

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2023

In attendance: Cllrs Melanie Harvey, Julie Leah, Katie Moore (Vice Chair), Peter Noel (ex officio) and the Deputy Clerk, Melissa Kirkby

FS01.23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There were no public present.

FS02.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Judith Sheppard (Chair), away.

FS03.23 DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

FS04.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Julie Leah declared an interest in Item FS09.23(c) and Melanie Harvey declared an interest in Item FS11.23(c).

FS05.23 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 13th December 2022, circulated to members, be signed as a correct record.

FS06.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were none.

FS07.23 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Anti-Social Behaviour – PSOP request to Dorset Council

Cllr Moore reported that the Clerk has emailed Dorset Council with examples of anti-social behaviour by overnight campers etc. but because this is taking place on the green and not actually the beach, Dorset Council say it would not be covered under the PSPO. It was agreed not to pursue the PSPO but to monitor camping on the foreshore.

b. Footpath Closure - Wooden Bridge Repair

Cllr Moore reported that the members have all been copied in on notices sent out from Dorset Council about the delayed finish to the bridge. It was opened on Thursday afternoon as the remaining work can be carried out while it is open.

c. Buoys to protect swimmers from powered craft

Cllr Moore reported that there is nowhere to store the buoys and ropes over winter and so we have asked Lyme Regis harbour master if they could store them and how much it would cost. The Deputy Clerk has been chasing the harbour master for a reply.

FS08.23 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT

There were none reported.

FS09.23 ITEMS TO REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

a. Metal Detecting Policy and Permission Review

Dorset Council have recently updated their policy and the Parish Council's is also due for review. We have now been told that Dorset Council's update refers to the approach taken in the old policy on metal detecting on council farms (from 1996) to all forms of archaeological fieldwork and to all council-owned land. The Parish Council currently have thirty nine permissions in force. There has never been any problem with the current system for metal detecting permissions. The members agreed to keep the existing policy and procedures but to review again next year.

b. Guided Fossil Walks Code of Practice Review

i) Guided Fossil Walks Code of Practice Policy

Cllr Moore reported that Cllr Sheppard and Cllr Harvey have been working hard on updating the Code of Practice which the members had received a copy of. The members agreed to the changes to the policy as circulated. It was agreed to refer to Full Council for approval.

There have been complaints from Martin Curtis about other guides taking fossil walks when they do not have permission from the Council. The beach staff have a list and photos of the fossil walks leader already so that they can challenge anyone they see who does not have permission. It was also agreed that the office could make ID badges for the Fossil leaders.

ii) Fossil walks warden

Martin Curtis has offered to be a fossil walks warden to monitor the other guides taking fossil walks. The members thought that this was not necessary and if it was then it would not be appropriate for a guide to be monitoring other guides.

c. Rivers Festival

Cllr Leah has asked if the Committee would like a table that would be displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting to then be displayed at the Rivers Festival, to show what the council staff do to keep the foreshore well kept.

Cllr Leah thinks it would be good to have information on issues such as:

- Litter pick up - how much do the staff estimate they pick up each week?
- How often do they have to get involved in clearing back driftwood and so on to keep the river mouth clear.
- Anything they think might show how much work goes into keeping the river area clean and pollution free.
- General observations that might be of interest.
- A copy of the Foreshore Assent Document.

Cllr Leah confirmed that the information would be presented on posters attached to a display board and that she would organise the display.

d. Environment Working Group items:

Cllr Leah spoke about the EW Groups idea of having a dinosaur garden in area between the toilets and Heritage Coast Centre. The idea is for a driftwood sculpture that looks like a dinosaur. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Moore spoke about differential mowing on West Green. This had already been discussed at previous meeting in June 2022. It was agreed then to wait and see how the differential mowing worked out on the Playing Field. The members agreed again to this approach.

e. Purchase of spare defibrillator

Cllr Moore spoke about the defib not being at the Foreshore for a while before Christmas as it was being repaired and the Fishermen do not have a spare. The question had been asked if it would be possible to donate towards/purchase a spare. Cllr Moore pointed out that if the Parish Council donate or purchase a spare defib with public money from Charmouth residents, this could be used anywhere that the Fishermen have a defib and would not necessarily mean that Charmouth Foreshore would get it if that one was out of action. It was agreed by the members not to purchase a spare one and noted that there is one at the pharmacy.

f. Moving of sand at east beach in front of cabin

Cllr Moore reported that permission for moving sand in front of the east beach cabin is now included under the Foreshore Assent Document. This item was being reported for information only and the work has taken place.

g. Meeting with Russell Goff from Dorset Council about foreshore issues:

i) Improved signage for the newly opened stretch of the coast path - Cllr Moore reported that the Clerk was dealing with this issue.

ii) Footpath 12 - The members had all received the letter sent out by Dorset Council. There is no action for the Parish Council to take.

iii) Footpath to Stonebarrow from the beach and the trodden down fence - Cllr Sheppard and Russel Goff could not look at this issue on this occasion as the bridge was closed.

