

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY THIRD MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2015 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL

3455: Present: Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, Bailey, Mahaddie, Peck, J West (Clerk), D Turner (DCC), S Christopher (WDDC).

3456: Apologies : Cllrs: K Vaughan, S Johnson

3457: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: none

3458: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: none.

3459: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 14th September :
Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3460: Actions Following Last Meeting: The Clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

3461: Reports:

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

- Anthony Alford had it drawn to his attention that approaches to West Dorset District Council (WDDC) went often unanswered and this damaged public confidence; he is to remedy this
- Dog worrying appears on the increase. Dog attacks on livestock are an offence and should be reported to police or the WDDC dog warden at the time they occur. With regards to dog fouling, this is a matter that is dealt with by the dog warden
- Marine Management Organisation – they had outlined the role and the work they are to undertake in our area and would like BLAP to be involved in assessing the impact of the MMO's work on coastal communities
- Under the Service Review Consultation WDDC is seeking opinion on the future of BLAP; the deadline is 12.11.2015.

Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) : Cllr Snook reported that it was the AGM on 7th November, which she would attend as the Council's delegate. She noted that unitary proposals for Dorset were one on the subjects to be discussed. She explained that there were a number of motions to be considered, on which it would be helpful if the Parish Council could mandate her. Once considered by the DAPTC these motions would be forwarded to the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) for consideration. The motions (appended to these minutes) were discussed and the conclusion reached was as follows : 1/ Agree; 2/ Agree; 3/ Agree; 4/ Ignore; 5/ Await discussion.

Trees and Hedges : Cllr Peck reported that she had endeavoured to contact the Tree Officer at WDDC to seek advice on how to help protect hedges and hedgerow trees, but there had been no response to date to her two emails.

Transport : Cllr Everidge reported that concerns with regard to alterations with the X 53 meant that people now cannot travel from Dorset and Devon without changing buses at Axminster. One local community group have written their own bus and train timetables as the official ones are not released until at least a month after the change in timetable. It was agreed that she would find out more about this.

Councillor Reports :

Cllr Joyce told the meeting that she had received complaints from local residents about the sound of gunfire coming from the Whitchurch side of Hardown Hill. This was occurring every day for a period in the late afternoon. It was suspected that it was attributable to clay pigeon shooting. It was decided that the Clerk would do some general research into how noise issues such as this were handled and refer back to **Cllr Joyce**, who could then take appropriate action.

Cllr Peck reported that the National Trust had put up waymarker signs to complete the mobility vehicle scheme on the Golden Cap Estate.

Cllr Snook reported that a local history exhibition at Wootton Village Hall had proved very successful. She had made further efforts to find suitable co-optees to the Council.

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Cllr Bailey reported that Countryside Rangers had been out checking footpaths and stiles in her area. She also mentioned problems with the delivery of new waste bins by the Dorset Waste Partnership or its contractors.

Cllr Everidge reported concerns about condition of the notice boards at the Post Office where wood has come adrift and also at Stonebarrow Lane. It was agreed that the Lengthsman would inspect these. She voiced concerns about requirements to put kerbside waste out by 7 AM. Waste, particularly from second homes was often put out days in advance, which was unsightly, apart from any other problems. **Cllr Everidge** also reported that there were rumours that Connect have been approached with regard to allowing fields to the west of West Star Farm to make entrances onto the A35; Connect apparently have not objected. She asked if it was possible to explore this with Connect. The Clerk to investigate on receipt of an email from **Cllr Everidge** setting out full details.

Cllr Mahaddie continued to be concerned about verge cutting by DCC's contractors, it was expected that they would start cutting verges in the Char Valley area by mid-October. She also mentioned a problem with water on the road at the bottom of Taylor's lane, it was agreed the Lengthsman would investigate, although it was possible that it was a mains leak.

Cllr Creed-Castle expressed frustration with letters delivered by Wessex Water about the road closures linked to water mains repairs. These mentioned work in Gooden's Hill despite it being pointed out to them at the last meeting that no work was scheduled in this location. She was due to have a phone call from a Wessex Water official the following day in relation to this. She mentioned that she had been taking photos in various locations including St Gabriel's Chapel and on the Golden Cap Estate. She asked if there was any news on the repair to the bridge in Bluntshay Lane, the Clerk agreed to follow this up.

County Councillor : Cllr D Turner reported that there was a unitary proposal from council's in the east of the county, which was not supported by Dorset County Council (DCC). DCC favoured a county-wide unitary solution. He reported that "down-time" on school buses would in future be used to enhance some rural services the cost being met funded externally. **Cllr Turner** added that East Cliff beach at Lyme Regis was being re-designated for water quality due to river borne pollutants. Finally he mentioned that he had divisional budget monies of £700 to spend as he saw fit and was invited a bid from the council for this.

