

# CHESIL BANK PARISH COUNCIL

INCORPORATING THE PARISHES OF PORTESHAM, ABBOTSBURY, LANGTON HERRING, AND FLEET

Chairman Ian White

Clerk M Harding



## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7.15pm at Portesham Village Hall

### Councillors Present:

#### Abbotsbury Cllrs

Kevin Donnelly (KD) (Parish Chair)  
Graham Roper (GR)  
Mark Hardway (MH)

#### Langton Herring Cllrs

Cate Killoch (CK) (Group Vice Chair & Parish Chair)  
Martin Fielding (MF)

#### Fleet Cllrs

Ian White (IW) (Group Chair & Parish Chair)  
John Coombe (JC)

#### Portesham Cllrs

David Collins (DJC)- (Parish Chair)  
Sue Weeden (SW)  
Martin Bartlett (MB)  
Martin Jolliffe (MJ)  
Andy Horne (AH)  
Dom Found (DF)

### In attendance:

Mrs. M Harding (Clerk) and Cllr Mark Roberts (Ward Cllr)

9 members of the public

### 23/09-1 Welcome, Chairs opening remarks.

IW opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, he explained that the democratic forum will be held at the beginning of the meeting, and this will include the ward Councillors report. Due to the issue of sound, 2 microphones had been provided by the Hall committee, this was be trialled.

#### Democratic Forum-

The Dorset Councillor for Chesil Bank Ward, Cllr Mark Roberts gave his report:

Cllr Roberts spoke on the children's services being the lead member for this topic he reported there are 484 children in care 43% of these are fostered but the council are looking for more foster carers at this time. The council are looking into a devolution deal which will create funds with strong support from government working with partner Councils from neighbouring Counties. The Portland Harbour issue with the Barge is ongoing following the issues of legionnaires.

A Portesham resident commented on the lack of hard standing at the bus stop by the Doctors surgery, especially as the grass is long, the clerk will follow this up with DC and report at the next meeting.

DJC arrived at 7.20pm

A Fleet resident commented on the issues of parking in Fleet, many use the Church car park when walking their dogs, which is fine but then leave their dog poo bags behind for others to clear up, it was requested that the PC provides bins and a collection service for this purpose. There are apparently 42 bins in Chickerell.

A Portesham resident who cycles on the old railway line also requested bins as this is also an issue on this route. The PC will investigate this with Dorset Council, there is a volunteer scheme in Langton Herring where there are Dog poo bins, but this is an onerous task for those who volunteer and then have to put the rubbish in their own waste bins. It was noted that dog poo can be placed in public bins, recently the PC enquired about purchasing a new bin in Portesham this was at a cost of £250 for the bin £100 for installation and then a cost of £7.70 for the collection service.

A resident of Fleet commented on the democratic forum changes where residents do not have the forum to comment on discussions. It was explained that this was the way previously but there had been issues with this format so to tighten up on meetings and ensure residents had a say were able to inform or influence the Council of their views the public forum was changed to the start, also topics can be brought up and either commented on the via the agenda or noted to gather further information and bring back at a future meeting for discussion if required. Also giving residents a chance to make their

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comments and leave rather than staying to speak at the end of the meeting. This will be reviewed over the coming meetings to see how it is working and changes can be made if this is the case.

A resident who arrived late as was not aware of the change of meeting time was concerned that Councillors were not using the microphones provided so they could not hear discussion, it was explained that it is difficult to pass around 2 microphones between 14 Cllrs and public without losing the flow of the meeting, also many are not used to speaking with a microphone and this will take some getting used to. The VH committee are looking into alternatives.

A Fleet resident asked for information regarding Goalan Heights, the battery storage facility and if the PC has a view. Also, will the PC vote against the comments of one of the representations made in the NP due for referendum. Finally, will the current play area facilities as per the NP be accessible in the future.

