

# CHRISTOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 AT 6.00 PM

## Minutes of the Meeting

### 1. Welcome and Apologies received.

Apologies received from Cllrs Archer and Newton,

### 2. To confirm the notes from 2021 Annual Parish Meeting on Zoom

Cllr J Orme proposed they were a true record of that meeting. All agreed.

### 3. Open forum for the school children of Christow Primary School

The teacher and 2 pupils were present to seek answers from the letter they sent to the council. There main areas of concern were

- a. streetlights that did not go off until 12 mid night and they are worried about the effects that would have on the wildlife.
- b. Not enough Dog waste bins around the village
- c. Concerns over speeding traffic through the village

Cllr Fidock thanked the children for attending and noted their concerns, the clerk explained the costs of dog bins and emptying of them. She also noted that litter bins can also take dog waste. A MOP asked if the litter bins were signed up to says this and it is believed they are. Cllr Fidock reminded the meeting of the community litter picked organised for tomorrow morning, meeting at the doctors surgery at 9.30 am. The teacher asked if the school could help with litter picks and Cllr Fidock suggested the play park and skate park always require tidying up.

### 4. Mobile Phone and Internet Coverage in Christow – Open discussion

Cllr Read introduced this discussion by explaining the current issues with coverage and reception in the village and surrounding areas. He has been gathering information and will publish this on Facebook including any useful links

MP Mel Stride encourages people to write to him to tell him about the problems they are experiencing with lack of good service and coverage with mobile phones and internet. Open reach has no timetable to provide fast broadband for Christow and the mast at Bennah was passed by Planning but not followed up.

Vodafone had been invited to this evening meeting but sent there apologies for not attending and suggested that the home office won't allow a phone mast in the area!

All copper cabling will be discontinued, and Open Reach will not replace it because eventually there will be fibre here but who knows when. There are other ways to receive better broad band through line-of-sight methods but if trees are in the way that will not work and Satellite service has a delay.

New funding Building Data UK can provide the funding for broadband if enough interest can be demonstrated and Cllr Read will create a petition online, and he urges people to sign up. Cllr Read asked if there were any questions.

- A member of the public who lives near the lakes said that they have no possibility of getting Fibre BB and she was quoted £50,000 to be collected, she is worried that once cooper line is discontinued, they will have no connection at all.
- Cllr Read noted that other Deon Parishes had been in contact with him as he advertised this meeting in the DALC newsletter. Christow is not the only parish with this problem and the only way to get any service is to put on pressure to the Government and residents writing letters.

- Is the only way forward being writing letters? No Cllr Read said there are other ways and MP Mel Stride is following up with the communication companies to look for different ways to get information to your home.
- It was noted that the BBC are investigating a village who had gained funding for Broadband, but that fund prevents them from receiving any other source of funds making it impossible to move forward
- Why can't we get internet when we can get TV reception? Different mast.
- There is currently a planning application in for a mast at Blacking stone, but this would not reach Christow properties.

Ms P Woods Chair of DNPA, lives in the village and also suffers from lack of internet connection. She noted the Bennah Application was withdrawn for commercial reasons. Blacking stone application has not gone before committee yet. The more representation made to DNPA helps to keep the Park informed and she urged people to sign the petition and share letter with other MPs in the region.

Mobile providers EE, O2, 3 and Vodaphone cover 84% of the UK by 2027 these are the companies to lobby for more service.

Any mast within the National Park would be subject to planning regulations but the new Local Plan supports the infrastructure to provide good communication.

Site from old masts could be used under permitted development rights, the tech companies could be looking at that option. Dan Janotta at DNPA may be able to give more advice. Erecting a mast outside the DNPA boundary may be easier to get permission on but TDC has many areas of ANOB.

Cllr Read has tried to contact the Chief Executives of all the mobile service and all of the local authorities – DCC are working together to get better connective and letters to John Hart and or Alan Connect would also raise awareness of the problem.

Electric vehicles and eco cars will need mobile service as this is an important part of running the vehicles.

A MOP asked if the PC put together a tool kit to help people write the letters which are needed to go to the MP's and tech companies? Cllr Read agreed to add some guidance on Facebook, Teign Valley and the PC's website.

This problem is not just in Christow and needs to be reported in local newspapers and newsletters.