District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher advised the meeting Graham Cox at WDDC was the best person to contact in relation to tree and hedge matters. He reported that the West Dorset Local Plan would be going to full Council for adoption on 22 October. The Inspectors hearing into the unauthorised site at Muddyford Lane was taking place the following morning (14 October). Finally he reported that he had been invited to a meeting with Highways England to discuss their road plans for the South West. He agreed to check the position on local issues with them.

3462 :Planning

i) To consider : none

ii) To note :

WD/D/15/001933 – Shave Cross Inn, Shave Cross, DT6 6HW – Change of use to dwelling – objection
WD/CA/15/00266 – Pound Cottage, Whitchurch – fell 2 eucalyptus trees – no objection
WD/CA/15/00260 - Oak Hayes, Whitchurch Canonicorum – crown thin one oak – no objection (now approved)

iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note):

WD/D/15/001720 - Hardown House, Loves Lane, Morcombelake - Removal of existing front bays, erection of single story front extension -approved
WD/D/15/001150 – Cummins Farm, Fernhill, Charmouth – erect general purpose building - approved

iv) Enforcement : Cllr Snook mentioned that a local resident Mr Barkway continued to be in correspondence with WDDC over alleged failure of the owner of a property known as Little Oak Farm to comply with the terms of an enforcement notice issued against them.

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3463 : Clerks Report

(i) General - The Clerk reported that it had been a very busy month with a lot of correspondence. He was continuing work to transfer the bank account. Some further content had been placed on the new website with more pictures to be added soon, he added that he had submitted a claim to DAPTC to recover some of the set-up and ongoing costs from a Transparency Fund that had been set up nationally. He advised the meeting that he was also preparing some planning guidance notes following a course that **Cllr Everidge** and he had attended in the summer. Cllr Snook noted that a list of 2016 meeting dates in her possession contained some errors and he agreed to investigate this.

(ii) Finance :

(a) Payment approvals October : the following payments were approved :

Date	Payee	Details	Chq	amount
12.10.15	Creeds	envelopes	1394	£12.00
12.10.15	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire 14.9.15	1395	£22.00
12.10.15	S Lee	Lengthsman Sept.	1396	£351.00
12.10.15	J West	Clerks pay and expenses Oct.	1397	£348.77
12.10.15	HMRC	PAYE OCT	1398	£79.60
12.10.15	Whitchurch Pre-School	annual grant (\$137)	1399	£250.00
12.10.15	Wootton Adventure Tots	annual grant (\$137)	1400	£100.00
12.10.15	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	annual grant (\$137)	1401	£100.00
12.10.15	Whitchurch Village Hall	annual maintenance grant	1402	£350.00
12.10.15	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	annual maintenance grant	1403	£350.00
12.10.15	James Hargreaves C. Hall	annual maintenance grant	1404	£350.00
12.10.15	Whitchurch Canonorum PCC	annual burial ground grant	1405	£280.00
12.10.15	Wootton Fitzpaine PCC	annual burial ground grant	1406	£280.00
12.10.15	Monkton Wyld PCC	annual burial ground grant	1407	£245.00
12.10.15	Fishpond PCC	annual burial ground grant	1408	£60.00
12.10.15	Stanton St Gabriel PCC	annual burial ground grant	1409	£60.00
12.10.15	James Hargreaves URC	annual burial ground grant	1410	£60.00
12.10.15	Whitchurch Canonorum, Morcombelake & Ryall Village Hall	Playground lease	1411	£25.00

3464 : Neighbourhood Planning : Cllr Bailey commented that while it had been a good presentation she felt a neighbourhood plan was not the way forward due to work involved and contentious and conflicting views about affordable housing. She felt existing designations such as the AONB and conservation area gave adequate protection. **Cllr Peck** felt that across the Parish as a whole there was probably a lack of appetite for a plan. She drew attention to a letter from Mr Dyson, which in summary suggested that the West Dorset Local Plan provided adequate protection and a Neighbourhood Plan would not add sufficient value to make it worth undertaking. District Councillor **Cllr Christopher** pointed out that even with a local plan in place some developments had occurred in the area that the Parish Council might not have supported.

Following further discussion it was agreed that if possible a sub-committee would be formed to examine the adopted West Dorset Local Plan and confirm that it provided appropriate coverage of policies for those issues pertinent to the Char Valley, in this case a neighbourhood plan would not be pursued. Consideration would also be given to how the existing Parish Plan could best be updated. The Sub-committee to consist of **Cllr Joyce**, plus potentially **Cllr Vaughan, Cllr Johnson or Cllr Sage**, if at least three of those named were willing. If, a sub-committee could not be readily formed then matter would be re-examined at the next meeting.