The Clerk was asked to comment on the play facilities, and that all current facilities have access for disabled users, Abbotsbury has a dedicated swing, Portesham has a nest swing as does Langton Herring, any future facilities will always consider these factors. The PC have not discussed the comments made in the NP by representatives.

JC commented that he would have to declare an interest in the Battery Storage facility at this stage. It was noted that the PC has not been consulted on the new application for the Battery Storage facility at this time. Goalan Heights will be reported on in the agenda.

**23/09-2 To receive apologies for absence**– received and recorded from Lorraine Dalley.

**23/09-3 To consider the Co-option of a new Councillor for Langton Herring and sign acceptance of office.** The PC had received 2 nominations for the vacancy, and both were in attendance at the meeting. One of the candidates from Portesham decided to stand down prior to any vote as the other nominee was from Langton Herring. Mr Martin Fielding was duly co-opted and agreed by all.

Proposed CK Seconded MB

**23/09-4 To receive declarations of personal or pecuniary interests and grants of dispensation**-MJ on a finance item MB in the fingerpost at Shilvinghampton and JC on the item regarding the battery storage unit at Chickerell.

**23/09-5 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 and sign the same,** these were approved as an accurate record. Proposed SW Seconded DJC all agreed.

**23/09-6 Update on actions from previous meetings and matters arising for info only**  
DJC reported that the container is now installed at the allotments.

**23/09-7 Finance and procedural matters**

- i. To receive the report from the F & GP meeting with recommendations

Review of the Internet Café- this has not run since Covid, and this does not currently have a Cllr leading this although there is still a user group listed on the PVH committee. It was agreed that is probably still a needed service, but the PC needs volunteers to run it with backing from the PC. This will be placed in the Chesil magazine to see if there is any interest.

The update to the Standing orders was agreed. A Policy for reserves is yet to be put in place.

- ii. To ratify that the PC will manage any grant funds for the LH resilience group-

CK reported that following the setting up of the group in LH and the various meetings, costs have been incurred to create a community plan for LH also grant funding has been applied for. In order to maintain these funds and given the group do not have a bank account it was requested that the PC manages these on their behalf, this was agreed by all. Proposed CK Seconded MJ

- iii. To ratify the application for the Dorset Council Capital Grant fund towards the recreation project.

SW and the Clerk have been working on the grant application and collecting quotes assisted by MB. The grant is for £15,000 being 20% of the total project to update the Tennis Court and install a MUGA end. MR had been asked to support the project as part of the application process, he read out his statement and was thanked for his support. This was agreed by all Proposed MB Seconded SW.

We hope to hear by 19<sup>th</sup> September if we are successful, then full quotes will be considered.

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DF commented that in order to access this site safely on foot or cycle is there a consideration for a path. MB reported that this is ongoing, and a suitable permissive path is being considered running on the inside of the field after Goosehill Cottages on the left and coming out onto the West Elworth Road near the current entrance, the landowner is yet to come back to the PC with full support also access from the road to this path needs to be considered by highways for safety.

- iv. To ratify the Environmental and Sustainability policy to support grant funding.

As part of the application the PC needs to have in place this policy, this was drafted and supported by all, it will be useful for any further applications. Proposed SW                      Seconded MB                      Agreed

- v. To confirm the numbers for full council training on 11<sup>th</sup> September to be held at LHVH

13 Cllrs confirmed training but 2 cannot attend the face to face so this will be done online at a later date.

- vi. To receive the finance report of payments and receipts due or paid since the last meeting.

Proposed SW                      Seconded GR                      Agreed

- vii. To consider the fixed term deposit due to mature on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

As the next project is pending it was agreed to let this one mature and await the outcome of the grant application and reinvest if unsuccessful. Proposed DJC                      Seconded AH                      Agreed

## 23/09-8 Planning

- i. **To consider all planning applications in circulation**

P/FUL/2023/03648 Proposal: Erection of replacement agricultural building (demolition of part of the existing building) Location: West Shilvinghampton Farm- approved 09/08

P/PAPA/2023/04189 Proposal: Construct farm track with turning circle Location: Higher Farm Higher Farm Access Lane- Prior Approval Not Required

P/PABA/2023/04273 Proposal: Open yard for cattle handling at Higher Farm, Rodden Location: Higher Farm-Prior approval not required.

