

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7.15pm at Langton Herring VH

### Councillors Present:

#### Abbotsbury Cllrs

Kevin Donnelly (KD) (Parish Chair)  
Mark Hardway (MH)  
Lorraine Dalley (LD)

#### Fleet Cllrs

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

#### 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)

15 members of the public

### 24/02-1 Welcome, Chairs opening remarks.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2024, he reminded everyone of the Parish Council elections in May and that nomination forms are available. The recreation group have been meeting play companies to consider designs for the Chesil recreation ground.

### 24/02-2 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 reported on Dorset Council's budget to be considered on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Karen Hodgson, representing the MAP24 committee, addressed the Council regarding the proposed celebrations and their request for funding or support from the Parish Council. She outlined details about the merchandise that will be available, including the development of the logo by a local resident. Karen emphasised the need for additional volunteers for the upcoming events and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for February 21st.

Various events are planned for the celebrations, such as the beating of the bounds, a banner competition, a flower festival, open gardens, displays of old photographs, landscape paintings, and a vintage Skittles match. Additionally, it was proposed that a permanent plaque will be placed on the plinth on the village green to commemorate the original charter.

Karen explained that the fair on July 27th will be hosted at the school but not hired. Therefore, the group needs to obtain their own public liability insurance, or if the PC could cover the event under its owned PL ins. It was explained that the event would need to be organised by the PC in order to be covered. When asked why the fair wasn't being held at the Chesil Recreation Ground, Karen explained that factors such as the costs associated with providing amenities like toilets, electricity, parking, and access from the village influenced the decision.

Questions arose about the logo, specifically why it featured "Portesham first" rather than "Abbotsbury." It was clarified that this decision was purely based on design symmetry. Additionally, it was noted that while the celebrations encompass both villages, each village is approaching the festivities in its own unique way. There being no further public comments the meeting was reopened.

### 24/02-3 To re-open the business of the meeting and approve apologies for absence – received and approved from Sue Weeden, John Coombe and Graham Roper.

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**24/02-4 To receive declarations of personal or pecuniary interests and grants of dispensation-MJ**  
on a finance item and MB on the fingerpost repair.

**24/02-5 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and sign the same,** these were approved as an accurate record. Proposed DJC Seconded MB all agreed.

**24/02-6 Matters arising from these minutes for info only-**

DJC reported that the gravel at the bottom of New Road has been removed, there is still an issue with the Pond and surface water at the top of the village in Portesham, this created a problem in the cold weather with a sheet of ice and suggested a grit bin is purchased for this area.

**24/02-7 To make arrangements for the Elections 2024 and submission of nomination papers**

The clerk announced that nomination forms are available at the meeting and guidance will be emailed to members and interested individuals. Completed nomination papers for the group council are to be submitted to Dorset Council on March 19th. The Annual Parish Council meeting, of the new council, is set for May 13th, with the venue pending confirmation. DAPTC offers training resources on their website, including guidance for elections and support for new Councillors.

**24/02-8 Recreation and Council Property reports**

- i. **To report on the Chesil Recreation Ground and Portesham Play area projects and arrange a community event to gather feedback on the progress so far.**

DF provided an update on the recent site meetings held with three play design companies regarding the Chesil Bank Recreation Ground. Discussions centered on potential designs and ideas for the currently underdeveloped site. One of the companies presented a comprehensive wish list plan, while further information is awaited from the remaining two firms. Once all proposals are gathered, an event will be organised to gather resident feedback, and costings will be obtained to explore funding options.

MB noted work around gaining access from the village is still ongoing, citing an historical map of village rights of way from the 1900s to illustrate closed routes.

The clerk highlighted the ongoing process of negotiating a new lease, despite persistent follow-up via emails and calls. The Vicar has kindly offered to help by liaising with the Diocese on this matter, which was supported by the Councillors.

- ii. **To receive inspection reports of PC assets**

Play inspections have been carried out by MF, AH and MH, following the quarterly inspections Cllrs will look at what actions are required and by when. MF asked if we had any update on the installation of the springer in LH, this will be followed up. AH noted that the bins have been removed at the Glebe play area and no dogs signs reinstated, tree branches removed where users have been climbing over the fence which will be repaired.