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3465 :Fingerposts, update from working group : Cllr Peck reported that she had received an estimate for repairing the two fingerposts in Whitchurch. Taking the various elements of work together this amounted to just over £750 per post. It was agreed to progress these along with the post in Wootton previously identified as urgent. It was also agreed that **Cllr Snook** would progress the next three posts identified as needing attention with Alex Brooks. **Cllr Everidge** reported that replacement of the post at the bottom of Stonebarrow Lane by the National Trust was now in hand.

3466 : Superfast Broadband : Cllr Everidge reported some of the fibre take-up figures in the Bridport area, which ranged from 3% to 27%. She noted that some broadband providers were not offering fibre broadband to existing customers. She also reported that there were delays in Morcombelake due to Highways England needing to give approval for works to go ahead. Cllr Christopher agreed to follow up this at his meeting with Highways England and the provision of a green cabinet in Whitchurch with Oliver Letwin MP.

3467 : A35 Road Safety : Following discussion at the previous meeting the Clerk had written to Highways England asking how they envisaged engaging with local residents and the Parish Council in taking forward the speed review and consideration of the need for a crossing at the west end of Morcombelake. He had received a reply, which had been circulated offering a meeting with the Parish Council from December onwards. It was agreed that he should write back to Andy Roberts of Highways England inviting him to attend the January 2016 Parish council meeting. The Clerk advised that he had not yet received a response to the letter had written to the Chief Constable of Dorset Police requesting a meeting with her officers in relation to diversion of vehicles following major incidents. It was agreed that he should follow this up.

3468: Electronic Communications : Cllr Joyce outlined the need to communicate better with local residents especially when there was some urgent news that could be disseminated. She observed that most people who accessed the internet now had smart phones, which provided a means of ready access to the internet and email. It was agreed that the Parish Council would endeavour to build a list of email contacts. **Cllr Joyce** would approach those on her own Church email list asking if they wished to participate and she would also ask if the Friends of St Candida email list members could be invited to join.

3469 : Working Together Report : The Clerk introduced this report produced jointly by a group of Town Council clerks and the former Chief Executive of DAPTC in association with Dorset County Council on the subject of improved locality working. He felt that the report as perhaps might be expected, given the contributors, was slanted towards Towns and did not reflect issues in rural areas. However most of the contents were uncontroversial and nothing particularly radical was being suggested. It was agreed that the report offered nothing particularly new and that the Clerk should respond drawing attention to the lack of focus on rural areas.

3470 :Items for the next agenda : Fingerposts, electronic communications, A35, Neighbourhood Planning.

3471: Date of next meeting : 16 November 2015 – Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall

3472 : Matters of Urgency : none

3473 : Closure of meeting :The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

DAPTC Annual Conference

MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBER COUNCILS

1. From Chideock Parish Council: 'That DAPTC requests through NALC that the Department of Communities and Local Government urgently close a loophole caused by the length of time it can often take to ensure Enforcement action takes place. At present long delays by Local Planning Authorities in taking Enforcement action on a planning violation can result in the evidence of the violation, as provided to the LPA by Parish Councils and private individuals, being used by the violator as evidence of existing and prolonged use to support an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use.'

2. From Chideock Parish Council: 'That DAPTC asks NALC to urgently take up the issue of SATNAV systems directing heavy vehicles onto unsuitable roads in rural areas and consequently causing damage and traffic chaos in local communities.'

3. From Colehill Parish Council: 'The change in electoral legislation which took effect in Parish and Town Council elections this year – under which it was no longer possible to submit nominations for more than one ward and then withdraw from those which have already reached quota after the close of nominations – has caused problems for several councils across Dorset. Elections have been required in some wards, while others have had to be filled by co-option, leading to additional expense and (in some cases) the loss of the Power of General Competence and/or Foundation Status under the Local Council Award Scheme. Colehill Parish Council proposes that DAPTC requests that NALC and our area MPs lobby government to amend the legislation and remove this impediment to effective local government at the Parish and Town Council level.'

4. From West Moors Parish Council: 'West Moors Parish Council asks that DAPTC lobbies NALC to change the Localism Act 2011 to be amended so that power is restored to Standards Committees to impose penalties upon Councillors who contravene the Code of Conduct or who are guilty of inappropriate behaviour towards fellow councillors or members of staff.'

5. From Blandford Forum Town Council: 'That DAPTC requests, through NALC, that legislation be amended to ensure that parish meetings/a town assembly can be held at a reasonable time appropriate to its constituents. In addition to holding meetings after 6pm on weekdays, these meetings could be held over weekends.'