

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL.

3336: Present: Cllrs: D Snook(Vice-Chair), C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, C Mahaddie, C Everidge, C Sage, C Peck, H Joyce, S Johnson, K Mansbridge, K Vaughan, D Turner (DCC); J West (Clerk)

3337: Apologies: Received from Cllr I Gollop, Cllr M Robinson (WDDC)

3338: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: None

3339: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: none.

3340: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 9 February 2015: Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to three minor amendments concerning verge cutting (2) and planning.

3341: Actions Following Last Meeting: The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. He reported that at the next meeting he would bring a report on the new Code of Transparency for Smaller Authorities. **Cllr Bailey** questioned whether in the absence of an external audit there would be sufficient safeguards for the council from accusations of wrongdoing. The Clerk assured her that the internal audit together with the requirements of the new code would provide reasonable safeguards from fraud or irregularities.

3342: Co-option of councillor: **Cllr Snook** welcomed Kit Vaughan to his first meeting as a councillor, following his formal co-option at the February meeting.

3343: Reports:

Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall : **Cllr Peck** encouraged attendance at a performance by local players at the hall on 14 March. The Hall now had its own webpage and Facebook page.

James Hargreaves Community Hall : **Cllr Malhaddie** mentioned that the Hall newsletter is a very useful means of letting people know what is going on.

Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall : **Cllr Snook** reported that the AGM was on 10 March and that there was an Artsreach event on 20 March and a Rotary quiz evening on 28 March.

Bridport Area Local Partnership : **Cllr Everidge** reported that Maureen Jackson had decided to continue as Chair. The annual assembly featuring a talk on the Rural Challenge by Lord Teverson would be held at Colfox School on 19 March at 6.15pm. There was to be a meeting about fracking, hosted by West Dorset Friends of the Earth in the Town Hall on the 12 March.

Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils : **Cllr Snook** reported that she and the Clerk had attended the annual conference, which included interesting presentations from James Weld, Chair of the LEP, Jonathan Owen of NALC, the NHS review and Martin Underhill the Police Commissioner who had warned of further cuts in policing due to funding reductions. At the DAPTC Executive meeting last Saturday Debbie Ward Chief Executive of Dorset County Council had talked about the budget cuts.

Councillor Reports : **Cllr Joyce** reported that a footpath sign to Charmouth had a broken arm. **Cllr Mansbridge** to ask the Lengthsman to fix it back into place. **Cllr Mansbridge** reported problems with road surface deterioration by the Forest fork. **Cllr Sage** described issues relating to the occupation of a lay-by on the B3165 by Travellers, which were all the more frustrating as there was an authorised site close at hand. The Clerk had already written to Devon County Council who were the land owners, but had not yet received a reply. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the matter further. **Cllr Snook** reported road problems in Mill Lane and said that she would report these through Dorsetforyou. **Cllr Creed-Castle** reported that Wessex Water were still working in the Shave Cross area. There had been no follow up to the initial indication from Dave Maunder (DCC) that work might be possible to resolve problems in Stoke Mill Lane. The Clerk would follow this up again. **Cllr Everidge** mentioned the Home Watch scheme and said she would like to encourage as many people as possible to sign up for alerts. The Clerk had obtained information in relation to the West Star Farm agricultural development, the information had not been available on the Dorsetforyou website, the process was not as transparent as normal planning applications.

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Cllr Mahaddie reported that the two footpath signs in Pitmans Lane were rotted at ground level and asked if the Lengthsman could attend to these. **Cllr Mansbridge** agreed to contact the Lengthsman accordingly. **Cllr Vaughan** felt that while it was good that the Parish was prepared to take on such work it was important to register problems like this with DCC to make them aware of them, as really they should be the first recourse for such work. **Cllr Peck** mentioned recurrent problems with the Highways Agency contractor carrying out work in Chideock during the day, thus causing traffic problems. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Andy Kirby of the Agency to see if he could come and talk to us about this and related matters. **Cllr Peck** also raised the issue of the integrity of the coast path. She gave three examples of closures, which had resulted in re-routing inland with no subsequent evidence of action to re-instate a route closer to the coast itself. It was acknowledged that landownership could be an aggravating factor. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to DCC asking what their strategy was on this. She mentioned two highway issues at Tizard's Knapp and Berne Lane and agreed to report these.

