

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY FOURTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL**

**3474: Present:** Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, K Vaughan, S Johnson, C Peck, C Sage, J West (Clerk), D Turner (DCC), S Christopher (WDDC).

**3475: Apologies :** Cllrs Bailey and Mahaddie

**3476: Public Discussion Period:** no requests.

**3477: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** none.

**3478: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October :** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to changing "Jordan" to Joyce" at 3464.

**3479: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The Clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. Under the update for minute 3461 **Cllr Joyce** reported that shooting had taken place on 15 separate occasions since 7 October and she was now aware of the source of the activity. The meeting having taken advice from PCSO Burton, who was present, agreed that **Cllr Joyce** would pass details of the person involved to the Clerk who would in turn pass them to PCSO Burton who would satisfy himself that the appropriate regulations for gun ownership were being met. He stressed that there was no evidence at present, however, that anything illegal was taking place. Pending the outcome of this the Clerk would write to the person involved making them aware of the reports that their activities were causing disturbance to local residents.

### **3480: Reports:**

**Local policing :** PCSO Burton reported that the name of the Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team had been changed to the Lyme Regis Neighbourhood Policing Team. This was to be consistent with practice elsewhere. Also PC Ball had married and was now PC Frecknall. He reported that there had been limited crime reported recently, but a number of mainly minor RTA's had occurred. There was also a suspicious incident involving a silver Nissan Almeria which appeared to be broken down in a lay-by on the B3165 but when a member of the public had stopped to investigate they had been offered cheap jewellery. He was asked about police responses to the need for diversions following incidents on the A35. He advised that it was now the policy that local police officers did not get involved in making diversions. The primary consideration, with limited resources was to ensure safety for emergency services and for this reason roads were always closed where necessary. As Highways England made strategic decisions about diversions it was agreed to pursue the matter with them when they attended the Council's January meeting.

**Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) :** Cllr Everidge reported that :

- The Health and Well-Being and Steering Groups were due to meet shortly
- A meeting of the Coastal Communities Working Group was to take place at the Springfield Hotel in Wareham.

**Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) :** Cllr Snook reported at the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> November, all of the motions discussed at the previous council meeting had been approved and would go forward to the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) for consideration. The discussion on a unitary council for Dorset had been interesting. There was one proposal from councils in the east of the County, which did not have the support of remaining councils, who favoured a whole-Dorset unitary. Under either proposal district councils would disappear and more services would be devolved to town and parish councils. **Cllr Snook** also mentioned an email account had been established to report inappropriate SatNav routing of vehicles. This could be found at [pmann.verwood@btinternet.com](mailto:pmann.verwood@btinternet.com)

**Lengthsman :** Cllr Creed-Castle reported that the swings had been removed from the Whitchurch play area the same day as requested by the Clerk. The Lengthsman had obtained the contract to maintain the affordable housing site from Hastoe. He had not found a problem with the noticeboards that he had been requested to look at. **Cllr Everidge** was surprised by this and volunteered to take a photo of the one at Morcombelake to illustrate the problem.

**Ancient Monuments/Photographer :** Cllr Creed-Castle advised that she was intending to put together a new exhibition in January/February and would say more about this at the next meeting.

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## Councillor Reports :

**Cllr Vaughan** advised that he had received a report about slurry escaping onto a road surface. He believed that this was a one-off due to the prevailing wet conditions. He had pursued the cutting back of vegetation on the exit from Berne Lane to the A35 with both DCC and Highways England but had not resolved it to his satisfaction. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Connect seeking action on this.

**Cllr Joyce** reported that River Char had flooded badly at least once and she had needed to help the school bus redirect.

**Cllr Peck** had looked at the current Parish Plan as requested and advised the meeting that the most obvious thing was that a lot of the factual information, e.g. doctors, dentists, etc. was out of date. She could see little benefit in updating this information, especially in printed format. Depending on the direction taken with neighbourhood planning, starting from scratch would possibly be the best option for the Parish Plan.

**Cllr Snook** reported that the annual Wootton Fitzpaine fete would be going ahead next year.

**Cllr Johnson** asked that the Lengthsman attend to the drains in Gassons Lane again and at the corner of Gassons Lane and Prime Lane (per **Cllr Vaughan**).

**Cllr Sage** asked that the Lengthsman be asked to attend to a drain on the B3165 beyond the Fishponds turning and before Lambert's Castle car park, which was causing dangerous flooding of the road.

**Cllr Creed-Castle** advised that a work party from London had cleared one of the outstanding areas of vegetation in Stoke Mill Lane, if the other could be cleared (the Clerk had written to the owner) then we would be in a position to carry out remedial drainage work.

**District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher** advised the meeting that the West Dorset Local Plan had been approved on 22 October. It had been noted that WDDC was subject to a large number of appeals on its planning decisions. On the A35, he had spoken to Andy Roberts of Highways England and a letter outlining their views was expected before Christmas (there was a meeting scheduled with Oliver Letwin MP on 11 December). The Waste Transfer Station at Bridport had now had its official opening. He noted that there were proposals to increase car parking charges in Lyme Regis and observed that these could be harmful to the local economy. **Cllr Everidge** asked about the criteria for villages to have public car parking facilities, with particular regard to Morcombelake. **Cllr Christopher** agreed to look into this.

