

## **CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2024, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER**

Emma Meecham, Clerk, 15 Meadow Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5PB

Tel: 01935 415361

Mr K Woodman  
Mr P Seib  
Mr T Brandt  
Mrs R Parsons

Mr M Batstone  
Mr P Rowsell  
Mrs K Taylor

1 Member of the public

Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

The meeting started with the Open Session for parishioners. The issue of another accident having recently occurred on the 'S' bend on Tintinhull Road was raised.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None received.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Seib reiterated his standard interests. No interests specific to agenda items were raised.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**  
The following people were elected to the posts:  
Chair – Mr Seib proposed Mr Woodman for the position. Mr Brandt seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
Vice Chair – Mr Woodman proposed Mr Batstone for the position. Mr Seib seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
Recreation Committee – Mr Woodman proposed Mr Brandt for the position. Mrs Taylor seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
Village Hall Committee – Mr Woodman proposed Mr Brandt for the position. Mr Batstone seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
Tree Warden – Mr Woodman proposed Mr Batstone for the position. Mr Brandt seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
Footpaths – Mr Brandt proposed Mrs Taylor for the position. Mr Woodman seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.  
LCN representative – It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Taylor and Mr Brandt would be the Parish Council representatives, with Mr Seib providing backup.
- 5. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Mr Seib had previously circulated a report following a year of the Unitary Council. This report highlighted the achievements of the authority. Mr Seib informed the meeting that there are more Councils across England that are saying that a Section 114 notice (effective bankruptcy) is imminent. Somerset Council are a long way off setting a balanced budget for next year. The Council are looking to reduce the wage bill significantly over

the short term, approximately 340 people have applied for voluntary redundancy in the recent exercise and there are a number of vacant posts in the organisation that can be deleted. Mr Seib informed the meeting that the Tata battery plant (Gravity) have started works as they want to be up and running by 2026. Some of this work is 'at risk' as not all the necessary permissions have yet been received.

Mrs Taylor asked if there was any projection on what was going to happen next year as it won't be possible to keep using the capital money.

Mr Seib informed the meeting that the Wilko building in Yeovil won't be sold, but the Marks and Spencer building is being sold. He also informed the meeting that the Octagon Theatre refurbishment project has gone back into the capital projects, albeit smaller than the original proposal. Once the works have been done the building will be owned and managed by Yeovil Town Council.

## **6. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- a) SID – No SID report this month.
- b) Regarding the issue of the latest incident on the Tintinhull Road 'S' bend the clerk and Chair are to write to Yeovil Without and Tintinhull Parish Councils to try and gain their support for a change to local speed limits, with potentially a meeting of the Chairs to be arranged to discuss the options. It seems that the 'S' bend warning sign has vanished, this has been reported to the Council, but no replacement has been installed.

**7. COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – No report received. The question of the Carpenter's Arms car park was raised as it was understood that it had been sealed off as it was being used for the dealing of drugs. The meeting was informed that a horse parade through the village was being organised to highlight the issues with the conflict between vehicles and horses.

**8. LCN UPDATE** – The latest LCN meeting was fairly dominated by discussions regarding bus services, First Bus have announced that they have a new director for the area and have noted that they appreciate the interest in bus services shown by Somerset Council. First Bus have a smaller fleet of vehicles than previously, however, this is due to increase when the Government money is spent on new electric buses to be used in Taunton, at which point the existing buses will be cascaded down to other areas. The LCN meeting also discussed the issues of rural crime, roads, potholes and the difficulties at the edges of LCN areas.

Mr Brandt expressed concerns that the LCN and Highways working groups will overlap.

The next LCN meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June, it was noted that both Mrs Taylor and Mr Brandt are on holiday.

**9. FOOTPATHS** – The overhanging vegetation behind Home Farm has been noted and Mrs Taylor has spoken to Home Farm, they will look to get the vegetation cut back.

## **10. FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**

- a) Audit exemption – The meeting unanimously agreed to file an exemption notice for the audit.
- b) Receipts: None – Noted.
- c) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC, £84 paint. – All unanimously agreed.
- d) Grant requests: None – Noted.

It was agreed that the clerk should purchase approximately 30 stamps (mix of first and second class) and a ream of paper.

**11. ALLOTMENTS** – Mrs Taylor gave an update on the allotments following communication with Somerset Council. A discussion was held over the alternative options for the management/ownership of the allotments e.g. allotments association – this would need to have a membership wider than just the allotments tenants, including potentially local homeowners/residents. Mr Brandt is to forward the email conversation from Somerset Council, along with a covering note to summarise the current position.

(Mr Rowsell left the meeting at this point)

## **12. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Applications: None – Noted. Although there was a question raised regarding an application near the old nursery on Tintinhull Road.
- b) Decisions: None – Noted.
- c) Appeals: None – Noted.

**13. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

**14. BROADBAND** – The window of the Village Hall that was broken during the broadband installation has not yet been fixed. The Rec was supposed to be installed last week, however, the team that turned up to do the installation had been misinformed over the work that would be required. A new date of next Tuesday (7 May) has now been set.

**15. VILLAGE HALL** – Nothing further to add over the report given as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

**16. RECREATION TRUST** – Nothing further to add over the report given as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

**17. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** – None.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:09**

**18. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6 JUNE 2024 19:30.**