

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Footpaths and Environment Committee
held at 7pm on 26th October 2023 in the Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Bolt (JB), Horsington (FH), Muskett (GM), Marshall (KM), Crosbie (CC), and Brown (HB).
1 member of the public

1. Election of Chair

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

2. Apologises for absence

Cllr's Prowse, Paul, and Burghart sent apologies.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

FH declared any matters as to regards the allotment field.

4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 22nd September 2022

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

Parish Council Assets

5. The Bus Shelter

Members agreed that the improvements were excellent.

It was also agreed that a window should not be inserted. This was primarily due to the issues of anti-social behaviour within the bus shelter.

To that end, several Councillors had cleaned the area, but stains were still visible.

It was agreed that if the original paint could be sourced then GM and KM would paint over wall and floors.

6. Not the Bus Stop

The committee were pleased with the new noticeboard and were content that the mini recycling centre was being used well.

CC asked about the plinth in the corner of NTBS. It was confirmed that approval was given at a Full Council meeting some time back.

7. Up Cerne Bus Shelter

JB confirmed that the bus shelter looked tired but was in no need of any action at this point.

8. Speed Indicating Device

HB raised concerns that Godmanstone was still on the rota.

The Clerk would confirm this with the SID coordinator.

9. Finger Posts

a. The Turning Point – Godmanstone

HB confirmed that last time she was there all was fine.

b. Long Street – Cerne Abbas

GM mentioned that a Car Park sign had been placed on the finger post.
There were no issues.

c. Four Finger Posts – Cerne Abbas

All finger posts were in good condition.

10. Grit Bins

JB had looked at most grit bins and was content they were full.

All members were encouraged to check the levels if they were walking past.

A brief discussion was had on additional salt bins, but this was agreed was a discussion for another meeting.

11. Noticeboards

a. Godmanstone x 2

HB stated that the new glass for the Frys Lane noticeboard has yet to be installed.

The Clerk would request a contractor to assist.

HB confirmed the Church Lane noticeboard had no issues.

b. Not the bus stop

There were no issues at this time.

12. Benches

There were no issues with any benches.

13. Telephone Box - Godmanstone

HB confirmed that it had been painted, and there were no problems.

14. Defibrillators

It had been requested that 2 new pads be brought for the defibrillator at the church.

This was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would purchase these.

15. Bin on The Folly

Members all agreed to continue with the Dorset Waste Partnership contract.

A brief discussion ensued as to other bins, but it was decided to discuss another time.

Grass Cutting and Hedges

16. Permissive Path

JB confirmed that funding was now with the Car Park committee.

However, it had requested that a sign be installed at the A352 / Casterbridge end to assist walkers to use this path rather than the road. This was agreed.

The Clerk would procure the sign.

17. Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk reiterated that the Council had moved from a formal cut contract to a more 'as and when' regime. It was the responsibility of all to let the Clerk know if they felt an area needed any work.

Members agreed to continue with this practice.

18. Chescombe Beech Hedge

JB confirmed that the owners of the hedge had gone out of business.

To that end, Dorset Council had cut back the pavement side of the hedge (for H&S reasons), but took no formal ownership.

CC requested that hedge be topped as it looked particularly uneven.
All agreed to this request.
The Clerk would speak to the contractor.

Other Village(s) Matters

19. New Noticeboard for Goose Green

It had been suggested that a second noticeboard be placed at Goose Green. The aim being to continue to raise the profile of the Parish Council.

This was met with little enthusiasm, due to location and cost.

It was suggested that this was looked at again at the next meeting, after a review of the effectiveness of the noticeboard at NTBS and the raising of the profile poster.

20. Wilding on Village Green in Godmanstone

Members were very content to allow some wildflowers on this patch.

£ 30 was set aside for the purchase of seeds.

21. Flood issues within the Parish

Reports had been received from both the Cerne Abbas and Godmanstone representatives.

HB briefed on the January flood issues in Godmanstone.

A discussion was had on run off from Giants Close and the formation of a 'lake' after heavy rain on the area known as Francombe Farm.

22. Rights of Way issues within the Parish

CC remained concerned as to the area locally known as the snicket. Despite numerous reports to Dorset Council, this Right of Way is now close to being impassable.

The Clerk would chase this up.

KM stated that he would fix the broken post by Tithe Barn.

23. Purchase of equipment to assist with dog mess

It was suggested that the committee buy some scopes, to enable those who need helping to bend down to pick up.

Concerns were raised on theft and cleanliness of the products.

Members agreed that, if required, a bag dispenser and disposable poop bags could be brought.

JB thanked CC and Karen Burghart for all the great work in litter picking and dog mess clearance since the last meeting.

Finances

25. Current income and expenditure

The Clerk provided an overview of the annual budget.

Income from Precept	£ 2700.00
Expenditure	£ 1291.75
Reserve	£ 879.05

The current underspend was predominantly due to the change in grass cutting. The cost also included the purchase and installation of the new noticeboard at NTBS.

26. Recommendation to Governance committee for Precept request

Due to this large underspend, and no new projects coming forward, the Clerk suggested a budget for the financial year 24/25 of £2K.

HB expressed concerns that this was not enough, in that any unforeseen circumstances had not been accounted for. The Clerk explained that this was for the annual budget of known costs, the reserve could cover the afore mentioned expenditure.

FH agreed, saying that budget forecasting was a stab in the dark and proposed the £2K suggestion. This was agreed by all.

Other matters

27. Items for the next meeting

All were happy on the new lay out of the agenda.

28. Next meeting

It had been muted that the last Thursday of a month was not the best time for a meeting.

The Clerk was going to produce a diary of dated for the first half of 2024, so would take this into consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2105 hours.

Cllr Bolt

Chair

Date
