

Minutes of the meeting of Chittlehampton Parish Council held on Wednesday 29th January 2025 7.30pm in the Methodist Rooms.

Present – Cllr. Wheaton (Chairman); Cllr. Brooks; Cllr. Nicklin; Cllr. Hoare; Cllr. Beauregard; Cllr. Buckingham; District Cllr. Whitehead; Penny Clapham (Locum Clerk); 4 members of the public.

1) Co-option to Council to fill a vacancy – Cllr. Wheaton proposed Steve Ditchburn as a councillor who accepted the post and signed the acceptance documents.

2) 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.

Parishioner, chair of the sports club regarding the planning application 12(i). Disappointed at the actions taken by the applicant (planning) so far. Cricket club object as the owner has no access to this plot other than on foot – no vehicles allowed.

Parishioner with regard to the conifer which is now too big for its pot.

Parishioner noted that it was nice to have a Christmas tree which was very colourful. Thanks to those who donated the tree.

3) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Alford (illness). Cllr. Jones; (work related). Apologies accepted.

4) 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. None declared.

5) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information)

6) District and County Councillor Reports –

District Cllr. Whitehead – all the talk is about devolution. Devon County Council have requested that the forthcoming elections be cancelled. The district council do not know very much as yet, particularly how the county is going to be split. North Devon as an area is quite small in terms of the proposed split by population.

7) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record..

8) Community Governance Review – to discuss any changes that may be required within the Governance review – email circulated to councillors prior to this meeting. Briefly discussed.

9) Open Spaces –

- i. Play area update – to receive a report from the meeting held on 17th January. Cllr. Brooks reported on the meeting, phase two of the play area; quotes received from Kompan total cost £26,025.82.

Outstanding query on fitting and matting costs. Installation costs being sourced. Lead time to be advised. Signage for the play area to be acquired.

- ii. Play area steps – “Please note, from past experience, fitting this type of rail can cause other issues like children climbing on the rail and a possible finger trap. I am happy to fit the additional rail but I believe it is not necessary for regulations. The recent play area inspection did not raise any issues.” Report from the builder. Cllr. Brooks considers that Council have addressed this issue. To notify the complainant and to keep the steps under review.
- iii. Pot holding the conifer in the square is badly damaged. To agree to purchase a replacement pot. Or place in the picnic area/football field. Cllr. Wheaton proposed the tree be moved to the recreation field. All agreed by show of hands. Cllr. Wheaton will arrange the removal and planting.
- iv. Dog mess along the pavement through the village – to agree actions. There is a dog warden who could supply signage. Clerk to arrange.

10) P3 Footpath Scheme – for discussion and to agree actions. To consider nominating a footpath warden. There is a map of the footpaths in Chittlehampton. To advertise for a person who would like to walk the footpaths.

11) Speedwatch – to receive a further update should there be one available. Cllr. Wheaton had an update from Jim and read this to Council. 18 volunteers who have signed up, the focus is on Atherington and Umberleigh at present. Speeding in Umberleigh 45 out of 106 exceeded the speed limit in one hour. The majority of speeding takes place uphill. In the past week two further sites have been approved in Atherington –the report is attached to these minutes.

12) PLANNING

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

- i) 79593 Reserved matters application for erection of dwelling outline planning permission (74760) at land off Back Lane, Chittlehampton. 263527 125545

Cllr. Brooks chair of planning discussed this application – she has looked at the access herself; a planning meeting will be arranged. Venue and time to be agreed.

Planning Decisions

- a) 78304 Conversion of water tower to ancillary accommodation, Hudscott Manor
APPROVED

13) FINANCE

Expenditure	SLCC Membership F. Davies	£110.00	BACs
	N.Devon Council – bin empties	£262.08	BACs
	Locum Clerk Expenses	£428.50	BACs

Income

Bank Reconciliation to 31st December 2024 circulated prior to this meeting: note that there is a discrepancy of £95.00. Clerk to check the accounts and report to Cllr. Jones.

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

14) Budget – to resolve to agree the budget for the financial year 2025/2026. Resolved a budget of £15,374. Proposed by Cllr. Wheaton, all agreed by show of hands.

15) Precept – to resolve to set the precept for the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. Resolved to set a precept of £15,374. Proposed by Cllr. Wheaton, all agreed by show of hands.

16) Internal Auditor – to consider and appoint Julie Snooks as Council’s internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2025. Resolved, all agreed by show of hands.

17) Asset Register – to consider the updated asset register (circulated prior to this meeting). To resolve to agree any corrections or updates. February agenda for final updates.

18) Policies – to resolve to adopt the following policies.

- i. Bullying & Harassment Policy – adopted but needs updating
- ii. Grievance Policy - adopted
- iii. Equal Opportunities Policy - adopted
- iv. Disciplinary Policy – adopted but may need updating
- v. Asset Register Policy - adopted

19) Bus Petition – to receive an update – Cllr. Blyther. Nearly 2000 signatures already – a final push is needed. Extra people to help please.

20) Clerk's report – nothing to report this month.

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

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on 26th February 2025 at the Methodist Rooms in Chittlehampton.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email Circulation

DALC Open Letter (sent 08/01)

Fire Service Consultation (sent 16/01)

Hi Michael

As promised, here is an update on the Umberleigh Speedwatch for this weeks Parish Council Meeting.

Since our last update there have been 11 sessions completed, 3 in Atherington (within their 20th limit) and 8 on the B3227 in Umberleigh (30 mph). We have a total of 18 volunteers who have signed up to join the group, but only 11 have participated in a session up to this point. Raynor Davies is leading the group focussed on Atherington and myself in Umberleigh, but there have been no sessions or active volunteers from Chittlehampton yet.

The speeding measured in Umberleigh in particular has been significant. For example, during a session held for just one hour on Saturday 26th January, 42 vehicles exceeded the 35mph threshold, out of 106 vehicles in total. That equated to 39% of vehicles passing through this section of road. Considering some vehicles are held up in lines of traffic, and only the front vehicle is recorded, that rate of speeding vehicles is alarming. On this day the fastest vehicle was measured at 50mph, with many more in the 40 - 50 mph bracket. Although it could have been expected that speeding vehicles would be travelling down the hill, in reality the majority of speeding takes place up the hill, as vehicles go over the railway bridge past the school entrance. As we measure the speeding here we have observed pedestrians walking on the road, and horse riders going over the bridge towards the lanes alongside the river.

It will be interesting to see, in time, how this site compares to other sites in the County. We understand that as our evidence base increases, our statistics will form part of the wider analysis completed by the Police and the County Council.

Anecdotally we understand that the fastest vehicles are travelling to and from work. As these times are in the hours of darkness, we are unable to complete sessions. However as these mornings and evenings grow lighter we will hope to focus more effort on these times of day.

In the past week, two further sites have been approved in Atherington, which the team there hope will be more suitable for targeting speeding drivers. In addition, the church car park opposite the Rising Sun Pub have agreed that we can use their land - this will measure vehicles along the main Exeter road, across the busy junction.

We would still benefit from an increase in volunteers willing to participate - particularly in Chittlehampton.

Kind Regards

Jim.