- iii. **To consider the installation of the Millennium Charter to the plinth on the green in Portesham.**

As previously discussed, this was agreed in principle with more details on the size and design of the plaque for the March meeting.

- iv. **To agree date to clear the Chesil container at the Chesil Recreation Ground ready for future use.**

MB asked for help from Cllrs to clear the container of items in preparation of the Dog agility equipment coming back and to swap the container over with the Allotment holders. The date was agreed for Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10am MB, DF, MF, MJ, KD all agreed to help. It was also noted that the Chesil Scouts have tables and benches stored in the container, they will be contacted to discuss where these can be stored in the future.

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## 24/02-9 Planning

### i. To consider all planning applications in circulation

P/FUL/2024/00491 Proposal: Retention of replacement kitchen extraction fan, alterations to porch and the opening up of ground floor windows to the front. Location: Elm Tree Inn Shop- Cllrs were shown pictures of the extraction fan that was installed without permission over the boundary of the pub, in a conservation area and adjacent to important listed buildings in the village especially given the Chesil Bank Neighbourhood plan which was produced to protect the important community assets. Objections were raised to this retrospective application on this basis.

Proposed DJC

Seconded MF

P/TRC/2024/00592 Proposal: T381 Lime - Fell

T382 Sycamore - Remove crown at 5m above ground level and other tree works to Location: 2 Church Lane- there were no objections assuming that neighbouring properties have been consulted.

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

- a. Advice was sought on the caravan that has been parked on land along Winters Lane in Portesham, there are currently no utilities plumbed into the caravan so no action at this stage.
- b. EN/2022/00515- Trafalgar Farm single storey dwelling- this is still being pursued by enforcement.
- c. Fleet Wood- no further updates but some information has been received that the land is being sold.

## 24/02-10 Parish reports and parish meeting dates: Parish meeting dates will be confirmed in March, these need to be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June.

- i. **Abbotsbury**- none.
- ii. **Fleet**- Fly tipping reported has been collected.
- iii. **Langton Herring** – CK reported the traffic mirror has been installed, following the heavy rain several large trees have come down. A tree has been purchased for the Coronation to be planted in the Amenity area. The Elm tree remains closed. The VH have now restarted the village lunch club.
- iv. **Portesham** -DJC the Bier House has been repainted and doors repaired. The Sluice gate has been repaired and refitted, the watercourse needs surveying again DJC will do this and add to the data previously collected. Riparian owners need reminding of their responsibilities again. The surface water at the Pond is still ongoing and further pressure needs to be put on highways.

## 24/02-11 Highways-

MB reported on the collapsed drain at the top of Coryates, this is to be followed up as no action yet.

MH reported that works will be finally happening on Bishops Road.

AH reported that the 30mph sign on Portesham Hill has broken off also the 50mph sign on the B3157 just passed the West Elworth Turning is faded and obscured. These will be reported.

## 24/02-12 Countryside & RoW- none.

## 24/02-13 Finance and procedural matters.

### i. To consider the quote to refurbish the Finger Post at Shilvinghampton.

Following a quote last year of £1500 the PC contacted local volunteers to see what support can be offered, a new quote of £500 had been provided with support from Dorset Landscapes (previously DOANB) and Dorchester Men's Shed. Cllrs supported this cost.

Proposed MJ

Seconded KD

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ii. **To consider the quotes for the PC website to include a .gov.uk domain and email addresses for all Councillors following elections in May.**

MH, SW and the Clerk had been through the quotes received, MH reported that 2 companies were preferred given their costs, support and website designs. MH proposed that as the clerk has 2 other parishes going through the same process that this be deferred until the March meeting and get feedback from the other parishes first. This was agreed.

iii. **To consider quotes for the vegetation work at the Cemetery**

SW, MJ and the Clerk met with 2 contractors and MB gathered costs from a third contractor for the works, the spec is for 2 days to cut hedges, dead branches, bramble from the yew trees and cut back Laurel prior to the nesting season. Cllrs approved the quote from Toller Tree Care at a cost of £1510 plus vat for 3 men for 2 days.