**\*\*\*\* Break for Refreshment \*\*\*\***

## **5. Reports from County and District Councillors, DNP Ranger, DCC Highways officer and Police and other organisations.**

Cllr S Purser TDC – covers 8 parishes and gives monthly reports to all the clerks and most around covid lock down and funds for hardship look on website to apply for funds.

Still not out of covid now Ukrainian and cost of living issues

500 Ukrainians on their way to Devon this does put pressure on council budgets. Happy to take questions – his email is available on the parish and district websites.

DCC Ines Pfizer's – Highway Officer meets regularly with the clerk. The bad news this year is that there is no budget drainage issues unless there is a major safety defect these problems will not be fixed.

She asked the public to email any highways issues to the clerks and she would try and look for funding from other source to dealt with the problem. Potholes will only be fixed if meet the criteria.

She is aware of the issue with Gidley Meadow junction – this has been caused by water and SWW have been out several time and there may be several different reasons why there is a

problem, but Highways cannot improve the road until the source of the water problem is found. She is doubtful that it will be repaired this year, but she will keep trying. She can repair the leak on the Teign Valley Road as this is on a gritting route. Ines asked people to report potholes online as this is the best way to get the problems repaired.

Speeding issues – there is a DCC list that the parishes can add locations to for speeding restrictions, but it is unlikely the Teign Valley would be actioned. The DCC budget for these speed reductions is approx. £140,000, she finds the children's signs are the most effective and keep moving them regularly.

MOP noted that speed limit requests for the village have always refused because lack of traffic and lack of accidents, also being in the DNPA the authority is not keen on too many signs – if all the parishes complaint, then things may change. Most speeding is from local people and the message to reduce speed is best delivered through the children.

A MOP thanked Ines for fixing the road at Bennah – it took 8 years and cost £16,000.

Finally, Ines asked to report issues via the website or the clerk and they will be put onto a list and reviewed regularly.

Dartmoor National Park – Ms P Wood - noted that firstly the Park would not object to speed limit signs if they were required.

The new Local Plan has been adopted which has taken a wholistic look at developments and in certain areas if social housing needed exception sites would be brought forward.

The consultation to Protected Natural Landscapes is coming to an end the Park are please the government has recognised the value of the National Parks however there is still no budget to implicate improvements.

Over last summer the Rangers dealt with lots of vandalism as well as lots of visitors some of whom were threatening to Rangers, so the National Park are trialling video body cameras for 12mths, and their use will be assessed at the end of the year. The camera will be only turned on if a Member of the Public becomes violent and threatening.

Garden Club Report – submitted by Paul French, Chair of Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

The last 12mths programme has not been too badly impacted by the pandemic (compared to 2020). All outside visits from May went ahead as planned. Generally, we were blessed with splendid weather except in August, at Southwood Farm Garden, when it poured. Highlights would include: Torview Gardens, Wildside, Riverford and Regency House plus our annual summer gathering, held this last year at Kennick Barn, courtesy of Hibly and Saul. The committee has one change going forward, with Jo Macdonald replacing Lindsey Jones, who is off to live in western Australia. Thanks, Lindsey, for your contribution over the years. We look forward to another good year and the return of the Christow Show.

1<sup>st</sup> Teign Valley Scouts report – submitted by Paul French, Group Scout Leader

Scouting has been impacted more by the pandemic with face-2-face meetings limited to outside at times. All the Leaders have done a tremendous job to keep things going and given the children some interesting and challenging activities. Thank you, the Leader team. That team remains under strength and at the time of writing, Beavers (6-8 yrs.) may well have to close at the end of the summer term unless new leaders can be recruited. If you can help in any way, please contact any of the leaders or myself. Number in Unity. Our AGM last autumn was cancelled at the last minute due to a surge in covid locally and has yet to be rescheduled. The Exec committee remains unchanged.

Teign Tennis Trust - Report Spring 2021-22 – submitted by G Fines

The healthy growth in our membership has continued and we hope to retain the members that joined during the Pandemic. Our junior members have grown in number enormously and Tim Brealey, our coach, has now recruited an assistant to help him. He has entered teams of juniors into local and regional competitions and had some great successes. It is hoped that he will be running a summer camp this year. We have revived the Intergenerational competition, (parents/carers play with their children), and as this was so popular, we will repeat this soon. We plan to raise funds probably with a quiz and our annual barn dance.

