

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRD MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2016 IN THE WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL

3647: Present: Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, S Johnson, C Sage, C Mahaddie, D Turner (DCC). J West (Clerk)

3648: Apologies : C Peck, K Vaughan, C Bailey, S Christopher (WDDC)

3649: Public Discussion Period: none

3650: Declarations of interest : none

3651 : Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 12th September 2016 : Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3652 : Actions Following Last Meeting: As circulated by the Clerk.

3653: Reports:

Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) : Cllr Snook reported the DAPTC AGM was being held on 5th November and the Council was able to send another delegate if anyone wished to attend.

Bridport Local Area Partnership : Cllr Everidge reported that there was a meeting on "Reshaping your Councils" in the Salthouse at 4pm on 11th October.

Transport : It was noted that the Bopper Bus initiative was unfortunately going to close due to lack of volunteers. **Cllr Everidge** reported that the recent A35 meeting had heard that the decision as to whether to have a roundabout or traffic lights at the Miles Cross junction was still under consideration. Oliver Letwin MP had stated that the Police and Highways England should produce a joint plan on how to manage road closures due to accidents. Finally she added that Highways England is keen to encourage reporting of haulage operators who do not properly secure loads, such as hay, causing consequent problems with drains etc.

3654 : Councillor Reports :

Cllr Joyce reported that a broadband box is being installed in Whitchurch. However there had been some problems finding a suitable location as one proposed was adjacent to the recently repaired culvert in Church Path.

Cllr Creed-Castle asked for clarification as to whose responsibility maintenance of a hedgerow adjoining Church Path was. **Cllr Joyce** offered to contact the person concerned.

Cllr Everidge gave an update on the latest position regarding the flooding issue in Stonebarrow Lane.

3655 : County Councillors Report : **Cllr D Turner** reported that the "Reshaping our Councils" consultation would close on 25 October. The draft results would be published on 7 November. A decision by leading members and officers was likely in early December. **Cllr Joyce** expressed concern that the decision had effectively already been reached. **Cllr Turner** firmly rebutted this.

3656 : Planning :

i) To Consider : WD/D/16/001987 - St Gabriels, Shedbush Lane, Morcombelake, DT6 6DR - Reserved matters for the outline permission WD/D/15/00467

Cllr Everidge reported that trees and shrubs had been removed from the site, drastically changing the nature of the proposal, as the screening that would have been provided had been lost. It was agreed that on this basis the application as submitted could not be supported. **Cllr Everidge** to supply the Clerk with further details in order that a submission could be made.

ii) To Note: WD/D/16/001879 – Oaklands, Fernhill, Charmouth DT6 4BX - New timber-framed log garage on the site on previous container storage unit on existing slab – no objection and now approved

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WD/D/16/001857 – Monkton Wyld Farm, Scotts Lane, DT6 6DB - Erect shower block, existing shower block retained – no objection and now approved

WD/D/16/001767 - Great View, Verriotts Lane, Morcombelake DT6 6DU – Erect Two Storey Extension - no objection

iii) West Dorset District Council Decisions (to note):

WD/D/16/001381 - Bredon, Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth, DT6 6RA - Demolish existing dwelling, outbuilding and garage, Erection of replacement dwelling and car port – approved

WD/D/16/001811 - Lower Pound Farm, Pound Lane, Monkton Wyld – Garage and studio – approved

iv) Enforcement

It was reported that two caravans had been on site at the Veiv, Muddyford Lane. One had been destroyed by fire. The gate had been at least partly broken. The Clerk would write to WDDC asking what the current position was.

Additionally it was reported by **Cllr Everidge** that the National Trust had erected a banner type sign at the junction of Muddyford Lane and the A35. The Clerk would email the National Trust to ascertain whether this was a temporary sign and whether planning consent was being sought (subsequent to the meeting it was advised that this had been removed).

v) Appeals **Cllr Joyce** advised that the appeal on the church wall decision would be carried out by an Inspector in November with a decision expected by Christmas.

