

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY FIFTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016 IN THE WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL

**3492: Present:** Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, K Vaughan, S Johnson, C Peck, C Sage, C Bailey, C Mahaddie, J West (Clerk), D Turner (DCC), S Christopher (WDDC) (arrived at minute 3503).

**3493: Apologies :** none

**3494: Public Discussion Period:** no requests.

**3495: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** none.

**3496: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 :** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

**3497: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The Clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

### **3498: Reports:**

**Local policing :** PCSO Burton reported that PC Ball had now joined the Beaminster policing team. He reported that a number of fly tipping incidents had taken place at local beauty spots, including Lamberts Castle. He urged anyone who spotted suspicious vehicles in rural roads, e.g. unmarked trucks carrying builders waste, to take a note of registrations and contact the police. He went on to report that there had been a number of burglaries in the Lyme Regis area but it was hoped that with the recent arrest of a suspect these would decrease. Cllr Sage advised PCSO Burton that there were three burnt-out vehicles in the lay-by adjacent to Blackpool Corner on the B3165.

**Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) :** Cllr Snook reported that there were invitations, as usual, for a small number of Parish Councillors to attend the Queen's Garden Party. The DAPTC was now working with Dorset Care and Commissioning Group (CCG) to help spread awareness of NHS news in the area.

**Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) :** Cllr Everidge reported that pending the outcome of a West Dorset District Council funding review the future of BLAP remains uncertain.

**Transport :** Cllr Everidge advised that she has been invited by Bridport Town Council to attend regular meetings relating to the A35.

### **Councillor Reports :**

**Cllr Everidge** reported that the noticeboard at Morcombelake was still in need of repair. The Clerk would investigate to decide the most appropriate solution.

**Cllr Vaughan** reported that vegetation on the exit from Berne Lane to the A35 had been cut back and thanked the Clerk for facilitating this.

**Cllr Sage** reported that a suspicious young person had been seen around farm buildings in the area, when challenged he claimed to be looking for work. PCSO Burton advised that it was likely that the individual concerned was one who had now been dealt with by the police, but if there were further problems the police should be contacted immediately.

**Cllr Bailey** reported that there was a very bad pothole on Gooden's Hill. The Clerk offered to report this on her behalf.

**Cllr Johnson** advised that there was serious flooding on the road near Cothayes, this was thought to be a drainage blockage and had been reported.

**Cllr Peck** advised that she would report a pothole at the junction of Ryall Road and Star Lane and also a separate issue with a deteriorating road surface.

**Cllr Joyce** reported that a small landslide had occurred on the road near Manor Farm, it was agreed the Lengthsman would look at this as a matter of urgency, however it might well be a job for the Council. She

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also commented that despite many attempts over the past two years the metal plates near the village hall in Whitchurch were missing even more of their tarmac infill and still had not been repaired.

**Cllr Creed-Castle** reported that the bridge on Bluntshay Lane had now been repaired.

**County Councillor : Cllr D Turner** reported that there was increasing pressure on Dorset County Council to make savings, the annual Government funding announcement had resulted in a need to make £7.4M of savings in addition to the £13m already required next year. He added that serious consideration was now being given to setting up one or more unitary authorities in order to save money. This would also result in “double-devolution” of services, including those such as Adult and Children’s Care to Town and Parish Councils. This suggestion was met with concern by councillors who questioned whether it was a realistic proposition.

**Cllr Turner** reported that 19 of 22 youth centres under threat of closure had shown an interest in running themselves and a company had shown interest in taking over all of the centres. It was planned to save £500k from cutting subsidies to rural bus services, particularly those that ran only once a week. The hope was that community run schemes would provide services where there was a local need. The consultation on this would take place until the 8<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Joyce drew attention to the fact that service 76 was one of those implicated and the Wednesday service for Whitchurch, Ryall, Wootton Fitzpaine and Catherston Leweston to Bridport could be lost, she added that this service was used by around 13 people. It was agreed that the Council would submit a letter of objection to the County Council.

**Cllr Vaughan** wished to know where future savings would come from. He asked Cllr Turner if he would make enquiries and report back.

## **3499 :Planning**

**i) To consider : none**

**ii) To note :**

WD/CA/15/00347 - Brookfield, Whitchurch Canonorum. DT6 6RF – fell 1x pear tree – no objection (now approved)

WD/D/15/002613 - Hinkhams Farm, Bluntshay Lane, DT6 6RJ – this application had now been withdrawn by the applicant

WD/D/15/002684 - Monkton Wyld Farm, Scotts Lane, DT6 6DB - Re-design of previously approved application WD/D/14/002788 to demolish and replace shower-block – no objection

**iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note):**

WD/D/15/002334 – 1 Ivy Cottages, Tizard’s Knap, Morcombelake - Construction of off-road parking area – approved.

WD/D/15/001246 - Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum – rebuild part of boundary wall - refused

**Cllr Joyce** expressed concern about the way that application WD/D/15/001246 had been dealt with by WDDC. The PCC were considering an appeal and following a request from **Cllr Joyce** it was agreed that the application would be discussed at the next meeting.

**iv) Enforcement :** A verbal report on The Veiv would be given to the next meeting.

## **3500 : Clerks Report**

**(i) Flood Risk Management**

**Cllr Everidge** agreed that she would collect the signs from the depot and distribute them. It was agreed that signs could be used in the following locations with the persons shown looking after them.

- Cardsmill/Stockham (Cllr Johnson)
- Gassons Lane/Lower Street (Cllr Peck)
- Becklands Bridge (Cllr Joyce)

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- Dolphins (?)
- Crooch Farm (Les Smith ?)

