

# 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> December 2023, 7.15pm at Portesham VH

### Councillors Present:

#### Abbotsbury Cllrs

Kevin Donnelly (KD) (Parish Chair)

Graham Roper (GR)

Lorraine Dalley (LD)

#### Fleet Cllrs

Ian White (IW) (Group Chair & Parish Chair)

John Coombe (JC)

#### Langton Herring Cllrs

Cate Killoch (CK) (Group Vice Chair & Parish Chair)

Martin Fielding (MF)

#### Portesham Cllrs

David Collins (DJC)- (Parish Chair)

Martin Jolliffe (MJ)

Dom Found (DF)

Andy Horne (AH)

Martin Bartlett (MB)

### In attendance:

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

12 members of the public

### 23/12-1 Welcome, Chairs opening remarks.

IW welcomed everyone to the last meeting in 2023 and invited members of the public to join Cllrs for refreshments at the end of the meeting. The Chair reported on the following:

Thanks to Martin and David, the new benches have been installed on the green in Portesham.

The Bench for Fleet has been delivered and is awaiting approval of its location in the Churchyard, the springer for the play area in LH has been ordered.

IW noted that there are many members of public who wish to speak on the HGV issues in the village, we will bring the discussions for this to the start of the meeting so those who wish to leave may do so.

### 23/12-2 Meeting closed for the Democratic forum for up to 30 minutes for comments on agenda items and other items for the attention of the Council that may be considered at a later date.

Mark Roberts commented on the budget discussions at Dorset Council, where savings are being considered for a more balance budget. There was to be a 23M overspend but this has been reduced to 15M this overspend will be taken from reserves. Some support from government has been received so DC do not want to cut services. It was also reported that Dorset Council will now be in a position to charge double council tax for second homes as from 2025-26, this will bring in between 8 to 10M. Children's services have increased 1000% since Dorset Council was formed in 2019. MR reported that special needs placements are not means tested so this will also be looked into in the future to make this fairer. The costs of roads and highways material costs have increased with inflation. The regular routine maintenance of gullies and ditches was stopped as this made a saving of £183,000, but the costs of the repairs and issues by not carrying out this work has cost 2M, so this will now be reverted to a maintenance routine again.

MR was asked if new builds have been included in the future calculations the Council Tax, MR replied that there would be around 7M from new builds but there are thousands of homes waiting to be built due to the additional Nutrient Neutrality rules which have to be met by all developers so many have been delayed. The resident also asked about new developments where schools, Doctors surgeries should have been built but this has not happened. MR explained that developers would have to have funds for infrastructure but would depend on S106 agreements in place, the Town in question was Chickerell, MR is not the ward Councillor for this area.

MR also commented on the new battery storage facility currently being considered at Buckland Ripers, the PC had received an invitation to the open event at Chickerell on the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec by the developers.

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Finally, MR commented that from 6<sup>th</sup> Dec the government have reduced the time that planning departments have to determine an application, this should not have an effect on the consultation period for Parishes, but it does mean extra pressure on the validation period for the planning department.

A resident spoke on the HGV issues and what response the PC had from the letters to the haulage companies as noted using the route. DJC commented that out of the 28 letters sent only 1 response was received from a local builder's merchant and the issue seems to have got worse.

The Clerk reported following the letters, the next steps are to go back to Dorset Council highways to inform them of the letter writing outcome, they would then write to their contact at the Haulage association to request support. Since the request for the weight restriction was made by the PC the legal team at DC have been looking into ways in which this can be managed with a TRO, but the PC do not want to stop the local businesses from functioning just stop the huge HGV's using the route to access Portland Port from Devon and Cornwall.

Residents commented that these trucks are just using this as a short cut to save on fuel costs.

A resident commented that 14 years ago this was discussed and still nothing has been done, he had requested that highways be invited to a public meeting to explain the situation.

MR commented that at that time this would have been Dorset County Council and their policies have been updated with Dorset Council, also this is not just about the highways department as the Police need to agree to the TRO being the enforcing body.

DJC commented that highways said they would look at the HGV issue when the relief road was put in place, but this has still not happened.

Another resident asked if we could also look at the speed and road surface on Front Street. DJC commented that there are clearly no pavements and 20mph is something we want to push for, but reminded everyone that all issues need to be reported to Police or via the PCSO.

