

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council held on 14th March 2024 at Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Councillors present:

F. Horsington, S. Beresford, G. Muskett, K. Burghart, G. Bishop, L. Prowse, H. Brown, M. Keating, C. Crosbie, J. Bolt, C. Paul, and K. Marshall.

8 members of the public
Cllr Jill Haynes (Dorset Council)

Full Council

1. Apologies for absence

All members were present.

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Horsington declared any matters relating to the allotments field.

Cllr Prowse declared an interest in item 9f. Dispensation to speak (but not vote) was granted.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 08th February 2024

These were approved with one minor amendment.

4. Parish Council matters arising

All matters arising were on the agenda.

5. Update from the Chair

Cllr Horsington had spoken to Richard Peck at Up Cerne Farm regarding issue of sewage leaking from the farm.

It was confirmed that the Environment Agency had visited and inspected and found no pollution in the watercourse.

It was noted that the pile belonged to Wessex Water until it was spread.

Mr Peck had offered to come to a Council meeting to explain more.

Members agreed to keep an eye on the situation.

6. Public Discussion Period

A gratitude of thanks was given to the person who laid slabs down and fixed the gates in various areas of the community.

Concern was expressed as to the condition of the riverside walk as it was covered by mud and consideration should be given to gravelling the area.

It was then stated that the responsibility laid with the riparian, who had on numerous occasions been contacted to clear to site, with no response.

However, it was confirmed that the Parish Council had cleared this route – at public expense. It was asked if Andrew's Lane could be cleared. It was agreed that this was a public right of way and should be reported to Dorset Council.

An enquiry was made as to the rumours of the public toilets being closed. It was stated that no formal notice had been received by the Parish Council. It was also mentioned that recent complaints about the cleaning of the toilets have been addressed.

7. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

Cllr Haynes spoke on the following matters:

Double Council Tax for homes that are empty for over a year – 01 April 2024

Double Council Tax for second homes – 01 April 2025

Local Plan to go to the Inspector in 2026, to be in place for 2027

An increase in Gypsy and Travellers sites

Concerns had been discussed as to the lack of electricity supply in Dorset, with a review not due until 2038.

Cllr Haynes was asked the questions as where the additional 200 staff for Dorset Council were employed.

It was confirmed that revenues and benefits from the Stour Valley Partnership had come in house, there were additional crews for waste management and more personal were needed for planning and searches.

She was also asked about Alderman, which were persons in judiciary not council.

It was agreed that this could be perceived as an outdated concept.

8. Financial update

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **20** payments (**PV's 113-132**) totalling £ **11627.75** that were approved and authorised for payment.

9. To receive committee reports and to agree action(s) in response to proposals and repairs

a. Allotments

Cllr Keating confirmed that the tyre on the community wheelbarrow had been fixed and numerous plot markers had been replaced.

b. Burial Ground

Cllr Beresford mentioned that the recent plastering on one of the walls was coming off.

The Clerk confirmed the tree works were awaiting planning permission whilst the tomb would be rebuilt when there was warmer weather, likely to be April.

c. Car Park

Cllr Prowse updated members on the following matters:

The EA were to conduct further repairs to the dam and had requested a small compound.

A fee of £25 per week had been suggested.

The license for EV charging point had been signed. A proposed date of April had been set.

The inspection report for the picnic area had identified a couple of minor issues that were being addressed.

Close to the wildlife area, some barbed wire had been identified. A contractor would remove this and secure the area.

In the wildlife area it was noted that the bench had sunk. This would be reinstated.

Numerous shrubs and plants had been planted, although the area was still very wet.

Some minor tree works had been requested on overhanging branches.

d. Children's Play Park

Cllr Crosbie confirmed that the external inspection had taken place with a few minor issues.

The screws and bolts in one of the swings were coming loose. A contractor would repair.

Part of the jungle mulch was coming away at the edges. Dorset Council had been requested to quote for this work.

It was agreed to move the bin. Dorset Waste Partnership had been asked to do this job but there was nobody at present qualified to install or move bins.

A contractor was periodically clearing the bottom of the roundabout of water.

The committee met with the Head teacher and head of governors for an update on the fencing of the field.