**County Councillor : Cllr D Turner** reported that there was increasing pressure to make savings and a press release would be issued the following day on proposed savings to the Youth Service budget.

**Cllr Turner** then presented the Chair with a cheque for £700 from his divisional budget in response to the council's bid for funds to support improvements to play areas in the council's area. The meeting expressed grateful appreciation of this.

## 3481 :Planning

**i) To consider : none**

**ii) To note :**

WD/D/15/001719 - Little Oak Farm, Champernhayes Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine - Erection of a main shed, a cow shed, a small shed, a hay shelter, two polytunnels, track and entrance way – an objection had been made – the issues around applications for smallholdings were discussed.

WD/D/15/002152 – Bracken, Fishponds Bottom Road, Whitchurch Canonicorum –erect replacement dwelling – No objection but comments re roofing materials

WD/D/15/002334 – 1 Ivy Cottages, Tizards Knap, Morcombelake - Construction of off-road parking area – no objection

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

WD/CA/15/00260 – Oak Hayes, Ryall Road, Whitchurch Canonicorum – thin 1 oak - Approved

WD/CA/15/00266 – Pound Cottage, Whitchurch – fell 2 eucalyptus trees – Approved

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**iv) Enforcement :** **Cllr Everidge** noted that it had been four years since The Veiv had been occupied and there had been a succession of reasons why enforcement action had not be implemented. She wondered how much longer the issue would be allowed to continue for.

### 3483 : Clerks Report

**(i) General -** The Clerk reported that the council would be affected by the regulations for automatic enrolment to pension schemes from November 2016. As the Clerks salary was below the threshold for compulsory enrolment there would only be limited implications. The Clerk reported that further photos had been added to the new website. In response to questions he agreed to see if anything could be done to improve the response to search enquiries for "Char Valley Parish Council". The change to the bank account continued with new queries responded to. He was currently starting the work of reviewing, line by line, the annual budget and there were a number of issues to be addressed. Finally he briefed councillors on the replacement of a rotten beam in the Whitchurch Play Area. A quotation had been received for £818 for the work. It was agreed to seek at least one further quotation before issuing an order.

**(ii) Finance :**

**(a) Payment approvals November :** the following payments were approved :

Payee	Details	Cheque No.	Amount
J West	Clerks pay and expenses Nov.	1412	£392.85
HMRC	PAYE Nov.	1413	£79.60
S Lee	Lengthsman	1414	£676.00
S Lee	Lengthsman	1415	£362.00
Les Kitchener	Grass cutting	1416	£590.00
Alvian Ltd	Play area inspections	1417	£140.00

**3484 : Neighbourhood Planning :** **Cllr Joyce** reported on the meeting of the sub-group. As the Local Plan had not been adopted at the time of the meeting it had been decided to consider the advantages and disadvantages of producing a neighbourhood plan. There group felt that there were four advantages and no disadvantages, except that there was a huge caveat about the resources required to produce a plan. The advantages were: something for the community to engage with, something for the community to aim for, something to negotiate to achieve and a measure of what the community wanted in terms of housing, etc.

To produce a plan would require at least two meetings in each area. It was understood that there was up to £8,000 available in grant monies to support the production of a plan. A consultant would need to be engaged together with a steering group of at least twelve people including around four parish councillors.

**Cllr Vaughan** added that for him it was about the community being asked what they wanted, we could then speak on behalf of people in the parish. **Cllrs Peck** and **Snook** had a different perspective, they both felt that the adopted local plan probably provided adequate safeguards and developing a neighbourhood plan would result in duplication of policies.

Following further discussion it was agreed that if possible Michelle Warrington who had led the Loders Plan production would be asked to attend the January meeting to speak for about 15 minutes about their neighbourhood plan process. **Cllr Everidge** to contact her. If this was possible the meeting would then start at 7pm.

**3485: Beneath the Vale :** The Council considered the recent issue of the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council publication "Under the Vale", which had contained an article containing a section making reference to Char Valley and its previous Chair, in relation to neighbourhood planning. Councillors felt the section concerned was inappropriate, factually incorrect and of an unacceptable nature. They were unanimous in feeling that some form of letter should be sent by the Chair to the Chair of Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council expressing Char Valley's dissatisfaction with the article.

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**3486: Fingerposts :** Cllr Peck reported that following advice she had drawn up a schedule of work stating what needed to be done and by whom. Roger Bond was very busy and she felt that the person who had volunteered their services was also very busy with other things. However she had found someone by the name of Marcus Slegg who would do the whole job and work to the AONB specifications. Therefore she would contact the AONB shortly and request that DCC remove the posts concerned from the ground pending repair. The grant application had been submitted to the AONB. Cllr Everidge offered to contact Amanda Streatfield to find out her experiences in relation to fingerpost restoration. Finally the meeting expressed their appreciation of the generous sponsorship received from Simon Christopher.

**3487: Electronic Communications :** The Clerk reported on possible use of the new website to email news to people who had signed up to a mailing list. It was agreed that this was worthy of further investigation.

**3488 :Items for the next agenda :** A35, Fingerposts, Neighbourhood Planning, budget.

**3489: Date of next meeting :** 11 January 2016 – Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

**3490 : Matters of Urgency :** none

**3491 : Closure of meeting :**The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.