A resident commented on the footway in Burton Bradstock which works well but was under the impression streetlights were needed. MR commented that streetlights are not required also having a pinch point increases noise and pollution.

A resident commented that when they were working on their property from the road vehicles drove past far too fast, DJC commented this is a grey area, to work on the highway a chapter 8 certification is required so care must be taken.

A member of the LH resilience group attended the meeting to speak on the funding of the group. He explained that there had been communications issues with the VH and the PC so only 1 meeting had been paid for. The resident was under the impression that all meetings would be covered by the funding provided by the PC. This now needs to be taken up with the VH committee as the costs of meetings to date are £120 and he asked that the PC meets these costs. The Clerk commented that the request received by the PC from the Resilience group was for the next years costs. Also, the PC have already funded materials and printing. The resilience group member commented that this another example of a lack of communication. This will be discussed further in the meeting following the request for support.

8 members of public left the meeting and 4 remained.

Members of the public were thanked for their comments and the meeting was reopened.

**23/12-3 To re-open the business of the meeting and approve apologies for absence**— apologies were received and approved from Sue Weeden and Mark Hardway.

**23/12-4 To receive declarations of personal or pecuniary interests and grants of dispensation**—MJ and DJC on finance items.

**23/12-5 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and sign the same**, these were approved as an accurate record. Proposed KD Seconded GR all agreed.

**23/12-6 Matters arising from these minutes for info only**— none.

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## 23/12-7 Recreation and Council Property reports

- i. **To discuss the future of the play area** -A report had been circulated to Cllrs following an informal meeting on the future of the play area. DJC explained the situation for the benefit of the members of public, the lease has run out and the PC has been waiting for nearly 18 months for a new lease. The draft lease has some issues regarding the entrance gate to the car park which does not allow vehicular access for play area users outside of school hours and there is also a limit on the renewal of the lease for the future. The PC's solicitor handling the matter is chasing the landlord's solicitor for further information, but they are not responding, the agent for the Diocese has been contacted to chase this.  
In the meantime, the equipment requires repair and maintenance in the region of £16500 surfacing, repairs and general maintenance which has been delayed until the new lease was provided. The other option is to move the equipment away from the site to a PC owned site being the Chesil Recreation Ground. MB commented that obviously, the walking access is still an issue, and this is still being looked into.  
It was agreed to canvas the residents of all of the parishes in February and hold a public meeting in February half term. Play companies will be contacted to provide a tabletop design of the Chesil Recreation ground to include the installation of a playground along with the other ideas for the area for the consultation. A working group will be set up to take this forward and report to the Feb meeting, members will be SW, DF, MB, AH, LD and the Clerk. It was agreed that a piece on the reasons and background for this proposal would be written for publication prior to consultation.
- ii. **To receive inspection reports of PC assets.**  
Reports received from CK for LH and AH for Portesham. LD to follow up on the Abbotsbury play area.

## 23/12-8 Planning

- i. **To consider all planning applications in circulation**  
P/FUL/2023/06017 Proposal: retention of sidepod cabinet-Location: Land adj Kings Arms Opposite Possum House. Retrospective works to the Openreach Green cabinet – no objections  
  
Buckland Battery Storage proposed on land south of Nottingham Lane, near Buckland Ripers, Weymouth- A public consultation is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December DF and CK will attend, and any comments will be made to the developer consultation by the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.
- ii. **To receive an update on planning/enforcement or ongoing issues**  
No further updates at this stage.

## 23/12-9 Parish reports:

- i. **Abbotsbury**- KD had held a site meeting with a highways officer to discuss the flood issues at West end of the village, this is an ancient culvert so there is nothing that can be done, at the East end of the village as this was only repaired 4 years ago this will be looked into again. The speed surveys will be carried out in the spring to ascertain if a 20mph speed limit is viable and Cllrs will look into a CSW scheme for the village.
- ii. **Fleet**- IW reported that the culverts and gullies had been cleared quite quickly.
- iii. **Langton Herring** – CK reported that the traffic mirror will be installed in the new year. The grit bins have been filled. As many would have heard the Elm Tree has closed for business but it is hoped it will reopen. An Asset of Community Value (ACV) was registered on the pub

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but is due to expire in Sept 2024. Defib training is taking place, and more dates will be booked depending on interest.

