

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2024 AT
CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM

Present: Cllrs D Walsh, N Searle, R Sewell, G Waters

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 10 members of the public and Brian Bleese, Chief Executive of Dorset Wildlife Trust and Rob Farrington Head of Wildlife Landscapes for Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Mr Bleese and Mr Farrington to speak about Lyscombe Wildlife Reserve.

Mr Bleese explained that DWT had purchased 833 acres of land at Lyscombe – part of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The aim is to reduce nitrates flowing into the water system and eventually into Poole Harbour. The land will ensure the nutrient neutrality of future building projects in and around the Poole Harbour area. The big challenge initially is to return the land into a good condition and to help achieve this, it has been taken out of high-level agricultural activity – originally 600 sheep grazed the area, along with a beef herd and some crop planting. It was noted that there is limited parking at the Reserve, and the site is relatively isolated so it is not expected to have a great many visitors. It is intended that the area will be established as a nature reserve; but it is relatively poor in wildlife at the moment. DWT are currently in the process of establishing a vision and plan for the site and, once these are complete, Mr Bleese and Mr Farrington confirmed that they would be pleased to return to Cheselbourne to make a presentation to residents. They are also trying to return the historic monuments on the site to a better condition and to link the pockets of nature around the area together and to work on the headlands of the River Piddle, together with working with neighbouring farmers.

Several members of the public asked questions to which Mr Bleese and Mr Farrington responded, including:

Why did DWT buy Lyscombe Farm? - Because it was for sale. The Organic status of the farm gave a good base for the Reserve to be established.

Since DWT have taken over, walking over the land is very difficult as the routes have become very overgrown. What is going to be done about this? This issue was recognised and it was agreed that it will be sorted out as time goes along.

Will dogs be allowed on the land? A circular walk will be set up and dogs will be allowed on the public right of way but must be kept under control.

What about the buildings on the Reserve? DWT have taken on the responsibility for the chapel and are working with Historic England to make it safe and the intention is also to restore the Priest’s House next door. It was noted that the bench in the garden is a commemorative bench and should be left in place. Other buildings, which are of no historic interest, some of which contain asbestos, will be demolished.

DWT are keen to engage with local volunteers and if anyone would like to volunteer to help at the Reserve, they will be more than welcome. Open days will be held over the next few months and volunteers will be one

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of the topics covered. The open days will be widely advertised.

1. Public Participation Period

24.062 The general issue of speeding through the village was raised. In addition, it was noted that, occasionally, large agricultural vehicles go through the village at night and it was questioned whether this is legal. Cllr Searle agreed to check if there are times when large agricultural vehicles are not permitted to use the road. With regard to cars and other vehicles potentially exceeding the speed limit, these should be reported to the Police. Residents were reminded that the Parish Council has applied for the speed limit to be reduced from 30mph to 20mph and it is hoped that a decision will be made on this by Dorset Council in the next few months, with implementation in the early part of next year.

It was noted that there have been a few accidents on the roads around the parish. Cllr Searle reiterated the need to report any minor accidents to the Police.

2. To receive apologies for absence

24.063 Apologies had been received from Cllr Roger Hall, Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and PCSO Alison Donnison.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest

24.064 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2024

24.065 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members. Cllr Searle proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Walsh and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the meeting for report only

24.066 Nothing to raise at this stage, that is not covered by the agenda.

6. Dorset Councillor's Report

24.067 A copy of the July report had been issued with the agenda. It was noted that, once again, there is nothing specific to the parish.

7. To consider the PCSO's Report

24.068 A copy of the report had been attached with the agenda. Cllr Searle advised that any suspicious activity in the village should be reported to the Police as well as being put on Facebook and the village WhatsApp group. A reminder to this effect will be included in the Village News report.

8. Parish Councillors' Reports

24.069 Flooding & Environment – Nothing to report. The heavy rain has not caused any issues in respect

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of the waterways.

Footpath from the Village Hall to the Playpark – Cllr Sewell reported that he had spoken to the Dorset Council Corporate Director, Legal and Democratic Services, Jonathan Mair. Mr Mair recommended contacting him formally and he will see if Dorset Council can do anything regarding the having the path built. Cllrs Sewell and Taylor will follow up on this and Mr Colin Hampton offered to provide some background information.

