

CHITTLEHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 9th September 2020 at 7:30 pm

Present: *Parish Cllrs:* Mr M Ives (Chairman), Mr H Hooper, Mrs M Edwards, Mrs R Rawle, Mr P Bradbury, Mrs A Davies, Mrs S Rowe, Mr T Kirby, Mr I Waldron & Mr C Timberlake

Parish Clerk: Mr A Scott

District Cllr: Mr Ray Jenkins

Apologies: *Parish Cllrs:* Mrs P Shallcross

County Cllr: Mr R Edgell

Not present: N/a

Members of the public: One member of the public was present.

Due to restrictions on public meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic this meeting was held online as a virtual meeting.

Immediately prior to the meeting, a member of the public discussed the situation regarding the play area with the councillors present.

The meeting of the parish council started at 7:46 pm.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Shallcross and County Cllr Edgell. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The draft minutes for the previous parish council meeting and planning meeting of 15th July 2020 were unanimously agreed as true records.

3. Play Area (point 4 on agenda)

This point was brought forward so that it could be discussed while the member of the public was still in attendance. CCTV has recorded parents lifting their children over the sealed gate so that their children can use the play equipment - even though the play area is clearly marked as being closed due to the equipment not being safe to use. Councillors agreed that the sooner the dangerous equipment is removed, the better. This will include the swings, the rockers and the slide on the main unit. The point was made that should new housing be built on the outskirts of the village then not only would this fund a new play area under Section 106 funding, for which the parish clerk has already registered an interest, it would also remove the issue of disabled access which is such a problem regarding the play area's current location. The amount of money available under Section 106 funding would depend upon the number of houses built under any new development but, as a result of the recently announced changes in planning regulation, this could prove to be substantially increased from the number previously anticipated. Ray Jenkins will join the Play Area Committee and Cllr Timberlake will arrange to discuss the issues with him.

4. Clerk's Update (point 3 on agenda)

The clerk reported that there has been a successful outcome regarding the dog waste bin that had been inappropriately repositioned as a result of a fence being taken down by a footpath at Umberleigh. As a result of the clerk writing to Devon Highways about this, they have been out and re-erected the fence and the dog bin.

The clerk has reported a new crop of potholes along East Street and these have been filled. He has also photographed two new potholes at the village end of East Street and will be reporting these.

The school warning lights have now been put in place but Cllr Shallcross has reported that, as of a couple of days ago, they are not actually operational as, last heard, they are waiting to be programmed.

Cllr Shallcross has reported that from 1st September 2020 UMBERLEIGH Village Hall reopened, following all Covid-19 guide lines. A few bookings are coming in but the trustees are prepared to close the hall again if there is an increase in the infection rate.

The clerk updated councillors regarding the letter that had been received seeking the support of the parish council in reducing a speed limit at Clapworthy Mill on the B3226 from 40 mph to 30 mph. The clerk has passed on the parish council's support on this to Cllr Yabsley who has asked him to pass this matter on to Cllr Edgell which the clerk will now do.

A weatherproof play area sign has been purchased and put in place at the entrance to the play area which has been sealed shut.

The clerk made councillors aware of new website accessibility regulations and how these will impact the parish council's website. He explained the options available and the considerable associated costs. He explained that given the cost vs benefit he is continuing to investigate what can be done to demonstrate compliance at a more reasonable cost.

5. Rowan Cottage

The Chair updated councillors that there is now a couple staying there and there appears to be the intention of selling it. Dist Cllr Jenkins said although he had been told that the enforcement order would be enforced by August, he has heard nothing new about this. Cllr Ives said that he had recently spoken to Collette Hall, NDC's Conservation Officer, as she happened to be in the village and he had showed her the wall and the state of the porch.

6. Approve Schedule of Payments

Councillors unanimously approved the schedule of payments below:

Payments made 16/07/20 – 09/09/20:

Zoom	Web meeting subscription	£ 14.39
HMRC	Income Tax	£ 72.00
Alvin Scott	Wages & expenses	£ 310.67
Mr LJ Southcombe	Spraying of weeds	£ 55.00
BlueOrange Signs	Play area sign	£ 20.40
Zoom	Web meeting subscription	£ 14.39
PWLB	Public works loan	£ 283.74
Mrs C Henderson-Begg	Green bin permit	£ 36.00
Mr A Scott	Wages & expenses	£ 310.67
HMRC	Income tax	£ 72.00

Upcoming payments requiring parish council approval:

N/a

Payments received:

Interest	£ 0.03
Interest	£ 0.04

7. District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Edgell gave his apologies for this meeting but, as previously stated, he remains happy to help on any matters on which he may be in a position to advise or assist. Dist Cllr Jenkins had nothing new to report – understandably in the current circumstances, the council's resources have largely been directed towards combatting the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. Items for information only

Cllr Davies mentioned her concerns regarding brambles growing out across the road and pavement from a property at the crossroads near the western edge of the village where the road turns towards Cobbaton.

Cllr Timberlake explained that the village football club has again expressed its concerns to him about dog excrement on the football pitch and that this is causing matches to be stopped and that at the most recent match the referee said that if happens again it would result in the club being banned. Cllr Timberlake has spoken to Cllr Edgell about the possibility of banning dogs from the football pitch. Cllr Ives explained that the parish council has previously looked into this and that although parish councils used to be able to ban dogs from land, from about 2 years ago this is no longer the case. However, the district or county council can issue bans. Cllr Ives said that as a parish council we cannot even insist that dogs are kept on a lead. Cllr Davies expressed her concerns on how a ban might impact the village's annual dog show. Cllr Ives reported that just that afternoon there had been an incident on the football pitch of dogs attacking another dog. He will inspect the CCTV footage of the incident. Dist Cllr Jenkins will investigate the situation regarding banning dogs or keeping them on leads.

9. Date of the next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be another virtual meeting, at 7:30 pm on 21st October 2020.

This evening's meeting ended at 8:32 pm.

These minutes are draft until they are agreed at the next meeting.