It was confirmed that from the access gate, past Alice's bridge, along the river walk and halfway down past Riverside Close would be fenced in with low level wooden fence so that it remained in keeping with the area.

However, to ensure the safety of the smaller children the MUGA area would become fully enclosed with access points by the playing field and corner opposite the school.

It was confirmed that it would be open to public out of school hours.

e. Footpaths and Environment

It was confirmed that the white posts on Duck Street had been installed, and the path on the riverside walk had been cleared of mud.

Cllr Prowse had attended a Tree Warden course.

Cllr Bishop updated members on Abbey Street issues which included a plank blocking the output channel by the pond, thus causing flooding, whilst gravel had been noted in the channels.

Dorset Council confirmed that both the plank and gravel should be removed and would attend the site soon.

The Environment Agency would also visit the site.

f. Planning

i. P/PAAF/2024/00817

Barn At Cerne Park Farm Sydling Road Cerne Abbas

Change of use of agricultural barn to a flexible use (C1 Hotel)

The Parish Council took representation from members of the public, who were near neighbours.

The discussion revolved around the matter that the change of use to C1 Hotel was totally inappropriate for the location which including that of vehicle and pedestrian safety.

It was also noted the lack of mains utilities.

The Parish Council agreed that not enough information had been provided.

Policy 5 of the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan does encourage the conversion of old farm buildings for economic growth but in this case, the Parish Council **OBJECTED** due to lack of clarity about the change of use.

10. Burial Ground Extension matters

Cllr Bishop updated members on this matter. It was confirmed that the purchase was close to completion with just a few areas of concern remaining.

It had been agreed who was responsible for each of the boundaries.

It was confirmed that the current landowner did not need any access.

The current landowner was happy to provide access to site via Simsay Field.

There was no evidence of any contamination on the site.

It was recommended that Chancey insurance be taken out up to the amount of the purchase price.

This would cost £54.

It was recommended that search insurance be taken out as it was likely that searches could be out of date by completion.

This would cost £36.

Questions were asked as to regards the application for a Countryside Right of Way (CROW).

It was agreed that when this comes forward, if approved a path would be made through the extension.

The legal costs were not yet known.

The Chair confirmed that an extraordinary meeting would be held on Wednesday 27th March, with the view to completion of the purchase.

However, it was already to authorise depensation for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Proper Officer to sign off (out of council), if the deeds were not ready by 27th March 24, and all members had sufficient time to view the deeds and ask any questions.

11. Initial discussion on 2nd Village Gateway

Cllr Muskett spoke on the very positive feedback on the first gateway which had been installed by Casterbridge Manor.

He wished to continue the gateway project by either purchasing a second gateway at Casterbridge Manor (thus producing a tunnelling effect to slow traffic) or a gateway at Barton Farm, thus indicating to traffic that a village was approaching.

It was noted that traffic calming in the form of traffic lights would be needed as this gateway would not be in the 30mph zone meaning additional costs.

Councillors debated the merits of both options and agreed on a majority vote to put the new gateway at the Barton Farm side of village. A request has been sent to Dorset highways signage for confirmation of costings for the new Village Gateway.

Costings were put aside as follows: (see agenda item 12 below).

F&E reserve	£ 1758.08
CIL	£ 238.90
General	If required

12. Provisional end of year accounts

Members agreed to the following.

132 payments totalling	£ 45385.44
48 receipts totalling	£ 38597.36
Precept spends	95.93%
General reserve	£ 11332.05 (£10850.00) plus a VAT rebate of £580.03
Bank balances	£ 37362.75

That the F&E underspend be transferred to the F&E reserves

That the Burial Ground underspend be transferred to the Burial Ground

That the income over expenditure in the Burial Ground cost centre be transferred to the BG reserve

All other cost centre budgets were off set against the General Reserve.

13. Items for the next meeting

The Springs on Acreman Street were mentioned but all agreed that could be discussed at F&E.

14. Date(s) of next meeting

Full Council /AGM / Village Meeting

Cerne Abbas Village Hall **16th May 2024**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2058 hours.

Cllr Fred Horsington _____ **Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council**