ACTION: CLLRS SEWELL & TAYLOR

Highways - Cllr Searle advised that it has been reported by a home owner who lives opposite the village green that damage is being caused to the stones on his verge by passing agricultural vehicles. There are no parking restrictions in the area and there is room for vehicles to pass, so there is little the Parish Council can do. The home owner should report any damage directly to the Police. It was further noted that there is a problem with the ability for farm traffic to turn safely into/from Streetway Lane when cars are parked on the opposite side of the road from the junction. Again, it was agreed that there is little the Parish Council can do about this matter, and if cars are parked in contravention of the Highway Code, this should be reported to the Police.

Asset Management – The report was circulated with the agenda. Cllr Taylor reminded members that Copper Beech, who installed the new playpark equipment, have advised that it needs to be kept in good repair and they have quoted £1,500 to maintain the equipment annually. This has been discounted as too expensive. It was agreed that the only option would be for a group of volunteers to be brought together in the Spring to treat the equipment. Cllr Taylor noted that the playpark is checked regularly by one of the Steering Group and the annual check is also undertaken by the Play Inspection Company. Mr Colin Hampton offered to co-ordinate a team of volunteers to undertake the maintenance but would not be able to help in getting the team together in the first instance.

It was agreed that more volunteers are needed around the village to do a number of different tasks, such as litter picking and Community Speed Watch. Currently, there are a small number of the same volunteers undertaking a large number of duties. It was agreed that consideration should be given as to how the number of volunteers in the village could be increased.

The damaged grit bin near Kingcombe Farm has been replaced but the cost of the replacement has not been refunded as agreed by the landowner. Cllr Taylor will contact the landowner.

ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR

Website and IT – Thanks are extended to Mr Colin Hampton for his prompt to update the website. The finance information still needs to be uploaded, and the Clerk will forward this to Cllr Walsh for action. It was noted that not everyone is signed up to WhatsApp, Facebook, etc. Perhaps something could be put on the notice boards to keep those less technically minded informed. This will be considered at the November meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Finance

24.070 To agree the payment of accounts

The following payments had been requested:

Glasdon	Grit bin	BACS061	159.73
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Cheselbourne VH	Hall hire May 24 to March 25	BACS062	72.00
Hugo Fox	Web hosting for August 2024	DDR	11.99
Dorset Tree & Garden	Cut play area and green	BACS063	100.00
Hugo Fox	Web hosting September 2024	DDR	11.99
HMRC	August 2024 PAYE	BACS064	81.00
A Crocker	July/August salary	BACS065	402.36

A total of £839.07 was requested.

Cllr Waters proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

24.071 To agree the bank reconciliation and position against budget as at 24th August 2024

Copies of the reports had been issued with the agenda. No comments were made, and the reports were noted.

10. To consider planning applications

24.072 To consider the amendments to Parish Councils' involvement in Planning

At the July meeting of Dorset Council, councillors voted to amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution to change the process for determining which planning applications are referred to Dorset Council's planning committees. Cllr Haynes had subsequently informed the Clerk that her next report will provide more information and detail regarding this. Therefore, this item will be deferred to the November meeting.

11. To accept the Health & Safety Policy and the Volunteer Policy

24.073 Copies of both policies had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Taylor proposed they are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously. They will now be posted on to the Parish Council website.

ACTION: CLLR WALSH

12. To consider repairs to the Chebbard corner fingerpost

24.074 Dewlish Parish Council have agreed that they would cover half the cost.

Cllr Searle reported that most of the pieces for the finger post are there. She has spoken to Roger Bond of the Dorset National Landscape, Finger Post Restoration and he has quoted about £400 if the finger post can be transported to him. Cllr Searle proposed going ahead with the restoration. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously. Cllr Searle will look into the possibility of Dorset Highways installing the post if we offer to pay for it.

ACTION: CLLR SEARLE

13. To receive an update on PlusBus and consider the payment and future funding of the scheme

24.075 There will be a meeting of PlusBus Committee on the 5th September. At our January meeting, members had agreed in principle to pay £500 to assist with the on-going costs of the service. Members agreed that this money should now be released. It is understood that the service is well used and, on occasion, it has been oversubscribed and a second bus has been put on. Unfortunately,

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no numbers for use are available at this stage but this will be needed to inform the budget decision for the November meeting. Cllr Searle will raise this at the PlusBus Committee meeting.

14. Date of next meeting

24.076 The next meeting will be on Monday 4th November 2024, commencing 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.20hrs.

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