

CHERITON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of this council which took place on 16.04.2024

At the Committee Room, Cheriton Fitzpaine Parish Hall

Clerk: Denise Kingdon. 6 Wordlandcross, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Crediton, Devon. EX17 4JR

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Public Participation: Claire Cavill – Question concerning the closure of the allotments, the chair read out a statement as below.

Unfortunately, due to the health and safety risks to the tenants of the Lagg hill allotments the Council, with guidance from their insurance provider, had to make a decision to close the allotments. This was due to the uneven ground and slippery surface within the entrance to the allotments. This decision was not taken lightly and was a last resort after the council had put into place other mitigating measures by installing a temporary handrail to steady tenants if they were to slip on the surface and asking all tenants to wear the appropriate footwear when using the allotments. With the increasingly wet weather we have experienced in the last couple of months this had degraded the surface and with increased foot fall due to the growing season coming in there was no other choice but to close it for a short period until the weather improved in order to allow the Parish Council to either complete temporary mitigation measures or to have the entrance completely resurfaced.

The Council fully understands the position that the tenants were put in as the growing season was fast approaching and tenants would want to go up to the allotments in order to plant and tend to their plots but we were able to put in temporary measures over the weekend in order to aid tenants to go into the allotments, reducing the risk of any slips, trips or falls when doing so. Thankfully the weather dried up which meant the allotment was only closed for 12 days but the situation will be kept under review and checked if there is any more significant rainfall within the next coming weeks with the hope that works will be continued in May, weather permitting, this will include the regrading of the slope further and a stone surface to provide a more long-term solution. The money for this is being taken from separate funding streams for maintenance within public open spaces within the parish and although the allotments isn't a public space it is one of the areas in which the Parish Council are able to apply for these funding streams. This money has to be applied for and requires Councillors to give up their time in order to complete this alongside the Clerk. This does however mean that there will be a short closure in affect but we will inform tenants of when these will take place but please bear with us during this time as our priority is the safety of the tenants who use the allotments.

The Council will also review rent refunds once the extent of the closure is fully understood and this will be done during a full Parish Council meeting. At the moment the Council will not consider compensation for loss as a result of the closure as the allotments are good value for the annual rents that are charged on them ranging between £16 and £65 depending on the size of the allotment. However, this will be kept under review for the next coming month. Also, although the allotment rents have recently increased this money is being used for the maintenance of the area including the removal of dangerous trees, cutting and laying hedges and grass cutting within the area and not for the maintenance of the entrance. Any other maintenance for our public open spaces is done using public money from our yearly precept which is from council taxes within the Parish.

The tenants will be kept updated with any information through correspondences with the Clerk but can we please reiterate that all vehicles are prohibited from the allotments and to continue wearing appropriate footwear when accessing and using the allotments during this time.

Formal Business:

1. Present.

Cllr H Kingdon (Chair) Cllr Dean, Cllr Dibley, Cllr Frost, Cllr Yeandle, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Metcalf, Cllr Cooke, DCllr Colthorpe.

2. Apologies. Cllr Sheldrick, CCllr Squires

3. Minutes.

It was agreed the Minutes for the March meeting be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest.

4.1 Cllr Dean registered an interest in public participation

4.2 Cllr Dean registered an interest in 8.

5. Roads and Footpaths.

5.1 Working Group Report

5.1.1 White lines have been put in at Coffin Tree Cross

5.1.2 Pot holes on the main road – Clerk to send email to Devon County requesting a safety officer to visit.

6. Playing Fields.

6.1 Working Group Report

6.1.1 New seat required for the seesaw.

7. Burial Ground.

7.1 Working Group Report – Bins have been emptied.

8. Allotments.

8.1 Working Group Report – Remedial works have been carried out on the entrance to the allotments, allotments are now open.

9. District Councillor/County Councillor Report

9.1 District Report – Cooperate membership team has five members; The cabinet approved the proposed tariff changes from the Car Parking Consultation Working Group and been recommended for approval by Economy PDG for ratification.

The Cabinet approved five free Saturday's parking at the Multi Storey car park, Tiverton, St Saviours, Crediton and Station Road Cullompton in the lead up to Christmas.

9.2 County Councillor Report - None

10. Finance.

10.1 The Current Account at Lloyds bank statement dated 01.04.2024 was presented showing a credit of £11574.18.

10.2 Accounts to settle.

10.2.1 Mike Smith Ground Care - £540.00

10.2.2 Parish Hall – March Hall Hire - £22.00.

10.2.3 DALC Membership - £386.67

10.2.4 R Swain – 8 weeks rubbish collection - £56.00

10.2.5 D Kingdon – (Clerks Wages £561.66, Office charge £10.00) - £571.66.

It was agreed that 10.2.1, 10.2.3, 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 are to be paid by BACS/Cheque. 10.2.2 has been deferred to the next meeting.

11. Planning.

11.1 New Applications –

11.1.1 Ref No 24/00386

Listed Building Consent to rethatch roof with wheat reed

The Old Thatched School Cheriton Fitzpaine Crediton Devon EX17 4JG

Parish: Cheriton Fitzpaine 12 – No Objections

11.2 Determined Applications

11.2.1 24/00170/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the installation of secondary glazing to all windows

Location: Honeysuckle Cottage Cheriton Fitzpaine Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 286629 / 106284

Parish: Cheriton Fitzpaine 12 - Noted

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL HEREBY GRANTS LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENT

12. Correspondence.

12.1 Annual Parish Meeting.

13. Chairman's Reports.

Matters of immediate concern or for inclusion in the May agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date of the next Meeting

21.05.2024.