



## **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Western Area Committee**

### **Minutes of the DAPTC Western Area meeting held via Zoom, on Thursday 24 February 2022.**

**Present:** Chair – Cllr Chris Turner (Beaminster TC), Cllr John Broom (Lyme Regis TC), Cllr John Firrell (Litton Cheney PC), Wendy Smart (Bradpole PC), Julie Bryce (Loders PC), Cllr Belinda Bawden (Lyme Regis TC), Cllr Jim Basker (Bothenhampton and Walditch PC), Cllr David Langridge (Beaminster TC), Cllr Graham Moody (Burton Bradstock PC), Cllr Julia Eager (Char Valley PC),.

**In Attendance:** Sal Robinson (Secretary and Clerk to Chideock PC), Neil Wedge (DAPTC)

**565. Apologies** were received from Cllr Jacqui Sewell (Broadwindsor PC), Jane Thicknesse (Clerk to South Perrott PC), Cllr Rowland Hibbert (Broadwindsor PC), Dorset Ward Cllr Sarah Williams.

**566. Minutes.** Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 25 November 2021 were taken as read and were approved as a true record.

**567. Matters Arising from those minutes and not included on the Agenda.**

None.

**568. Climate Change Emergency.**

Cllr Julia Eager (Char Valley PC) spoken about the River Char Restoration project which has just got started with the 1<sup>st</sup> working day this coming Saturday. It is hoped that the Green Day, postponed due to COVID, will be held at some point.

Cllr Julie Bryce (Loders PC) said there was a successful hedge planting session in December. They have consulted with landowners to get their support for what is being done and find out what they are planning on doing. One of the major landowners in the area is looking at having wildflower meadows and planting lots and lots of trees. They have got about 20 trees to give to people in the village. The transport and renewables group is working on an action plan. They are working to create a plan to protect wildlife habitats in the parish. It is hoped to produce a newsletter about 3 times a year. What is being done, what steps have been taken along the way and what's next.

Cllr John Firrell (Litton Cheney) said that Dorset Council has granted planning permission of solar panels on the Grade I Listed village school roof – they asked for more than they wanted and got exactly what was required!

**569. Superfast Broadband.**

Cllr David Langridge (Beaminster TC) reported that Openreach has installed the cable for Fibre to the Premises and is now asking people to sign up to a supplier.

Sal Robinson (Chideock PC) said that Jurassic Fibre are very actively surveying in Bridport. They have confirmed that the roll out will include settlements such as Chideock but that people need to register an interest now.



## **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Western Area Committee**

### **570. Chief Executive's Report.**

- Governance Review. The accepted draft proposals have been published by Dorset Council. A twelve-week public consultation starts on 28 February. The final recommendations following the consultation will go to Dorset Council for resolution on 14th of July.

Some concerns are being raised regarding parishes which may cease to exist – e.g. what happens to the Clerk? What is the point of carrying on till May 2024?

- Local Plan. Neil is trying to get an update regarding the Local Plan progress – the virtual event which was scheduled for January was cancelled, no reason given.
- Planning. The backlog in validating planning applications has eased. Neil is trying to get Planning to hold a virtual event on what is happening.
- DAPTC is keeping a watchful eye on the government's "levelling up" agenda.
- DAPTC continues to lobby for parish councils to have the option, in certain circumstances, to meet virtually.

Sal Robinson (Chideock PC) said that councils are no longer informed of determinations, which is a significant problem. Neil said he would follow this up, along with several other issues about the planning process.

### **571. Reports from Parish and Town Council representatives.**

- **Chideock PC.**

- Governance Review – Chideock asked for 2 changes. One has been agreed, the other affects a Ward Boundary so the Boundary Commission has to be involved.
- Councillors had a useful virtual meeting with Ben Hanson, National Highways, on 24 February. This is the first meeting for 3 years.
- A member of the public, with council support, has submitted information to Dorset Council calling for a safe all-weather all-purpose path linking Chideock to Bridport.
- Bristol University is conducting a study of particulate matter pollution in Chideock. Preliminary results are being validated and stakeholders informed.

- **Char Valley PC.**

- There are 3 vacancies, and a new Chair will be needed in April. There is one person interested in becoming a councillor.
- Various working parties have been set up to reduce the Chair's workload.

- **Burton Bradstock PC.**

- The council is operating with a "revolving chair", with a councillor taking the chair for a couple of months, which is working well.
- The Parochial Church Council has asked the Parish Council to purchase additional burial space as the cemetery is running out of space. There is other land but the PCC don't want to use it. Neil asked for an email giving details and he will see if other parishes can help.



## **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Western Area Committee**

- Chris Turner raised a concern about a “revolving chair”. Neil said that though unusual it is not unheard of.
- **Loders PC**
  - The PC has a burial ground. There is also a churchyard but only certain people can be buried there.
  - Governance Review – requested that 2 houses in Shipton Gorge village but Loders Parish be moved to Shipton George Parish; again this involves a Ward Boundary.
  - They hope to discuss the Glover Report consultation soon.
  - 2 of the 3 vacancies have been filled by co-option.
- **Bradpole PC.**
  - They are investigating installing a “fitness trail”.
  - The swings at Pageants Field are end of life and being replaced.
  - Dorset Council has been asked to look into installing a footway on part of the route from Caley Way to the village shop – there is a section without one.
  - Governance Review - Bradpole PC is very disappointed that Dorset Council has agreed with Bridport’s proposal, which would mean the end of Allington, Bradpole and Bothenhampton and Walditch parish councils.
- **Beaminster TC.**
  - The local pharmacy hired rooms in the town hall so as to be able to run COVID vaccination clinics.
  - A request has gone out for volunteers to come forward for co-option to fill a casual vacancy.
  - The local church has an area for burial of ashes. The TC has a cemetery area at the old church which they maintain.
  - There seem to be a lot of small planning applications for Parnum House – there is some concern that there is no overall development plan.
- **Lyme Regis TC.**
  - RIP Sam Williams, a serving councillor with 50 years’ service. 10 electors have requested an election.
  - Daryl Turner has resigned as Ward Councillor – an election will be held. Hopefully both elections will be on the same day.
  - New traffic lights have been installed for the single lane section of road at the bottom of town.
  - The window on the Guildhall, which kept being hit by vehicles, has been cut back.
  - Face to face council meetings are back in the Guildhall.
  - Lots of trees are being planted for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.
  - The BBC Big Band is coming to Lyme on Sunday 5 June as part of a busy weekend of events for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations.



**Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Western Area Committee**

- **Litton Cheney PC.**
  - There is a lot of enthusiasm for celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, including amongst younger residents.

**572. Dates of Meetings in 2022.**

Thursday 26 May

Thursday 8 September – Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24 November..

The meeting closed at 20.25..

Signed

Date: 26 May 2022.

**Chair**