P/PABA/2023/04579 Proposal: Erect agricultural storage building for purpose of machinery, implements and feed. Location: Rocket-Prior Approval Required and Refused

P/TRC/2023/04462 Proposal: T1 Hazel - Reduce to 6ft in height & remove all branches overhanging & touching building- No objections.

P/LBC/2023/04201 Proposal: Replacement of four single glazed wooden casement windows in modern kitchen extension with double glazed windows in same design and materials as current windows. Location: 7 West Street- no objections

P/TRC/2023/04867 Proposal: T1 & T2 Elm - Fell, T3 Sycamore – Fell Location: St Nicholas's Church- no objections

- ii. **To receive an update on planning/enforcement or ongoing issues**

Trafalgar Farm single storey property - Planning Contravention Notice served.

Scrap Yard- Being dealt with by Minerals and waste.

Fleet Wood – this is being investigated by the Forestry Commission who have 3 years to look into this, but DC have 2 years and need to carry out ecological surveys. The enforcement officer is very keen to move this forward and has been very helpful but needs DC have yet to commence the surveys required. MR will look into this and possibly request support from Chris Loder MP.

- iii. **To receive a report from the NPSG (NPSG)**

As you are fully aware the Referendum is taking place on Thursday the 28th September. In order to maintain awareness of the date throughout the community the following measures are being or have been taken. We are hoping that these measures will be enough to encourage a significant number of people to vote. They will be asked the following question: -

**'Do you want Dorset Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Chesil Bank to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'**

Posters to be displayed on Village Noticeboards, Notice from Dorset Council on Village Noticeboards, CBPC & vision4chesil Web sites. Reminders in The Chesil. All relevant documentation to be found on vision4chesil website. Copy of Neighbourhood Plan in Portesham VH. Poll cards will be posted to everyone

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by Dorset Council from the end of August onwards. "Word of Mouth" reminder as and when we meet people in the community.

Finally, the latest version of the NP includes a dedication to Ray Doggett recognising the contribution he made during the early stages of the Plan and also acknowledges the commitments made by volunteers from the Parish and the Parish Councillors on the Steering Group. In addition, the Community as a whole is thanked for their support in attending the various drop-in sessions and for completing the surveys we carried out.

MR also reminded all those eligible to vote to ensure they are registered and ensure if voting in person to have picture ID when voting.

## **23/09-9 Highways- Reports**

### **i. To consider the request for junction safety improvements in Langton Herring**

CK submitted a report regarding a recent accident on Shop Lane junction and the issues of visibility and clarity on the use of the Junction. CK requested that highways investigate the junction for safety improvements. MF also commented that this is dangerous junction for cyclists as well as vehicles and has been a problem for the village for some time. This was agreed by all. Proposed MF Seconded KD MR commented that if a TRO is required the Police would need to approve this Traffic regulation order as they enforce them.

DJC asked for an update on the request to consider a HGV restriction on Front Street, also the re lining of the white lines on Front Street on the bend at the top and around by the old school. IW commented that there are centre white lines on Fleet Road near Butter Street which gives the impression that there is room for 2 cars, but DJC explained it does then remind drivers that there could be cars coming the other way.

## **23/09-10 Countryside & RoW**

### **To receive any Rights of Way issues**

MH reported the issues of Blind Lane and the need for the ditches to be cleared to prevent flooding, RoW have been and cut back the bridleway, but the Estate also need to carry out works to the ditches, this will be followed up with the Estate and DC flood officers.

DJC commented on the issue of dog mess on the Old Railway line and if there could be signage to remind dog owners. SW felt this was a waste of time and money as there will always be those who do not pick up after their dogs.

