

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 4th March 2024, 7.15pm at Strangways Hall Abbotsbury

Councillors Present:

Abbotsbury Cllrs

Kevin Donnelly (KD) (Parish Chair)

Mark Hardway (MH)

Lorraine Dalley (LD)

Langton Herring Cllrs

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

Martin Fielding (MF)

Portesham Cllrs

Sue Weeden (SW)

Andy Horne (AH)

Martin Bartlett (MB)

Fleet Cllr

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

In attendance:

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

8 members of the public

24/03-1 Welcome, Chairs opening remarks.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the following:

One of the planning applications for the Chickerell Battery storage facilities was refused at the planning committee meeting on 4th March, there are several being considered, the PC have only commented on one at this stage but were not statutory consultees on any of the applications.

The PC have received a complaint over the accuracy of the minutes from the Dec meeting from a resident. This will be considered within the meeting.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Jolliffe, Found, Bartlett, Fielding and some allotment holders for the container clearing and swap day.

The vegetation works at the Cemetery have been completed, due to the recent rain the paths are very slippery, this will be monitored.

24/03-2 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.

Cllr Mark Roberts provided an update on the recent site visit with Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick in Portesham village, to address concerns regarding heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and speeding on Front Street.

It was highlighted that the Parish Council, with Cllr Roberts' support, had requested a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to restrict HGVs over 7.5 tonnes, excluding access. However, Dorset Council's highways department currently does not support the scheme, citing the need for police agreement to enforce the limit.

Councillors Weeden and Horne, along with the Clerk, met with Mr. Sidwick and Mr. Roberts on March 2nd to assess the situation. Cllr Roberts and Mr Sidwick noted the village's efforts, including installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID), Community Speed Watch (CSW), conducting road usage surveys, and reaching out to HGV companies, were commendable. Mr Sidwick is looking into a further pilot scheme recording vehicle speeds, if the Parish is accepted there may need to be contributions to the costs of administration. Cllr Roberts intends to discuss the matter with the cabinet member for Road Safety, and with Mr. Sidwick's support, pursue further action on the request.

A resident of Fleet raised concerns about the planning application for the Battery Storage site at Chickerell, which was refused by the Dorset Council planning committee on health and safety grounds. The resident expressed concern that the Parish Council was not consulted or made comment on such

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applications, he urged the Council to request notification of all planning applications affecting outlying parishes, particularly regarding developments of this nature.

MR noted that Parish Councils can indeed request to be informed about such applications and mentioned that MP Chris Loder is opposed to the installation of battery storage units as well.

The Fleet resident also requested an update on the Goalan site as it has been suggested that the sites are now for sale, he also asked if the terms of any enforcement will still be dealt with by any new owners, IW confirm that this is the case.

The resident also suggested that the Council reconsider the inclusion of a second public session at the end of meetings to allow residents to comment on items not discussed during the meeting which could form an agenda item in the future. Councillors acknowledged this request and agreed to review the matter.

A representative of the MAP24 committee for Portesham, updated the PC on the proposed design and costs of the map and asked the PC to support the request and make any suggestions or changes.

A member of the Abbotsbury Millennium group approached the Parish Council seeking support for the Abbotsbury Bus Shelter project. It was clarified that the group has an architect who has drafted the plans free of charge, the group are now ready to submit a planning application. Permission has been obtained to place the bus shelter on Estate land. The planning application costs are £193.00 and the costs to build at this stage are between £15,000 and £18,000, but firm costs will be gathered once the planning application has been submitted and then the fundraising can commence.

There being no further public comments the meeting was reopened.

24/03-3 To re-open the business of the meeting and approve apologies for absence – received and approved from Martin Jolliffe, John Coombe, Dom Found, David Collins and Graham Roper.

24/03-4 To receive declarations of personal or pecuniary interests and grants of dispensation- none.

24/03-5 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2024 and sign the same, these were approved as an accurate record. Proposed KD Seconded CK all agreed.

24/03-6 To consider a request to amend the minute reference Item no 23/12-2 from the full council meeting held on 4th December 2023.

The Chairman presented guidance from DAPTC concerning the procedure for amending minutes, alongside the revisions proposed by a resident. Council members deliberated on the suggested changes and observed the absence of the resident during this discussion. Ways to effectively inform members of the public about the structure and protocols of meetings were discussed among the Councillors. Cllrs then considered the proposal:

Original wording on Page 2 of the Minutes: *"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."*

Requested changed wording: *The Clerk commented that the PC had already funded material costs and printing, but the request would be considered. The Resident then spoke about the request for funding for 2024."* Cllrs agreed to the changes Proposed MB, Seconded SW- 8 For 1 abstention motion carried.

24/03-7 Matters arising from these minutes for info only- none.

24/03-8 Recreation and Council Property reports

i. **To report on the Chesil Recreation Ground and Portesham Play area projects.**

MB provided an update on the container swap, highlighting its positive impact on all allotment holders who now have access to the closer container situated near the allotment site. Additionally, two plans, one including cost estimates, have been received for the Chesil Recreation Ground.

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However, a decision regarding the access path has not yet been reached. Another meeting with landowners will be scheduled to further discuss this matter.