As ever we need to save and plan for the expensive cost of maintaining the courts and clubhouse.

A major cost will be the replacing of the court lights which are very expensive and not as environmentally sound as we want.

The fencing surrounding the courts needs to be replaced as it is warped and has holes in it. We are grateful that the PCC will remove the branch on the clubhouse.

CCLT – Coronary Edwards – reported that the Trust are excited about the building the small extension to Stafford Close, there maybe 8 – 10 homes she explained how that would be developed. The Housing needs Survey showed the need for smaller homes. The actual plan will depend on the outcome of the site survey. Updates are available through Facebook or the Teign Valley website. The trust was also successful in receiving a £7,000 grant from The Lottery toward the ‘Environment in the Teign Valley’.

Christow Show - Jan Dean. Announced that there will be a show this year after a 2 year and updates will be published in Unity, programmes will be available in May.

## **6. Chairman’s Report for the year 2021/2022.**

Cllr Tom Archer was elected as Chair at the May annual general meeting of the council and Cllr T Fidock remained Vice Chair.

The Council got back to face to face meeting from June 2021 and the first meeting 2 new councillors were co-opted Cllr J Newton and Cllr G Read.

EVENTS - The councillors organised a celebration to mark the end of Covid restrictions, a community fun day at the recreation field was planned for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August – this was well supported, and we received nice feedback for it being a successful day.

Presently the council are organising a tea party to mark 70 years of our Queen this will be again in the recreation field on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 12.30.

Tomorrow, we have organised a community litter pick and it is hoped that many parishioners will join the councillors from 9.30 at the doctor’s surgery car park

### CONSULTATIONS & COOPERATIVE WORK WITH -

DNPA – the council have commented on the parks local plan

TDC – commented on the Local Plan review 2020 -2040

CCLT for a housing needs survey – the survey was completed as a joint project with the CCLT and Devon Community’s together. There was a good response giving an indication that 14 units were needed but only 8 new homes could be achieved.

Dunsford and Bridford Councils – the councillors meet with Dunsford and Bridford council for the annual 3 parish meeting and shared ideas about the Lengthsman, Climate Wardens, winter weather plans and Road Closures

Farmers Market the council authorised to use the car park during Jan, Feb, and March while the usual field was too muddy to use

DCC Highways Engineer – the clerk meets regularly with the highways engineer to review matters of concern within the parish. This successful relationship has ensured the problems on the road at Bennah has been resolved.

### COUNCIL RESPONSABILITIES

Flagpole - We took over the responsibility of the village flagpole, and purchased a new union jack

Cemetery – a working party meet in January to start a tidy up of the entrance to the cemetery there is still much more work needed and out Lengthsman has been instructed to carry out other tasks there.

Plan have been put into place to extend the cemetery and allotment holders affected were given notice in October. Following a review of the area needed 1 allotment holder notice was withdrawn.

PLAY AREA – the councillors have carried out maintenance and repairs to equipment at Layne Fields Play area. Following the safety inspection 2 contractors were invited to quote for improvement to the equipment – the quotes were large, and it was agreed to apply for grants and work within the limited fund that we could raise. We were awarded a £5000 grant, and this will repair the croc swing in the upper play area.

DEFIBRILLATORS – New cabinet was fitted at the Artichoke – there is no access code to gain access to the unit.

### GRANTS

A grant of £200 was awarded to the new Teign Valley Website.

### LENGTHSMAN

The council recognise the value of this work and renewed the contract with existing contractor for a further 3 years.

## **7. Open Forum for parishioners.**

Cllr Read has received a message from MP Mel Stride during this meeting and reported there is an effort to get other providers to use the existing mast.

It was noted that the 30mph speed limit is only of benefit if a uniformed police officer is there to prosecute the driver. The member of Public also noted that people who speed will always speed. The Police are already busy on more important thing – speeding signs will make little difference to the problem. Education is the only way, and this could improve the problems.

The question was raised - Why are the planning applications not mentioned in Unity – the clerk responded by saying there was no reason, and they can be included from now on within the Parish Council news section. She also noted that the minutes are available on the council website for more details of council meetings including the planning applications and granted/Refused permissions.

## **8. Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Tracey Fidock will present the Parish Award,**

Cllr Fidock thanked Mr David Broomfield for his years of volunteering within the parish and presented him with the Parish Award.

She thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for more refreshments.