3657 : Clerks Report :

(i) Payments – The following payments were approved :

James Hargreaves Community Hall	Burial Grounds Grant	500043		£60.00
J West	Pay and Expenses Oct	500044		£348.99
HMRC	PAYE Oct.	500045		£80.80
Chris Hawkins	Fingerpost work	500046		£180.00
Whitchurch Pre-School	Annual grant	500047		£500.00
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	Annual Grant	500048		£100.00
Bridport & District CAB	Annual grant	500049		£100.00
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	Annual Grant	500050		£380.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Annual Grant	500051		£380.00
James Hargreaves Community hall	Annual Grant	500052		£350.00
Whitchurch PCC	Burial Grounds Grant	500053		£300.00
Wootton Fitzpaine PCC	Burial Grounds Grant	500054		£300.00
Monkton Wyld PCC	Burial Grounds Grant	500055		£300.00
Fishponds PCC	Burial Grounds Grant	500056		£70.00
Stanton St Gabriel PCC	Burial Grounds Grant	500057		£60.00

(ii) Budget – A budget report to the 30 September 2016 had been circulated, the Clerk outlined areas of forecast overspend and underspend, which broadly cancelled each other out.

3658 : Clerk's Position : The Clerk explained that he had very much enjoyed the role but competing pressures meant he needed to reduce his overall commitments. He hoped that he had made the role more straightforward for his successor. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to John for his work. He outlined the process for filling the vacancy, which was agreed. Cllrs Snook, Joyce, Everidge and Creed-Castle/Johnson (depending on availability) would comprise the appointment panel.

3659 : Residents Survey : The Clerk reported that the survey forms were being printed. Cllr Creed-Castle assisted by Cllr Snook would organise the distribution. "Post boxes" would also need to be arranged. Forms

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were due back by the end of November with the analysis to be carried out in December and first report in January 2017.

3660 : Fingerposts : Cllr Snook in **Cllr Peck's** absence described the issues associated with the re-siting of posts once they had been restored. It being essential to make sure they were put in the most suitable location, which was not always the original site. DCC would do this at no charge but as co-ordination was not easy other options could be considered. Following discussion it was agreed that DCC highways was the most cost-effective means of re-siting the posts. Means such as placing marker posts in the ground could be considered, if necessary.

3661 : Reshaping Local Government Consultation: Cllr Snook and the Clerk led the meeting through the various options. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Snook would make a short written submission expressing the view that we would neither support nor oppose the option of a large conurbation/small Dorset, would strongly support a medium conurbation/medium Dorset and would strongly oppose a small conurbation/large Dorset.

3662 : Consultation on Council Tax referendum principles : The Clerk explained that the National Association of Local Councils had alerted Town and Parish Councils to a proposition contained in a ministerial statement that the current approach that required higher tier Councils to hold a referendum if they wished to increase the council tax by a certain amount, e.g. 2% would be extended to include all Town and Parish Councils. In practice this would require Char Valley to hold a referendum, perhaps costing over £1,000 if it wished to increase the annual precept by what could be less than a pound for the average householder. This potential requirement seemed disproportionate and arguably undemocratic. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would make a written representation objecting to this proposal to the Council Tax consultation.

3663 : Verges Cutting : The Clerk had written to Phil Sterling at DCC to suggest the Char Valley needed to retain two cuts per annum and that the County Council hold a briefing meeting before the next season to discuss their approach with Parish Councils in our area. The Clerk to follow up if no reply, it was suggested that Giles Nicholson should be included in the correspondence.

3664 : Defibrillator : The Clerk had received a written request from Kevin Clausner saying that together with the Five Bells Inn they were raising funds for a defibrillator for the village and wondered whether the Parish Council would be able to contribute. Following discussion it was agreed, in principle, to contribute £200. It was noted that other villages might in due course come forward with similar requests. Clerk to write to Mr Clausner to obtain further details.

3665 : Items for the next agenda : Residents survey, verges, fingerposts, date for Finance Committee, Clerk recruitment.

3666 : Date of next meeting : 21 November 2016 – Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

3667 : Closure of meeting : The meeting was closed at 9.50pm.