### (ii) Loscombeswell Road

The Clerk reported that correspondence has been received from a Mr Holmes of Stone Cottage, Loscombeswell Road in relation to a road naming issue. It is understood that a section of Taylor's Lane/Pitman's lane (from the house called White Mists to the junction with Ryall Road) has been known as Loscombeswell Road and some location maps in fact show it as such. However there are no street name signs showing this. **Cllr Mahaddie** confirmed that both Mr Holmes and another nearby resident had experienced problems with people, including the emergency services locating them. The Clerk had written to Catherine Parr (ex-councillor) who had confirmed that this is a long-standing issue and that the section of road concerned is shown on old OS maps as Loscombeswell Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to WDDC and ask them to explore this issue formally. If it was found that Loscombeswell Road was the appropriate name then street name signs for Loscombeswell Road be erected both from the Ryall Road and Pitmans/Taylor's Lane direction.

### (iii) Website

The Clerk advised that he had written a short user guide for the new website and offered to provide a short introductory session prior to the next meeting. **Cllrs Everidge** and **Vaughan** agreed to take this up.

### (iv) Char Chat

The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with ex-councillor Gollop, who had kindly offered to edit a further edition of Char Chat, if suitable content could be provided. It was agreed to place this on the agenda of the next meeting.

### (v) New bank account

The Clerk reported that the new bank account was finally open and the funds would be transferred from the existing TSB account to the new account in early February.

### (vi) Payment approvals January : the following payments were approved :

Payee	Detail	Chq. No.	amount
S Lee	Lengthsman	1418	£442.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire finance ctte.	1419	£16.50
SNC	Whitchurch play area swing repair	1420	£593.80
J West	Clerks pay and expenses Dec/Jan	1421	£711.91
HMRC	PAYE Dec/Jan	1422	£159.20
Whitchurch Pre-school	Grant (D Turner)	1423	£50.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Grant (D Turner) play area	1424	£350.00

### 3501 : Budget for 2016-17

The Clerk reported that the Finance Committee on 8 December had considered the suggested budget and made some small modifications. It was noted that provision for an increase to the Whitchurch Pre-School grant was included, but the level of this would be dependent on the position of the Pre-Schools finances as disclosed by their accounts at the time the grant payment was due. He emphasised that the level of the Parish Council reserves was too high and needed to be reduced in a managed way. If the proposed budget was accepted a reduction of around £2,000 in the reserves next year would enable the precept and parish council element of the council tax to be held at the same level as the current year, which equated to £33 per annum for a band D council tax payer. Following discussion it was resolved to agree the budget as circulated and set the precept for 2016-17 at £18,525.

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**3502 : Fingerposts : Cllr Peck** reported that she had done a tour of the Parish with Angus Mitchell before Christmas to survey the six posts to be restored. A programme of work has been agreed with Angus and Roger Bond who will work on the Gassons Lane, Crooked Lane and Wootton Cross posts. Alex Brooks in Wootton will be responsible for the Penn Cross, Wootton Village Hall and Peter's Gore posts. Having initially awarded CVPC a very generous grant of over £1,800 she had received notification last week that it was an over payment and we were only due £450. Cllr Peck had asked for an explanation and reminded DCC that CVPC made grant applications for the restoration of three posts. She asked that other members of the Council undertake to propose at least one person or business locally whom could be approached for sponsorship. We would acknowledge those who had helped in Char Chat and on the website. It was agreed that Janie Prince would be re-imbursed for the cost of materials used in repairing the post in their garden. We would also seek to establish the insurance position with regard to fingerposts.

**3503: District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher** invited the meeting to ask him questions. **Cllr Joyce** asked about rumours that 5 staff had left WDDC's planning function recently and expressed concerns about lengthy delays in determining planning applications, these concerns were echoed by other councillors. **Cllr Christopher** shared these concerns and advised that a meeting was shortly to be held with the Head of Planning to discuss issues across a range of planning functions.

In response to a further question **Cllr Christopher** confirmed that business rates would go direct to local councils in future, but it was not currently known when this would happen.

**Cllr Christopher** added that Oliver Letwin MP would shortly be having a further meeting with Highways England about the A35 speed limit and related matters. **Cllr Christopher** announced that he was having a meeting at 8.30am on 5 March to discuss the state of footpath in front of the church wall at Whitchurch.

**3504 : Neighbourhood Planning** : It was hoped that Michele Warburton of Loders might be well enough to attend our next meeting. The Clerk outlined a proposal for a workshop setting out the pros and cons of Neighbourhood plans with an experienced ex-Planning Officer. While seeing the benefits of this, some Councillors had reservations about the cost and wished to explore whether West Dorset could offer something similar through their Neighbourhood plans support officer at no cost. The Clerk would explore this.

**3505 :Items for the next agenda** : Fingerposts, Neighbourhood Planning, Litter problems, planning consultation process, Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross planning application, Char Chat.

**3506: Date of next meeting** : 8 February 2016 – James Hargreaves Community Hall

**3507 : Matters of Urgency : Cllr Snook** referred to correspondence received from Trevor Chambers, which highlighted continuing delays in Superfast Broadband work in Morcombelake, which was being caused by Highways England's requirement for a highway safety audit. **Cllr Snook** also referred to correspondence from Charmouth Heritage Centre asking for help in promoting the centre. It was agreed that the Church magazine could be asked if they would publish an article and an article could also be included in Char Chat.

**3508 : Closure of meeting** :The meeting was closed at 9.55pm..