

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2022

In attendance: Cllrs Melanie Harvey, Julie Leah, Katie Moore, Peter Noel, Judith Sheppard and the Clerk, Lisa Tuck

FS46.22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

Martin Curtis, Fossil Walks Leader, was in attendance following his recent correspondence. Martin reiterated his concerns that he believes that some walks leaders are using Charmouth beach without a permit and without sufficient insurance etc. The Chair thanked Martin for bringing this to the Committees attention and confirmed that it would be discussed fully later in the meeting.

FS47.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

FS48.22 DISPENSATIONS

As budgets were to be discussed, it was confirmed that all Councillors hold an ongoing dispensation regarding precept setting.

FS49.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Harvey declared an interest in the CHCC items and would not comment or vote on the items.

FS50.22 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 30 August 2022 circulated to members, be signed as a correct record.

FS51.22 PROGRESS REPORTS

a. PSPO's for Fires/barbeques and Anti-Social Behaviour (Camping etc.)

It was reported that the Clerk had submitted evidence from the Summer season to DC and a response was awaited. This will continue to be chased up.

b. Swim Buoy quote

It was reported that the Facilities Manager is obtaining a quote for the installation of seasonal swim buoys for east and west beaches from the Harbour Master. This will continue to be chased up.

c. Bridge jumping signage

Dorset Council are asking exactly what sort of sign is required as their policy is not to put signage on bridges as it is usually ignored. It was felt that signage would help the Council's staff to advise people to refrain from jumping off the bridge as this is being highlighted by concerned parishioners. It was agreed that a visual "No jumping" sign was the most appropriate, located in the middle of the bridge.

d. Reed bed water levels

It was reported that the sluice gate is still open and the reeds are looking good. Julie Leah reported the sighting of a rare migrating bird. Levels would continue to be monitored to ensure cutting of the reeds can take place in Jan/Feb 2023.

e. CHCC Coastal Protection Information – meeting with CHCC/DC Coastal Engineers

It was confirmed that the responses to the questions asked by CHCC had been sent following the last Committee meeting and nothing had been heard since then.

FS52.22 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT

a. Abandoned clothes

It was noted that following a pile of abandoned clothes being found on the beach in early September, the Coastguard attended but after 2.5 hours and having not received any backup, reluctantly called off the search. No further information has been received regarding this incident.

FS53.22 ITEMS TO REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

a. Possible pollution signage at the river mouth

Following the request from Julie Leah at the last meeting to make it more obvious that the river is not suitable for bathing, members had been asked to look at the current signage. The Chair reported that there is some wording on the cairn on the east of the bridge but accepted that perhaps a sign is needed on the parking side of the bridge.

There is already a broken sign for the coast path diversion between the bridge and Seadown's fence and assuming that Dorset Council own this land, the Clerk would ask if a sign could be erected by the Parish Council, perhaps attached to the north side of the bridge with all relevant river information (pollution risks as well as inclusion of a no jumping visual sign).

b. Environment Group Notes

- i. Information Plaque Review** - The Chair reported that further information had been received from Dorset Council to say that a template/colour palette is being finalised by their graphics person which will be used across various areas of the Council as a type of 'brand'. Current text and pictures will be looked at once this is signed off to see what fits before printing. It was agreed that the Environment WG would proceed with the text and graphics preferred by the Parish Council which would then be sent to DC for inclusion on the newly agreed template.
- ii. SW in Bloom** - The Committee were already aware of the Silver Gilt Award and this would now be publicised in Shoreline and Lymeonline. The judges scoring sheet had been circulated. Discussion is now underway for preparation for 2023 and the notes of the meeting on 18 October had also been circulated.

An email had been received from a parishioner who could not attend the meeting (Jane Morrow) with some suggestions which were discussed:

- Redistribution of benches at the Foreshore – it was unanimously agreed that this was far too emotive to consider with any current memorial benches;
- Riverside path from Evans Green to Newlands Corner – this was looked at over many years by Dorset Council and was eventually abandoned and formally closed several years ago;
- Picnic benches refurbishment – it was confirmed that the benches are refurbished during the winter season on a rota basis;

- Return of Recycling at the Foreshore – this was being investigated by the Foreshore Committee following the cessation of the service due to constant contamination.

c. Budgets 2023-24 - Proposals made relating to budgets and charges would be discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee and ultimately approved by Council in January.

