

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council held on 14th November 2024 at Godmanstone Village Hall

Councillors present:

F. Horsington, J. Bolt, L. Prowse, C. Crosbie, K. Burghart, W. Coward, and K. Marshall.

3 members of the public

FULL COUNCIL

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr's Beresford and Paul sent apologies, along with Cllr Haynes (Dorset Council).

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

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

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2024

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

4. Parish Council matters arising

There were no matter arising that were not on the agenda.

5. Update from the Chair

The Chair confirmed that a section of fence had been deliberately removed from the border of the Burial Ground extension.

Members agreed that this needed to be replaced, a strongly worded letter placed in the Parish magazine, and CCTV installed.

It was stipulated that these vandals would be prosecuted when caught.

6. Public Discussion Period

Members of the public complained that the new noticeboard on Goose Green in Cerne Abbas was not needed and inappropriate for the area. It was felt that due transparency had not been undertaken by the Parish Council.

Councillors explained that this project under been under consideration for over 18 months via the F&E committee, a full procurement had taken place, and it was felt that this was the best location for the noticeboard and was needed.

It was agreed to review this at the March F&E meeting.

Members of the public were asked to submit the locations that the Parish Council owned that they perceived were more of an appropriate location.

It was asked if the central line through Godmanstone having been removed was perceived as better.

The answer was yes in some parts and no in others. It would continue to be monitored.

It was also noted that the Godmanstone road sign had been hit.

7. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

A report had been sent and distributed.

Cllr Haynes was still pressing for the grill at Springfield to be installed and would be minded supporting a 20 is plenty along Duck Street if the Parish Council made resolution that way. There were no further questions for the Ward Councillor.

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

a. Allotments

It was confirmed the communal cut back had been completed.

There were 6 empty plots.

Hardy Tree Surgeons had donated loads of wood chippings.

The new shed door was being reviewed due to cost.

Allotment membrane had been purchased to cover empty plots.

Sustainability group approached to donate cupboard for digging into plots.

b. Burial Ground

No matters of concern in the Burial Ground.

c. Car Park

The EA had completed their work, and an invoice sent for Exclusive use of car park spaces.

The EV charging point had been installed but were awaiting a meter to go live.

No further break in at the Honesty Box.

The trial of the trail cam showed no issues.

Concerns that external events at the Village Hall completely fills the Car Park.

d. Children's Play Park

The roundabout had been drained and greased.

The waste bin still had not been moved.

The jungle mulch had been lain.

The growth on the riverside had been cut back.

e. Footpaths and Environment

The beech hedge had been cut back and looks fantastic.

A gratitude of thanks to Andrew Popkin and the team of volunteers for clearing the gulley and vegetation around the Long Street / Piddle lane junction.

A complaint had been received about the cutting of hazel bushes down the allotments track.

When reviewed there was very minor damage. This was relayed back to the originator.

It was confirmed that 6 posts were available to replace the damaged posts on Duck Street.

Members agreed to support the school in their request for a 20-mph limit on Duck Street.

f. Burial Ground Extension (change of use)

It was confirmed that Hugh Willmott will send an archaeological report to Brian Twigg planning.

Once received, the change of use application will be submitted to Dorset Council planning.

g. Planning

P/VOC/2024/06336

Francombe Barn Francombe Farm 11 Acreman Street Cerne Abbas DT2 7JX

Conversion of barn to create 1no. dwelling, garage & store (with variation of condition 2 to amend approved plans)

The Parish Council had no comments on this application.

9. Financial update

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **26** payments (PV's 55-80), totalling **£ 18732.79** that were approved and authorised for payment.

b. Q2 budget report

The budget spend as at end of Q2 was **45.11%**.

The RFO had no concerns on any budget lines at this point.

10. Village Gateway at Barton Farm

Members had received a quote from Dorset Council. This included extensive costs as traffic calming measures would have to be included at the gateway would be being installed in a 60mph zone.

In addition, the current village sign would have to be removed.

With all this mind, Councillors agreed that the Village Gateway would be no more than aesthetics and unanimously agreed that this project would no longer go ahead due to cost.

It was noted that this could reviewed if any CIL monies were received in the future.

11. Grant request from Cerne Abbas school

The school requested £800 to assist in laying a metal path along the front of the MUGA and play park. This was unanimously agreed.

12. Town of Culture 2026 Open for Applications

Nobody came forward to volunteer to lead this project.

13. Flood wardens report

The Cerne Abbas flood wardens report had been received and distributed.

There were no questions.

The Godmanstone flood warden stated that a lot of the issues in the village started up stream, and so requested that when discussions are made in Cerne Abbas, that the knock-on effect is considered in Godmanstone.

It was also noted that flood warnings had increased considerably over the last few years.

14. Honorarium payments

The following were nominated for £50 awards in the form of a hamper from the Cerne Abbas store.

Moir Pinder, Wendy Charman, Andrew Popkin, Clare Crosbie, Janine Ryan.

Thank you to you all.

15. New domain and email addresses via Hugo Fox

The new domain which is free from Hugo Fox has been approved.

The email addresses would cost £12.99 per month.

This was all approved by Council.

16. Lloyds Bank charges from 01st January 2025

Parish Council's how now been deemed at Business account and thus will occur a monthly £4.25 fee.

This was agreed by Council.

17. Capital project for 25/26

There were no projects to discuss at this time.

18. Initial 25/26 budget setting discussion

Although no capital projects were on the schedule, the day to day running costs were increasing considerably. To that end an initial Precept of **£ 24500.00** up from **£ 22300.00** was put forward for further discussion at Governance in December.

There were no questions at this time.

19. Items for the next meeting

Setting the Precept

20. Date(s) of next meeting

Governance

Cerne Abbas Village Hall

12th December 24

Full Council

Cerne Abbas Village Hall

09th January 25

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2110 hours.

Cllr Fred Horsington _____

Chair of Cerne Valley Parish Council

Date _____