iv) Permission to erect a sign by the bridge about the dangers of pollution in the river and including the no jumping symbol to try and deter people from jumping off the bridge into the river - Cllr Moore reported that the Clerk has email Russel Goff asking him where a sign could be erected as the Parish Council do not own any land in that area. He is in contact with Environment Agency asking for both a price for the sign as well as to make sure its allowed and is of the correct format for a highway. He confirmed that he had sent them the visuals.

v) Rock Fall Signage - The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr Sheppard had asked her to raise at the meeting that it would be good to have a sign at the start of the bridge going west, about the dangers of rock fall. There is a sign there now, but it is too small. The members agreed to ask Dorset Council for this.

vi) Interpretation boards - Cllr Moore reported that the Clerk had this in hand. The final wording has been sent to Russel Goff and Dorset Council are going to make Charmouth a pilot project.

FS10.23 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a. Email complaint received about physical notices of wooden bridge closure

An email had been received from a woman who had paid for parking before she realised the bridge was shut. The Clerk had replied explaining that there were large signs at the entrance to Lower Sea Lane. The Clerk did arrange more signs to be put up in the car park.

b. Permission requested for Lyme Splash

Cllr Moore reported that Lyme Splash have requested permission for their Swim to take place on Sunday Sept 3rd 2023. First swimmers leave Lyme Regis at 08.30 - so they will set up in Charmouth at 7.45am. They have requested permission to use the foreshore and a beach hut near the car park and put up a tent to serve refreshments as they have done in previous years. They have Insurance agreed in principle and have paramedics booked and the Lyme Rib rides booked. They will send risk assessment and insurance nearer the time. The members agreed to give permission and that in future the Clerk/Deputy Clerk can give permission as this is an annual event.

c. Permission requested for River Cottage foraging days

Cllr Moore reported that a request for permission to host their foraging days has been received by River Cottage. They have been holding these days since 2017 and there have never been any problems. They do not hold more than four days a year and last year we were provided with lots of detail from the course leader about foraging on an SSSI which the members were all happy with. The dates for this year are: 17th May 2023, 19th June 2023, 2nd September, 27th September, and the members agreed to give permission for these dates at the same price as last year.

d. Request from Lower Char Community Project (River Festival) for gathering at foreshore

Cllr Moore reported that the group has asked permission for a procession to gather briefly on the Foreshore on the 27th May. There might be some Shanty singing, but it won't be for more than 15 minutes. They have no idea how many people will join the procession - perhaps 30 or so. Cllr Moore pointed out that the group cannot gather on Evans Green because of the covenants but they could meet on the west green. The members agreed that the group could meet on areas not covered by the covenants.

e. Request from Lower Char Community Project (River Festival) to film using a drone

Cllr Leah reported an interest in this item. The members agreed that the Council policy states no drones to be used over Council land and that there was no good reason to suspend the policy for this activity when it had not been suspended for other well qualified applicants. It was

RESOLVED not to suspend the No Drones Policy that would allow for the flying of a drone at the foreshore.

FS11.23 IN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business in view of the likely disclosure of confidential matters about information relating to an individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see Section 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985), as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

a. Factory Building Clock service

Cllr Moore reported that the service has been carried out with approval from Cllr Sheppard. The members agreed to this in retrospect and agreed that this clock service should be put on the annual contracts list that the Clerk holds.

b. Rent review – Lease 1

The members agreed to the rent figure negotiated with the tenant.

c. Rent review – Lease 4

Cllr Moore reported that this is being dealt with by the Clerk and the solicitor.

d. Rent review – Lease 5

Cllr Moore reported that the rent increase as stated in the lease would be applied from 1st April.

e. Rent review – Lease 16

Cllr Moore reported on the lease which is due for rent renewal from 23rd May. It was

RESOLVED the rent to be increased by 3% for the next year.

f. Lease 16 request

Cllr Moore reported that a request from the agreement holder had been given by the Clerk and the work carried out.

g. Seasonal beach attendant

The members agreed to the proposal from the Clerk regarding the seasonal beach attendant.

h. Factory building door hinge quotes

The members discussed the quote for replacing door hinges at the foreshore. Cllr Leah asked if the hinges were of marine grade steel and the Deputy Clerk said she would check. If the hinges are not acceptable the matter could be deferred. It was

RESOLVED to accept the quote from MAC builders for £575.00 to come from Factory Building Maintenance budget.

i. New car park sign quote

The members discussed the single quote provided to update the car park sign with the new charges from 1st April. It was

RESOLVED the quote received from Creative Solutions for graphic overlays for existing sign at the car park with the new charges at a cost of £247.03 to come from Car Park Maintenance budget.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed

Dated

Proposed to Finance

FS11.23 – Rent Review Lease 1

Proposed to Full Council

FS09.23(a) - Metal Detecting Policy and Permission Policy

FS09.23(b) - Guided Fossil Walks Code of Practice Policy

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