

# Charmouth Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE FORESHORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7:30PM ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2024

In attendance: Cllrs, Judith Sheppard, Katie Moore, Jane Bremner, Melanie Harvey, Julie Leah, Peter Noel and the Administrator, Katherine Besant

### **FS45.24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS**

Jane Morrow a parishioner spoke to the committee about her concerns at The Foreshore and her suggestions. These included the cleaning and washing facilities in the toilets, the number of benches on West Cliff, refurbishment of the picnic tables, better signage for the gents, more beach huts available to locals, changing the colour of the pink beach huts and path matting on the overflow car park for disabled and families with pushchairs

### **FS46.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Sally Roberts - work

### **FS47.24 DISPENSATIONS**

There were no dispensations.

### **FS48.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### **FS49.24 MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Foreshore Committee held on the 3 September 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed.**

### **FS50.24 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **FS51.24 PROGRESS REPORTS**

#### a) Buoy

The Full Council agreed to proceed with the replacement of the missing weights together with the bigger rope and chain up to £2000. The positioning of the buoys will also be looked at to see if they can be brought further into the shore where they may be less vulnerable. There was a discussion on the future maintenance costs and the yearly installation at £1500. It was agreed to proceed for 2 years and review

#### b) Lookout refurbishment

The works have been completed. An email was received from Colin Horlock, Deputy Station Manager at the NCI thanking the Council.

c) Blue beach huts

There were 20 enquiries, and all six blue beach huts have been sold and one kept back for Cllr Julie Leah to use for a recycling store

**FS52.24 HAZARD & INCIDENT REPORT**

a) Car in the river

A car reported in the river from the neighbouring private car park. All occupants were safe.

**FS53.24 ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP ITEMS**

a) Charmouth in Bloom

Cllr Jane Bremner confirmed that Charmouth has achieved a Silver Gilt award in the Mary Mortimer Trophy category overall and the two "It's Your Neighbourhood" entries (St Andrew's House/Drive and Charmouth Community Library) both achieved "5 - excellent".

b) Information plaque for the anthill area

The approximate cost for the plaque is £4000. Cllr Julie Leah will do the wording and Sally King Dorset National Landscape Visitor, Tourism and Access Manager at Dorset Council will get a quote. The cairn made from hardwood posts and frame will be built in house. *An update since the meeting – there were concerns about the cost*

c) Meadow on West Green

Cllr Julie Leah contacted the NT about their meadow at Burton Bradstock and suggested possible areas for a meadow either at the top or side on West Cliff, or behind the benches and green huts. It was agreed that she would meet the maintenance team and have a walk round to look at the areas and check with Natural England if we are able to plant meadows on an SSSI site.

**FS54.24 DISCUSSION ITEMS / TO BE NOTED**

a) VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The administrator contacted the Lyme Regis Royal British Legion who will discuss at their next meeting if they have any plans. Cllr Judith Sheppard is keen for the Parish Council to get involved and asked if anyone would be willing to set up a working group. Cllrs Peter Noel and Melanie Harvey confirmed they would help. Possible suggestions for a beacon on Evans Cliff and a bugle, to be discussed further.

b) Foreshore Toilets

(i) Gents washing facilities – ongoing correspondence concerning the washing facilities in the gents. *An update since the last meeting - the Wallgate machine has now been repaired*

(ii) Cleaning – ongoing correspondence between the Facilities Manager and Cleaning contractor about the cleaning of the toilets

c) CCTV at The Foreshore

A tenant at the Foreshore is anxious about shoplifting and asked if CCTV could be installed outside. Cllr Judith Sheppard has asked other tenants who don't have a huge problem. Looking outside a camera would only show a small part of the car park. She has also looked into the guidance which is complicated and too costly. It was discussed with Cllr Belinda Bawden and village shops and was decided that CCTV was not proportional to problem. It was agreed to not pursue.

d) Boats

The committee agreed that boats are part of the Foreshore and here to stay. It was confirmed that boats can be parked on the beach in the summer months and moved to the boat park in the winter months. The administrator had contacted people on the waiting list and there is still interest. A quote had been received to clear the beach for a launching area at £200 per clearing. A discussion was had on how many times the area would need to be cleared and if it was possible on an ad hoc basis, would the contractor be flexible? Cllr Peter Noel voiced his concerns at the cost of clearing the launching area compared to the number of boats. The committee proposed a figure of £5000 to be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting for the 2025/2026 budgets. To be discussed further. There was also a

discussion on licence fees which will not be increased until the problems with parking and launching are resolved. The administrator will contact the current boat owners in the spring to remind them that they must remove boats that are not used. If the plan for launch clearing goes ahead a sign will be needed.

e) Budgets 2025-26 – specific items for inclusion

Budgets were discussed and recommendations will be forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes committee.

Wi-Fi – it was confirmed that the car park machine runs on mobile data via a sim card not Wi-Fi. Cllr Melanie Harvey suggested that if visitors want Wi-Fi, they can use the one at the Charmouth Heritage Coastal Centre for a small donation.

It was suggested to look into recycled seats and tabletops to replace the wooden ones on the concrete picnic tables

A platform for blue beach huts beside the river for the winter season, the committee agreed it was a good idea but would restrict boats and will be reconsidered next year.

It was agreed to not proceed with a canopy over the car park machine

The Foreshore charges were agreed as set out

The following items are proposed to be undertaken this financial year from Reserves FSH1:

Tractor Top link £297.13

Wooden walkway repairs £581.28

New dog bin before the bridge to Evans Green £270

Better lighting and extractor fan in the Beach Attendants back office – awaiting quote

Terrace nesting boxes for sparrows x 2 £80

f) Sparrows at The Foreshore

The administrator contacted the RSPB who suggested more nesting boxes and should be positioned north/east to reduce exposure to the nest within. It was agreed to purchase two terrace nesting boxes. It was suggested to ask Paul Grinter (Fire Service) if he would move the current nesting boxes and install new ones for a donation.

g) Blue beach hut recycling store

Cllr Julie Leah had suggestions for the new blue beach hut store, how it can be used and an idea for decorating the hut with recycled materials by the local schools or degree students. This was agreed by the committee.

**FS55.24 COASTAL TRANSITION ACCELERATOR FUND**

a) Grant correspondence

Emails between Dan Williams at Dorset Council and Cllr Julie Leah with an update on the CTAP project and how the Lower Char Community Project can link in with the project with a focus on wildlife. Dorset Council are waiting on the Outline Business Case to be approved.

**FS56.24 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

a) Permissions

(i) Metal Detecting – 2 new permissions, total is now 52

b. Blue beach hut tenant

An email received from a parishioner who rented a blue beach hut over the summer thanking the Council for organising this facility for local families.

c. Commercial recycling

An email received from Dorset Council Commercial Waste Team advising of recent changes and improvements to simplify recycling, and a list of more items that can be accepted in the commercial bins.

d. Foreshore toilets

An email for information from a recent visitor to The Foreshore about the uncleanliness of the toilets. The clerk asked them to report the issue directly to Dorset Council via their online fault reporting portal.

e. Permission from NCI

The clerk authorised a request from the NCI to have a table outside showing what they do during the Heritage Centre 40th Anniversary celebrations.

**FS57.24 POLICIES**

a) Mammal Policy review

Reviewed and agreed

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

**Proposals to F & GP**

**FS54.24e** items to be undertaken from 2024/2025 Reserves FSH1

Signed .....

Date .....

DRAFT