- iv. **Portesham** -DJC reported on the build-up of gravel etc from the recent rain fall in the village, the pond is overflowing at the spring and has been reported. The culvert under the road was blocked from the sluice to the pub, this has been cleared, the sluice gate which had been placed on the verge will be retrieved by DJC. There are several posts on the green that need to be replaced. The Coronation and memorial benches have been installed and one of the old ones was sold, the other is waiting for some repairs to be relocated at the Chesil Recreation Ground.

## 23/12-10 Highways-

Various potholes have been reported but noting the depth of the potholes will determine the time taken to repair them.

- i. **Update on CSW scheme in Portesham and a scheme for Abbotsbury**

The CSW team is still going strong, since March 2023 the group have completed 10 hourly sessions and have monitored just over 2200 vehicles. One of the benefits of having an active CSW group in the village is that they also receive more visits from trucam which is used by the traffic and speed enforcement officers. Luckily most drivers do slow down when they see the volunteers, but they have still had 83 incidents of speeding recorded over the 10 sessions. If a driver is caught speeding by CSW they are issued with a letter, but if the traffic and speed enforcement officers attend, they use the trucam and the driver will be issued a fine. Most drivers that have been caught by the team have received just one letter and only one driver has had two letters this year this is not including any data that trucam have carried out.

Sid Volunteers:

The lead rep of the SID team reported that they have 3 groups of 2 volunteers who are on a rota, it is only moved once a month and on a 3-month rotation, so not arduous. Now they have moved to the winter months the battery needs charging overnight when they move it as there is not sufficient daylight now, the group also keep it clean as the weather has deteriorated. There seems to be no problems and the group members are happy with the task.

- ii. **Update on HGV issues through Portesham.**

This was reported on earlier in the meeting and actions noted. MR will support the PC with this request.

## 23/12-11 Countryside & RoW- LD reported that some RoW issues which have been reported to the Estate for action.

## 23/12-12 Finance and procedural matters

- i. **To consider a mobile phone for the PC office**

A separate mobile phone to that of the Clerk's personal phone was proposed for CBPC use only. A Samsung phone at a cost of approx. £200 plus a sim only contract with the Vodafone network was agreed. Proposed KD                      Seconded GR                      All agreed.

- ii. **To consider gathering costs to update the PC website for consideration at the February meeting to commence from April 2024**

The clerk will gather quotes to include a .gov.uk domain would be gathered. CK asked that a search option on the website when agreed. The costs of a new website could be in the

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region of £1000 to £1500 to ensure it meets WCAG accessibility regulations for PC websites. Proposed MF Seconded DJC All agreed.

iii. **To consider the funding request from the LH**

A report of the activities of the resilience group was circulated prior to the meeting and the request for funding for the coming year was provided.

Cllrs discussed the request, CK reported on the costs so far totalling £145, following the agreement of £100 per parish towards resilience funding. MF reported as a member of the hall committee that unfortunately the hall hire had not been invoiced to the PC but given this issue the LHVH had written off the debt. He also reported that hall hire is £30 per week but costs are £70 per week the hall is operating with a loss. Cllrs proposed that given the plan is complete the PC were not minded to fund any further works at this time. Proposed DJC Seconded MJ All agreed.

iv. **To approve the reports of payment and receipts due to paid since the last meeting.**

<b>Receipts to 30-11-23</b>		
Allotment rents		180.00
Bank Interest		54.28
<b>Payments approved</b>		
Marmax	New bench for Fleet	388.80
The Workplace Depot	Traffic mirror for LH	57.28
Admin	Salary and Office expenses	1337.29
PVH	Hall hire	22.75
M Jolliffe	Grass contract	237.50
Wessex Ground Services	Grass contract	139.51
Howard Soper	Grass contract	200.00
David Collins	Materials for bench install	105.00

Proposed GR Seconded KD All agreed. Bank balances as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 £ 84,605.56.

**23/12-13 To receive the list of correspondence for information or future agenda items.**

Correspondence was noted.

**23/12-14 To confirm the items for the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Langton Herring unless an extraordinary meeting is required in January.**

Playground update, Website quotes

The PC meeting closed at 8.55pm

Refreshments were served.