## **23/09-11 Recreation and Council Property reports**

- i. To consider the lease for the Play area at the Glebe Portesham -Defer as still with solicitor.**
- ii. To report on the asset site meeting and recommendations.**

MB, MJ, AH, KD, DJC, SW, LD, IW and the Clerk attended a site meeting starting in Portesham then on to Abbotsbury inspecting all the assets. A full report of findings was circulated actions reported below:

Dovecote area above the green space needs to be cleared.

The bug hotel site has been noted in the Churchyard. Churchyard looking good and tidier after the tree and vegetation works carried out.

Cemetery very tidy, Bier house to be swept and information notices replaced as faded, some vegetation works will need to be carried out when the bird nesting season is over.

Village Green: The benches on the green in Portesham will be installed in September. Some posts are loose to monitor.

Play area- Bins need removing from site as used for dog poo, still waiting on the lease so cannot get on with repairs until then, mound needs urgent repairs as does the surface under the rope tower. Gates need repair.

Benches now located in the school's outdoor classroom need a plaque and brushing off after the area is strimmed but this is not PC responsibility.

Chesil Recreation Ground (playing field): This area is suggested to be rebranded see agenda item, SW and Clerk looking at the Tennis Court/MUGA funding.

Allotments: New container in place, Allotment inspections to be arranged. Waterless toilet emptied by a contractor and cleaned weekly by Clerk at present.

Abbotsbury village green: looking very tidy.

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Abbotsbury Recreation Ground: Play area was very tidy and recently mown, some signage needs renewing, money pot emptied, the area around the benches and trees in the top corner needs cutting back on a regularly basis, the Oak tree has died and needs replacing with a more suitable tree, the grass around the edge of the field to be cut annually as this deters people climbing the wall to access the Chapel. Zip wire service booked for Oct. Goose in need of attention. Conservation area to be considered in the spring before bird nesting season.

- iii. **To consider the request for a skip for the Allotments and swapping the container users over for ease of access. (MB/SW)**

A request had been received for a skip to remove rubbish from the site and the allotments following the removal of the old container unit. It was agreed that if the Allotment holders want a skip, they are welcome to order this themselves, but the PC will not be supplying this at this time especially as the container had just been supplied, it is also on the agreement that Allotment holders are responsible for their own rubbish.

When the container was supplied it was located further away from the allotment entrance due to the proximity of the stream, Allotment holders commented on this so it was agreed that the container contents will be swapped when it is convenient for both the PC, Allotment holders and Dog Agility team.

Proposed MB                      Seconded SW                      Agreed

- iv. **To rebrand the playing field the Chesil Recreation Ground and include new signage for the roadside.**

MB reported that the site is part of the Chesil Bank and in order for all of the parishes within the group to buy into the projects as group funds are to be spent the rebranding will be make the site more inclusive. In doing this DJC commented that the site needed more professional signage on the roadside and any additional events can be added to this sign. Also advertising that the site could be hired for events. The Car Boot sign is still not acceptable and needs to be much tidier. Quotes will be gathered for new signage.

Proposed CK                      Seconded MB                      Agreed

- v. **To consider the Millenium Project for Dovecote land in Portesham.**

A quote for the project had been received with a plan of the proposed planting scheme, the cost would be in the region of £800 and the PC were being asked for half of this. It was noted that if the materials were purchased in the name of the PC the vat could be reclaimed where appropriate also the material costs could be quoted from more than one provider to get value for money. It was noted by DJC that the savings made by the volunteers to move the SID could be put to village projects. The PC agreed in principle the grant and will discuss this further with the PV.