Cllr Robinson (WDDC) was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a note raising concerns about whether the roll-out of the Recycle for Dorset for the Bridport area would go ahead in July as planned, due to delays with the new Waste Facility at Broomhills. He also reported that all three Councils (WDDC, WPBC and NDDC) had agreed to a shared management team under one Chief Executive

Cllr Turner (DCC) reported that the cost of maintaining Dorset's highways was forecast to be £14.7m and at present there was a £841K shortfall. The Dorset Waste Partnership was forecast to overspend by £2.8M in the current year. This was partly due to changes in the market price of waste materials but also to the hiring of vehicles. There were enquiries into the operation of the Partnership underway. **Cllr Vaughan** asked why more couldn't be done to reduce the amount of waste entering the waste-stream. **Cllr Turner** advised the meeting that despite the overspend the total cost of waste collection was still marginally less than the previous separate arrangements. He also reported that there was now an Economic Growth Board to which all the Dorset Councils had "signed-up". This had secured £750k of funding. DCC had a funding gap of £20m for 2015-16, the precept would be increased by 1.9% leaving £15m to be found from savings.

3344: Planning

i) To consider : WD/D/14/002600 Bridle's Farm House – Alterations to provide new bedroom with lounge over and erect garage. There had been a presentation to the previous meeting and a site visit had been made. It was felt the applicants had addressed the council's previous concerns and it was agreed that the application should be supported.

ii) To note : WD/D/14/003323 Reeds Barn Cottage, Hawkchurch - Demolish conservatory and erect extensions to front and rear of property – no objection

WD/D/15/000176 Old Dairy Bohays Farm, Whitchurch Canonicorum – relaxation of condition to allow for the options of shorthold letting, permanent residency or sale of the property – no objection had been registered but there were some concerns about the impact on the neighbouring property and what the implications of turning holiday accommodation back into permanent accommodation would be generally. WDDC's decision would be interesting.

WD/D/15/000222 Stonebarrow Car Park, Stonebarrow lane – erection of signs – no objection

iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note): WD/D/14/002972 Stoneyside, Lower Lane, Ryall – non-material amendment (approval) addition of small velux window to previous approval WD/D/12/001075

WD/D/14/003066 Hillcrest, Lower Lane, Ryall – single storey rear and side extension with garage below – approved.

WD/D/14/002161 Upways, Verriots Lane, Morcombelake – Alterations and extensions – approved.

3345 :Fingerposts : **Cllr Peck** advised that Roger Bond was the man who advises the AONB on fingerposts and carries out repairs. It was agreed to ask him to do a survey of at least one post to advise what action was needed. The fingerpost at the bottom of Gassons Lane needs repair. **Cllr Peck** also offered to go back to Dave Maunder to accept his offer of materials and repairs to the signpost at Crooked Lane junction.

3346: Superfast Broadband : It was reported that 100% coverage had been stated as possible by 2017. The Clerk advised that Cllr Gollop had been in correspondence with the Broadband team based at DCC and agreed to forward this correspondence. The position would be reviewed at the next meeting and further action would then be considered if appropriate.

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3347 : Finance : The following payments were approved :

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	£ Amount
1360	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire	22.00
1361	J West	March 2015 pay and expenses	357.82
1362	HMRC	PAYE March 2015	79.60

3348: Char Chat : Cllr Everidge reported that Char Chat would be taken forward after the elections. However any contributions that were ready could be sent to **Cllr Gollop**. Articles could be written on fingerposts (**Cllr Peck**) and on the coastpath (**Cllr Everidge**).

3349: Annual Parish Meetings : There was discussion as to whether the meetings would be in breach of the "purdah period" for the local and general elections on 7 May. The Clerk agreed to investigate as soon as possible and let councillors know so that dates could be confirmed.

3350: 2015 Parish Council Elections : The Clerk reminded the meeting that the election notice would formally be published on 16 March at which point he would put up the formal election notices on notice boards. The closing date for the receipt of nomination papers by the returning officer at WDDC was 4pm on Thursday 9 April. Potential candidates should ensure that papers were submitted in advance of this date to avoid any problems arising. An email circulated by the Clerk had failed to reach some councillors and the Clerk agreed to resend it and also resend his suggested election poster to encourage new councillors. It was agreed to include notification of the meeting for potential candidates on 18 March at which **Cllr Snook** would be speaking.

3351: New district council boundaries : It was noted that the change in boundaries would mean that we would work through the new councillor for Chideock and Symondsburry. It seemed likely that there would be a change of individuals involved. Clearly we would have to wait for the election to know more. It was agreed that in the event of Cllr Robinson not standing again at the forthcoming elections the Clerk would write on behalf of the Council to thank him for all his help and support.

3352 : Correspondence : The usual list of correspondence had been circulated by the Clerk, he mentioned in particular a letter from the manager of Bridport Citizen's Advice Bureau thanking the council for its financial support.

3353 :Items for the next agenda : Fingerposts, Superfast Broadband, Char Chat, Coastal Path, Highways Agency/Connect.

3354: Any other business : Cllr Creed-Castle reminded the meeting that she was the official photographer as well as Ancient Monuments Officer. She suggested that those present at the meeting have their photograph taken this was agreed.

3355 : Closure of meeting :The meeting was closed at 9.33pm.