

Minutes of the meeting of Chittlehampton Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th February 2025 7.30pm in the Methodist Rooms.

Present – Cllr. Wheaton (Chairman); Cllr. Jones; Cllr. Brooks; Cllr. Nicklin; Cllr. Ditchburn; Cllr. Hoare; Cllr. Alford; Cllr. Beauregard; County Cllr. Henderson; Penny Clapham (Locum clerk) 1 member of the public.

1) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 3 minutes per person. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f). Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Blyther. Cllr. Seatherton. For the reasons given . Apologies accepted.

3) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at District Council within 28 days of the change.

4) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information) Tree in the square is now in the left-hand corner of the playing field - thanks to Steve and Paul for a helping hand. Dog excrement around the village, did try to report this on the website but a password is required. Keep sending in complaints preferably with photo evidence, date and time seen, with the location. To put the link onto the Council website.

5) District and County Councillor Reports –

County Cllr. Henderson – much has happened over the past few months. Devolution; elections will go ahead on 1st May. Government has given a very tight timetable within their white paper. Govt wish to have the plans for the devolved unitary authority in by mid Sept/October. District councils will go. It is a possibility that North Devon could then be controlled by Exeter. Cllr. Henderson stated that he would not be standing at the elections in May and therefore Council would not be seeing him again. Chairman thanked Cllr. Henderson for everything he has done in the parish and wished him all the best going forward.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meetings held on the 29th January and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 10th February 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Highways –

- i. To consider a Lengthsman and what this would entail regarding actions and costs. Cllr. Wheaton has been informed that there are no parish lengthsman or monies available to fund such a person. Cllr. Henderson suggested a possible way forward, to work with Atherington/Burrington/Chittlehamholt so between all three, employ someone as a self-employed contractor. To inform Council about Chapter 8 training. Action Clerk.
- ii. To consider the installation of a mirror on the pole opposite the school in Umberleigh in order to increase visibility and safety. Apparently Highways no longer approve mirrors to be placed on the highway. Cllr. Jones will look into this and agenda for April.

8) Community Governance Review – following from the meeting held on the 29th January – has Council any comments to make. To agree actions. No actions at this time considered.

9) Open Spaces report –

- i. Play area; to receive an update if available. Still awaiting quotations to come in for phase two.
- ii. Conifer from the square – replanted in the recreation field (see Chariman’s report).
- iii. Dog warden and dog mess along the pavement. Dog warden responded that persons should formally report dog mess with associated information onto the North Devon website in order to instigate an investigation. (Email circulated to councillors prior to this meeting).

10) PLANNING

Planning Applications - District Council has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

- i. 79886 Conversion of garage & office to self-contained dependent relatives annexe at Seymour Cottage, Chittlehampton.
Council approve the change back to residential accommodation.

Planning Decisions

- a) 79650 Prior notification for erection of an agricultural building to provide cover over an existing silage pit, Shilstone Farm, Chittlehampton.
NOT REQUIRED.
- b) 79561 Variation of condition 2 (77380) to allow external staircase, a balcony and change of window design, Whey Park Farm, Umberleigh
APPROVED
- c) 79613 Works to trees in a conservation area, The Vicarage, Chittlehampton
APPROVED

11) FINANCE

Expenditure	Locum Clerk expenses	£348.00	BACs
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Income	Coffee morning for play area	£265.85
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Bank Reconciliation and Statement, not available at this time.

Council resolved to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Wheaton, all agreed by show of hands.

12) Reserves – As per the agreed Reserves Policy, attached an estimate to the end of the financial year 31st March 2025. Noted.

13) Asset register – Circulated prior to this meeting. To agree this is now updated and correct. To remove the CCTV system from the asset register. Agreed.

14) DALC request as a part of the proposed devolution for Devon.

- a) What is important to our community? The health and safety of our residents/repairing potholes and cleaning out the gullies/overall look of the village particularly within the conservation area/making our community younger/housing is far too expensive/maintaining our footpaths/cycle paths.
- b) What do we do for our community now? Provide a play area/recreational field.
- c) What would we like to do for our community? We would like to see housing provided for young families possibly through a Community Land Trust/we would like affordable housing to be affordable as properties in Chittlehampton are very expensive/retain dark skies/increase safety at the school/reduce the speed limit to 20mph through the villages.

15) Clerk's report

- i. Council have been notified of an increase in the fees payable to the ICO – from April £47 for the year.

16) Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only)

Cllr Brooks – the agenda and minutes do need to be put onto the website; are there some councillors who could be trained on the council website.

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Friday 4th April 2025 at Umberleigh Village Hall.

Please would someone book the venue.

Meeting closed at 9.22pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email Circulation

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 06/02)

DALC Bulletin 07 (sent 06/02)

DALC Bulletin 08 (sent 17/02)

DALC Bulletin 09 (sent 26/02)