported that on Monday 10th February she and Cllr Bracher attended a workshop session in Chard Guildhall to explore the preliminary thinking behind the Somerset development plans. This was a well-organised guided event and gave all those attending an opportunity not only to crystallise what their concerns are about current development plans, but also what they hope will bring improvements generally to the lives of Somerset residents. This was stage one of about eight so there is a long way to go before anything comes of it but the input will hopefully be useful to those planning future development in the County.

It has still not been decided where the Eastern Relief Road will go.

## **11. Accounts payments and receipts**

The following online payments were approved:

I Butler (reimbursement)	-	£ 400.00 (Waterwheel)
B E Powell	-	£ 210.00 (Orchard Plot brambles)
Salary & admin expenses	-	£ 159.90
HMRC	-	£ 37.60 (paye)
Chaffcombe Village Hall	-	£ 135.00 (hire of room)

## **12. Matters and Items to Report**

### **12.1 VE Day Commemoration**

In May it will be 80 years since VE Day. There are a number of events taking place locally and Councillors felt it is not practical to have another event in Chaffcombe. It was therefore decided not to organise anything in the Village.

### **12.2 Church Notices**

The Church would like to use the Notice Board to display notice of services now that The Link is no longer being published. There were no objections.

**13. Date of Annual Parish Meeting -** Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaffcombe Village Hall.

**14. Date of the Annual Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council –** Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaffcombe Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.00 p.m.

Mary Butler - Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council