

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Footpath and Environment Committee to be held On 22nd September 2022 commencing at 7pm at Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Bolt, Crouch, Horsington, Crosbie, Brown, Prowse, Muskett, and Paul
1 member of the public

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Bolt was nominated, seconded, and duly elected as Chair of the F&E committee.

2. Apologises for absence

Cllr Karen Burghart sent apologies.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Horsington declared any matters to do with the allotments field.

4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 09th December 2021

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Crosbie confirmed that one issue in the snicket had been resolved whilst another had not.

It was also confirmed that the pothole in the snicket had been fixed.

5. Routine Maintenance Programme review and update

The Clerk stated that the RMP was set up 5 years ago as areas of the Parish were looking unkempt. It was felt that this needed a full and formal review, especially in the light of current events and recent questionable invoicing.

Listed below are decisions:

1. Frys Lane – Godmanstone

Continue as is with cuts every six weeks to a maximum of 6 per year with recommendation cuts in March-July and September.

2. Village Green – Godmanstone

To reduce cuts to every six weeks to a maximum of 6 per year with recommendation cuts in March-July and September.

3. Swale – Godmanstone

To reduce to one cut a year, between 15th September and 15th October.

4. Telephone Box – Godmanstone

To continue with 4 cutbacks a year

5. Shrub bed Back Lane – Cerne Abbas

To remove from contract

6. Beech Hedge Chescombe – Cerne Abbas

To reduce to one a year in August

7. Shrub bed Snicket – Cerne Abbas

To remove from contract

Suggest being done as and when

8. Footpath on river walk – Cerne Abbas

Suggest being done as and when

9. Weed control (various) – Cerne Abbas

To remove from contract

To contact Dorset Council in early May to request this be done with a view to requesting the road sweeper once the weed control has been completed.

6. Grass cutting contract review and update

It was agreed to review this as many additions had been made over time.

Listed below are decisions:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Goose Green | To continue with 6 cuts a year |
| 2. SID bank | To continue with 2 cuts a year |
| 3. Bus shelter bank | To continue with 1 cut a year (if needed) |
| 4. Entrance to Folly | To continue with 6 cuts a year |

Also agreed were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Empty of bin on Folly | 26 times a year |
| 2. River walks clearance | £200 a time (if needed) |
| 3. Church defib parts | £200 (if needed) |

7. Permissive path from Giants View car park through to Kettle Bridge car park

The committee agreed that this would come under their remit and agreed to place £300 in the budget for future maintenance.

8. Signage from Giants View car park

The committee agreed that this would come under their remit and agreed to place £200 in the budget for future maintenance.

9. Extension of permissive path from Giants View car park to Up Cerne

The committee agreed that this was an excellent idea.

It was noted that funding would be discussed at Full Council but agreed in principle to a 50/50 split of costs for the installation of the fencing.

10. Location of 4th finger post to village centre

Cllr Crouch led the debate by stating then resolution had already been passed by Full Council to install the 4th post – the agenda item was the location.

The Clerk mentioned the concerns of the Abbey Street residents and the petition that was signed by them.

It was suggested that the junction of Andrews Lane and Abbey Street was not a suitable location and neither opposite Andrews Lane, as Dorset Council would not give permission.

A recommendation was put forward that the finger post should be located some 4 meters back from the junction, thus providing the direction for those following the signs from the car park, but not in no direct line of sight from Abbey Street.

The member of the public raised concerns as to the utilities around that area.

It was confirmed that all relevant checks would be conducted before any works would start – if the works were approved at Full Council.

The location as stated above was unanimously supported.

The debate moved onto the wording on the fingers, as concerns had been raised by residents and the petition.

It was suggested that both the direction fingers should have Village Centre and Public Toilets on them, as those following the signs from the car park may be confused if either one was not shown.

This was unanimously agreed.

Resolution:

It would be recommended to Full Council from the F&E committee, that the forth finger post be located on the grass verge, some 4 meters down Andrews Lane with two fingers pointed right with one saying Village Centre and the other Public Toilets.

It was also felt that the completed finger post route would provide a safe walking passage to the village and thus indirectly supporting the businesses.

11. Refurbishment of bus shelter update

Cllr Prowse has happy to state that work on the roof had begun today, whilst the window and other work would be complete at a date in the future.

12. The gate at the end of the snicket on Back Lane

Cllr Crosbie had reported the gate as broken to Dorset Council. No action had yet been taken.

It was requested if this gate could be removed as it served little or no purpose.

Members agreed to this, subject to Dorset Council not fixing the gate and that the community were informed, via the Parish Magazine, prior to the works being started.

13. New noticeboard for 'not the bus shelter'

Cllr Prowse briefed that the current noticeboard what in a poor state of repair.

It was requested that authority be given to source a new one.

14. Current Finances

The Clerk raised concerns that the budget was overspent in proportion to the period of the financial year. However, it noted that the vast majority of the grass cutting had been completed and also various miscellaneous expenditure had occurred.

Income	£3000.00	
Expenditure	£2070.71	70%
The reserves stood at	£ 1073.08	

15. Other village matters

Cllr Muskett update members on the village gateways.

Disappointingly, Dorset Council had rejected options made of wood or metal as this was deemed as a potential serious crash hazard.

The only viable option at the present time seemed to be the recycled plastic option.

Members were very content for Cllr Muskett to continue to look into this project.

Cllr Horsington agreed to flay the hedge at Chescombe.

Cllr Crosbie asked members to keep an eye on the bridge at Back Lane.

Cllr Paul confirms that Dorset Council had no issues with the bridleway by the caravan park.

Cllr Brown was still awaiting the telephone box in Godmanstone to be painted but confirmed that the speed wires were now in place.

16. To decide any works for completion not already discussed

No other matters came to mind.

17. Recommendation to Governance committee for Precept request

Taking into account all of the above – it was recommended that a sum of £2700.00 be requested to be budgeted for F&E matters for the financial year 2023/24.

18. Items for the next meeting

Flood warden reports

ROWLO's reports

19. Next meeting

The next meeting was set for 23rd March 2023, starting at 1900 hours.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2031 hours.

Cllr Jacqui Bolt _____

Chair of Footpaths and Environment Committee