

Charmouth Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023

In attendance: Cllrs Judith Sheppard (Chair), Katie Moore (Vice Chair), Julie Leah, Peter Noel, Melanie Harvey, Sally Roberts and Administrator, Katherine Besant

FS47.23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

There were no members of the public

FS48.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

FS49.23 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

FS50.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Julie Leah declared an interest regarding the request for a donation to LCCP, Agenda item FS56.23 (h)

FS51.23 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 22 August 2023 be agreed as a correct record and signed.

FS52.23 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FS53.23 PROGRESS REPORTS

a) Reed bed survey

Cllr Judith Sheppard reported that it was a very positive survey and noted the points raised

b) CHCC Webcam options

Awaiting proposal

c) CHCC Trustees' research into the coast

Cllr Judith Sheppard with Cllr Jane Bremner and Cllr Peter Noel are meeting with the trustees on 9th November 2023

d) Toilets - meeting with Dorset Council

It was agreed to arrange a meeting after the summer season with Dorset Council, Cllrs Judith Sheppard and Katie Moore will attend with the Facilities Manager.

e) Dorset Council PSPO for dogs

Following the consultation, it was proposed no changes in Charmouth

f) Opening up of river mouth

After the river mouth was blocked up and flooding Seadown Caravan Park it was agreed to excavate the area at a cost of £600 plus VAT (agreed by delegated authority).

FS54.23 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT

There were no reports received

FS55.23 ENVIRONMENT GROUP ITEMS

a) Britain in Bloom

Charmouth was awarded a silver award. Comments were made on the reed bed suggesting an additional mixed hedge that would enhance biodiversity, make a natural barrier and reduce pollution from the car park. It was noted that the hedge on the south side is dead.

FS56.23 ITEMS TO REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

a) Budgets for 2024/25

The draft budget had been circulated and was agreed by the committee for progression to F&GP for finalization. Cllr Julie Leah confirmed a meeting with Litter Free Dorset and Dorset Council about recycling bins at the Foreshore on 20th November 2023, Cllr Katie Moore will attend

b) Charges for 2024/25

The committee proposed to change some of the boat charges and the other charges to be increased

c) Dorset Coast Forum Annual Conference

Cllr Julie Leah reported that the conference was very positive. All the talks can be viewed online

d) Beach hut replacement

It was proposed, if within budget, to replace four more green huts

e) River Cottage foraging days

It was agreed to propose and increase the charge from £110 to £150 plus VAT

f) Charmouth events committee Firework Night

Cllr Peter Noel and Julie Leah will unlock the beach office for the events committee on the night

g) Express Payment proposal for car park

It was agreed as the current payments are working to not go ahead

h) Request for donation from Lower Char Community Project

Julie Leah left the room for this item following her declaration of interest. A donation of £200 was approved from the Foreshore/General Maintenance budget

i) Trial of PWC's (personalised water craft or jetskis)

After discussion the Council agreed with Lyme Regis Town Council to oppose the launching and use of personalised water craft from Lyme Regis harbour or any other location along the seafront at Lyme Regis and to oppose the licensing, for a temporary/trial 12-month period.

FS57.23 COASTAL TRANSITION ACCELERATOR FUND

Cllr Judith Sheppard confirmed that Charmouth is receiving funding via Dorset Council. Dorset has been allocated £3m which covers both Charmouth and Swanage areas. A business case needs to be written and approved before funding can be drawn-down. The proposal includes improving resilience of the Heritage Centre to reduce damage and flooding, access ramp and cliff erosion

a) Rock fall signage/interpretation boards

The quotes for boards have been accepted by the full council but we are now waiting to hear how the funding affects this. It was agreed that the signage should be in place by next summer

b) Beach access steps

Repairs by Axminster Ironworks have been completed. There are monies in reserve for future repairs.

c) Renewal of planning permission for beach access ramp

After a short discussion the committee agreed that renewal of the permission should be reviewed early next year.

FS58.23 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a) Permissions

i) Metal detecting – currently 40 permissions in force

b) River sign complaint

Noted. A discussion took place on the position of the sign at the bridge and whether another sign should be positioned near the blue huts. It was decided to put another sign on the A board outside the beach office.

c) Fossil collecting complaint

Noted

d) Request for non-resident winter permit

It was decided that if permits are available to one group it would set a precedent and therefore was not agreed.

Proposals to F&GP

FS56.23 (d) Replace beach huts

FS56.23 (e) Increase charge to £150 plus VAT

FS56.23 (h) Donation of £200