Proposed MB                      Seconded LD                      All agreed.

iv. **To consider the annual donation to the Chesil magazine and what is printed in future.**

The Chair was approached by the treasurer of the Chesil Magazine regarding an increase in donation. In response as directed by the Chair, the Clerk outlined the history of the previous payments and requested a formal proposal specifying the desired increase from the Chesil Magazine. However, the only information provided was the costs per page.

Currently, the Parish Council (PC) includes a report of activities and the minutes of meetings in the magazine. However, the font size in these minutes has been reduced, resulting in complaints from readers. Councillors discussed the issue and suggested including only a one-page report summarising decisions made at the last meeting and updates from the PC, while directing readers to the PC website for full minutes and supporting documents.

Alternatively, hard copies of the minutes can be made available upon request, the PC meets with the compliance of the transparency code when publishing information.

Following discussions, a proposal was made to increase the annual donation from £150 to £200, payable annually in November, then reducing the content to a one-page report. As the annual donation has already been paid for 2023-24, an additional £50 will be paid now as a goodwill gesture. Proposed KD                      Seconded DJC                      All agreed.

v. **To consider donations towards the MAP24 celebrations in Abbotsbury and Portesham.**

This being discussed earlier in the democratic forum the MAP24 committee will gather costs for public liability and investigate further with the school to use their PL so this will be deferred to the March meeting.

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

Receipts to 31-01-24		
Allotment rents		60.00
Bank Interest	Fixed deposit matured and reinvested	855.51
Burial Income		140.00
Payments approved		
N Davies Contracting	Bier House repairs	625.72
LHVH	Hall hire- defib training	12.00
PVH	Hall Hire -Dec PC meeting	16.50
Admin	Salary and Office expenses incl. new phone	2108.68
M Jolliffe	Grass contract x 2 months	475.00
Wessex Ground Services	Grass contract x 2 months plus flailing	717.02
Howard Soper	Grass contract x 2 months	260.00
Ken Hussey	Play inspections	117.50

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Defib Store	Replacement pads for Abbotsbury	£134.40
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Proposed MF    Seconded MH    All agreed. Bank balances as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 **£79,085.35.**

## **24/02-14      To receive the list of correspondence for information or future agenda items.**

MH discussed the support request from the Abbotsbury Millennium Committee regarding the installation of a bus shelter opposite the Swan Inn. Initially proposed after the Jubilee and Coronation, significant groundwork had been made; however, due to funding and planning constraints, the project was put on hold. Now, the Millennium Committee has taken up the initiative. The Parish Council (PC) will assess the support it can provide and review the £1404 already allocated for the project at the March meeting.

DJC provided an overview of the meeting with MP Chris Loder on February 1st, which included representatives from Abbotsbury, Portesham, and West Bexington. Some councillors expressed dissatisfaction that not all parishes in the Chesil Bank Parish were invited. Thirty-five individuals attended, and various topics were discussed:

HGVs: Chris expressed interest in engaging with Sat Nav companies to aid the parish.

20mph speed limits: Although acknowledging police resource limitations, Chris advocated for increased enforcement of existing 30mph limits. He plans to address safety concerns on the A35 and noted insufficient action on the B3157.

Solar Battery Farms: Chris opposed converting agricultural land for this purpose. He also highlighted issues with bus services and the need for addressing motorcycle noise and speed.

Analogue Phones: Chris discussed BT's push for digital transition, highlighting concerns for elderly individuals reliant on analogue call systems. He is pursuing solutions to this issue.

DJC emphasised the PC's responsibility to follow up on questions raised at the event, involving Mark Roberts, and expressed readiness to assist the PC.

DJC mentioned ongoing efforts regarding D-Day 80 commemorations, including communication with the local Royal British Legion (RBL), which is yet to convene to confirm plans.

CK commented on the Buckland Battery Storage following questions asked of the company and the issue of fire safety and where any water would come from if this were the case given the limited access to the site.

## **24/02-15      To confirm the items for the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Abbotsbury.**

Playground update, Chesil Recreation Ground update, Website quotes, HGV update, Map 24 funding requests, Election info.

The PC meeting closed at 8.50pm