Proposed MJ                      Seconded SW                      Agreed

- vi. **To consider the request for 2 small tractors to be sited on the village green for the motor show 2024 (DJC/MB)**

Cllrs discussed the request at length, some felt that it had outgrown the venue and would be welcome to use the Chesil Recreation ground but this is not a PC decision to make, others supported the tractors on the green and thought this would be rather a nice to see them assuming that if the weather was poor this could be cancelled at the last minute, but there is an issue of safety of those visiting the site and crossing the road, the organisers would have to marshal the road, this is also an issue at Duck Race time in December when hordes of people stand in the road and cars have to negotiate Front Street or use Back Street. Cllrs also commented that the event could be extended to the pub car park rather than across the road, but this would mean that those attending the event by car would then park on the road and this may also be an issue. Historically if the PC have allowed events this is at the user's risk, and they would have to provide their own insurance and risks assessments. After discussion a proposal was put forward. DJC proposed that the event is held within the boundary of the event site and not on parish land. Seconded by KD. Votes 8 For and 2 Against the proposal. Motion carried not to allow the use of the green for tractors. The organisers will be offered the Chesil Recreation Ground as another suitable site.

**23/09-12 Parish reports from Abbotsbury, Fleet, Langton Herring and Portesham**

- i. **Abbotsbury-**

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KD has requested a meeting with highways SID team to discuss the siting of a SID again in Abbotsbury. Cllrs commented that the cameras don't seem to be around on a Sunday when the motorbikes are speeding through the village. DF commented that the camera van does work on a Sunday, but this is done on a rota. CK commented that at the B3157 meeting with Chris Loder MP there was discussion of providing another camera van that can take pictures of number plates on motorbikes, but they are very expensive and there is only one in Dorset. DF explained the best way to follow this up is with the PCSO's DF has links and will look into this for the PC. MR explained that this should be reported to Dorset Road Safety Partnership.

## ii. Fleet-

JC reported on the Openreach Pole and the issues with the pole being erected without consultation even though they had promised to do so, Chris Loder MP has been contacted to assist with the correct contact at Openreach to deal with this, Fleet Cllrs need to provide a spec for the works to the gate itself and then to the repair to the latch which has been broken by Openreach when installing the pole.

Regarding the Poo bags left in the village, this is unacceptable, and we need to find a solution. The Clerk to look into public bin installation and costings so that Dog poo can be placed in them as well as regular rubbish.

## iii. Langton Herring

CK asked that the fence panels are replaced at the play area. CK commented on the accident at Shop Lane junction. Also, a bridleway in the village has recently been cut by the rangers but they have been told it will not be done again, it was noted that the responsibility of a right of way is that the landowner is responsible for the hedges and sides and rights of way are responsible for the ground up. CK also commented on the issue of rubbish collection issues due to hedges not being cut back, MR had been asked to get involved as vulnerable people lived on these roads. MR commented that it would have been good to know that this had been resolved rather than asking questions and finding out that the service had been resumed some weeks ago. CK explained that she had not been acknowledged or that the service had been resumed by DC or MR.

## iv. Portesham

DJC reported on the bin on the green and if this is changed then a contract will commence with DC for the collection costs as well as the new bin and installation, it was agreed to leave this as is at this time but be aware that any new bin services are chargeable, and DC will be changing this over for all bins in time. DJC also commented on the massive issues at the Glebe play area but cannot be actioned until the lease is completed. There is a blocked drain by the village green which he will report. Nothing reported from other Portesham Cllrs.

## 23/09-13 To receive the list of correspondence for information or future agenda items.

Fingerpost at Shilvinghampton- Cllrs need to consider if they want to pursue this project and costs, there is a volunteer in Langton Herring who has done these for the village that could be contacted CK to follow up.

There have been complaints about the campervans using the car park in Abbotsbury overnight and then using the area as a toilet this is not PC responsibility, but the Estate have been informed.

Glebe House swapping and s106 agreement. The house swap that recently occurred at the Glebe is with a family that meets the criteria of the S106. A meeting will be arranged with Stonewater once JC is available as he is the only remaining Cllr left who was part of the agreement for the development at that time.

## 23/09-14 To confirm the items for the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at Langton Herring

LH play area springer,

The PC meeting closed at 9.15pm