- i. **Draft Foreshore Budget** – The draft budget had been circulated along with actual figures for previous years and up to date predictions for the current year. It was agreed that the budget be slightly adjusted to decrease by £500 for Foreshore Regeneration Project and increase by £500 for Flood Warden Equipment.
- ii. **Charges** – Car Park charges were discussed in line with Dorset Council’s recent significant increase. It was decided to look at the split between cash and card payments up to the end of October and reconsider this at the December meeting. Any increase would also need to be reflected in the charge for winter permits.

It was proposed that seasonal Beach Hut charges should increase by 3% rounded up or down to the nearest pound. Daily/half daily charges would be increased to £20/£15.

It was proposed that seasonal Boat charges be left the same for residents but increased for non residents to £130 along with daily/weekly charges to £10/£30. Julie Leah declared an interest.

d. Additional Wheely bins for Summer 2023

The rental of two additional wheely bins for the 2023 season was approved at an additional cost of £2 per week rental and any additional empties. This would make swapping the bins from the east side easier and could be accommodated in the draft budgeted figures.

e. Glass Recycling – request from staff

Dorset Waste Partnership had confirmed that there is no public glass recycling in any car park throughout Dorset with no plans to reintroduce it. This is due to every household having kerb-side collections and the abuse by businesses of community bottle banks.

Charmouth PC could have a glass bin (140l) emptied fortnightly at a cost of £5.18 per collection but it is considered that this isn’t cost effective and would probably be abused.

f. Dog signs

Following a request from the staff, it was reported the Facilities Manager was investigating transparent “you are here” stickers which could be applied to each dog map sign in the appropriate position to help people understand where they are in relation to the dog restrictions.

g. Rota for Christmas cover

Following circulation of the rota for Christmas cover, it was reported that Judith Sheppard, Katie Moore and Peter Noel would cover the emptying of the bins on Sat 24 Dec, Christmas Day and Sat 31 Dec when there is no staff cover at the Foreshore. The Facilities Manager would be thanked for covering the emptying of all bins (Foreshore and village) on Boxing Day.

FS54.22 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a. New annual metal detecting applications

It was noted that 4 new applications for metal detecting had been approved since the last meeting.

b. Filming requests

It was reported that a request had been received for filming on a generic beach instead of South Africa regarding a shark attack. A fee of £1000 plus VAT had been agreed by delegated authority which was considered too expensive by the film company so they decided to use a different beach.

c. Request for clearance of river mouth to prevent flooding at Seadown Holiday Park

It was reported that concern had been expressed of flooding at Seadown due to the gradual blocking of the river mouth. High tides have cleared the river mouth for the time being but monitoring continues as contractors would be required to undertake any work.

d. Fossil Walks Permission Criteria

Correspondence/queries had been received and circulated from recognised Fossil Walks Leader Martin Curtis. The Committee agreed with some of the issues raised by Martin and this requires the Policy to be reviewed. A Working Group (Judith Sheppard, Melanie Harvey and Peter Noel) would consider this and bring it back to the Foreshore Committee for approval in due course.

e. Request to hold the RNLI Christmas Day Swim 2022

Following the initial request, this had now been cancelled due to increased requirements of the RNLI regarding safety. It was agreed that the Parish Council could not give permission for an organised Christmas Day swim on Charmouth beach and it should be made clear that any swimmers do so as individuals at their own risk.

f. Request from CHCC – tables for activities outside the Centre during the main holiday season at times

This was approved by the Committee as an ongoing permission purely for CHCC and dates should not clash with any other approved event (ie, Library book sales).

FS55.22 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. Renewal of Lease 4

Following a successful meeting with the tenants and a subsequent discussion at the last Full Council meeting, it was reported that the tenants had agreed to the proposed terms and a new lease is in the process of being drawn up by the Council's solicitor.

b. Rent Review 01.01.23 – Lease 1

A proposal is made for an increase in the annual rent for the remainder of the term of the lease. This would be checked with the Council's Valuer and referred to the F&GP Committee/Full Council.

c. Additional staff cover – staff member 3

It was felt that due to the time of year and anticipated time of absence, no additional cover is required.

d. Defamatory email

A draft response had been prepared by the Chair and it was agreed that this be sent from the Foreshore Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Referred to F&GP Council

FS53.22 c. Budgets/Charges

FS55.22 b. Rent Review – Lease 1 (In Committee)

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