Play area Lease: The Parish Council has received communications regarding the lease, but a site meeting is pending of the landowners to address the concerns raised by the Council. AH also highlighted issues at the play area, including rust holes in the gates and further deterioration of the site. AH requested a Health and Safety inspection of the site using our external play inspector, this will be arranged.

24/03-9 Planning

i. To consider all planning applications in circulation

Nothing in circulation but the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning authority to request to be notified of any planning applications that have a wider impact on adjacent parishes, i.e. the Battery Storage sites. This correspondence will be ccd into Mark Roberts.

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

- a. The conditions for the planning application at the scrap yard are being followed up by the planning department.
- b. Fleet Wood- It was confirmed that both areas of land are for sale.

24/03-10 Parish reports and annual parish meeting dates:.

- i. **Abbotsbury**- KD announced that the Annual Parish Assembly is Monday 11th March, the village has seen flood issues at both ends of the village.
- ii. **Fleet**- IW noted the Annual Parish Assembly is 25th March at the Church, culverts and ditched have been reported.
- iii. **Langton Herring** – CK reported on the following:
Play Area- New springer installation is postponed due to waterlogged ground and play inspections completed.
The Village Pound- Weeds and debris are to be removed from the area.
The Road Safety Mirror has been installed and residents are generally happy.
Flooding- Langton Herring did have some flood issues, some properties in Rodden were flooded, the gulleys and grips have now been cleared and debris placed on the verges.
The Elm Tree Inn is now officially for sale, it is subject to an ACV, a public meeting is to be held to inform the residents on 13th March, there is a fund available called the Community Ownership Fund to finance this, but the time scales are short.
CK asked the PC to cover the cost of the hall hire for the village meeting on 13th March.
Proposed KD Seconded MB All agreed.
- iv. **Portesham** -The Annual Parish meeting is to be held on 18th March, the broken posts on the green have been repaired, as previously reported the containers at the Allotments have been swapped, the play area inspections have been carried out. The grips and gulleys at Coryates are yet to be completed, it was noted that the ditches and gulleys that have been cleared have been piled up on the verges, MB commented that if some of the farmers were approached this could be placed on fields this will be followed up again.

24/03-11 Highways-

Following the discussions earlier regarding HGV's the Council will write to David Sidwick copying in Mark Roberts and Chris Loder to ask for his support with the request for a TRO for HGV's and road safety issues in Portesham as well as expressing an interest in the pilot scheme for speed checks.

24/03-12 Countryside & RoW- All routes are very wet and muddy.

24/03-13 Finance and procedural matters.

i. 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 4 quotes gathered, MH noted that it is recommended for GDPR compliance it is not recommended to have the same email provider as website provider. On that basis and looking at the quotes gathered MH & SW recommend quote two but without the pre-paid support for Cllrs at a cost of £2151.35 plus vat for year one, ongoing years had also been

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considered within the scope of this process. SW commented that this will future proof the Parish Council website with ongoing support. Quote two was agreed. Proposed MH Seconded SW all agreed.

ii. **To consider support for the Bus Shelter project in Abbotsbury for the Millenium**

MH recommended PC support for the Bus Shelter project for village benefit. He proposed using £404 from the hamper raffle for planning application costs, £1000 is already set aside, and an additional £4000 for the project, contingent on securing remaining funds.

Proposed by MH, seconded by LD, all agreed.

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

Councillors discussed the draft plaque, expressing concerns about its readability and proposed location on the plinth. The PC suggested placing it on the back of the noticeboard on the green and proposed a site meeting with the group to explore options. The PC agreed, in principle, to fund the plaque and installation, currently estimated at £384 inc. VAT, pending potential changes in siting. Additionally, investigating the placement of signs at village entrances was suggested and agreed upon. Proposed by SW, seconded by MH, all agreed.

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

Receipts 29-02-24		
Bank Interest		67.88
Payments Feb/March 24		
N Davies Contracting	Posts on the Green	200.00
Chesil Magazine	Additional donation	50.00
Strangways hall	Hall Hire -March meeting	15.00
Admin	Salary and Office expenses incl. new phone	2108.68
M Jolliffe	Grass contract x 2 months	475.00
Wessex Ground Services	Grass contract	139.51
Howard Soper	Grass contract and repairs	230.00
Toller Tree Care	Cemetery Tree works	1812.00
Defib Store	Replacement pads for Abbotsbury	£134.40

Proposed KD Seconded AH All agreed. Bank balances as of 29th Feb 2024 £ **76,914.12**.

24/03-14 To receive the list of correspondence for information or future agenda items.

The Clerk provided the following updates: Statements for the Grit Bin claim have been collected. The DAPTC Councillor networking event is scheduled for March 7th, with IW attending and the Clerk participating in the morning session. The Dovecote project, led by Portesham Volunteers, will begin in March. Additionally, the Jurassic Coast Challenge 2024 is set for May 18th and 19th.

24/03-15 To confirm the items for the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th April 2024 at Portesham. Also to confirm the May Annual PC meeting will also be held in Portesham.

To review the meeting format and agenda to add an additional public session at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman asked residents if there were any further comments prior to closing the meeting, although not an agenda item.

A resident asked about the website quotes and if costs for years 2,3 and 4 have been collated, MH responded that yes, these costs had been taken into consideration and the decision was based on this data.

The PC meeting closed at 8.52pm