

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

FOUR HUNDRED AND FOURTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2016 IN THE WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL

3668: Present: Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, S Johnson, C Sage, C Mahaddie, C Peck, D Turner (DCC). S Christopher (WDDC), J West (Clerk) and two members of the public

3669: Apologies : K Vaughan, C Bailey,

3670: Public Discussion Period: none

3671: Declarations of interest : none

3672 : Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 10th October 2016 :

Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved, subject to minor changes to 3654 and 3656.

3673 : Actions Following Last Meeting: As circulated by the Clerk. It was noted that the action relating to the Veiw was still pending.

3674: Reports:

Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) : Cllr Snook reported that at the DAPTC AGM all motions, apart from one, were carried. These would now go onto NALC who would decide which motions to lobby the Department for Communities and Local Government on. DAPTC had won a national award for being good at consulting “hard to reach” groups in the community.

Trees and Hedges : Cllr Peck reported that people were increasingly using shading from trees to their properties as a justification for requesting that the trees be cut down. She felt this was most unfortunate and that there should be a firm policy from WDDC of requiring replacement planting wherever possible. Cllr Joyce observed that WDDC’s recommendations for the Church wall repairs had required the removal of six good trees.

Bridport Local Area Partnership : Cllr Everidge reported the passing of Dominic Knorpel, who had been staunch member of BLAP. She mentioned that there was a consultation event on the proposed reorganisation of health care at this week’s Bridport Town Council meeting and other events organised by the CCG were following in December. There was general concern amongst councillors about the possibility and impact of reduced numbers of GP practices in West Dorset.

Transport : Cllr Everidge noted that there were still strongly felt concerns about the vulnerability of public transport services.

3675 : Councillor Reports :

Cllr Sage reported that a blocked drain on the road between the Fishponds turning and Lamberts Castle car park had given risen to a dangerous collection of surface water. It was agreed that the Lengthsman would investigate this. He also highlighted another issue with drainage/fallen leaves on the A35 opposite the Monkton Wyld turning.

Cllr Peck wished to publicly thank local resident Chris Hawkins for his continuing vigilance in keeping drains, etc. in Whitchurch unblocked.

Cllr Snook reported that local resident Tony Farmer had been encouraging people with Vodaphone mobile phones to join with him in making representations to Vodaphone about the reception, which had seemingly gotten worse since changes had been made to the mast at Hardown Hill.

Cllr Joyce reported that a broadband box is likely to be installed in Whitchurch before Christmas, but may not be live until the New Year.

Cllr Johnson asked that the Lengthsman clear the drains along the whole of Gassons Lane.

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Cllr Everidge reported that a recent meeting with the police had highlighted problems with theft of oil from tanks, theft from cars and a one-off theft of an unattended Land Rover. On the whole however there were fairly low levels of criminal activity. She added that the grit bin in Stonebarrow had been moved by Dorset Highways as requested. There was the possibility of draining surface water under the road but the local resident whose support was required was not currently keen to progress this.

3676 : County Councillors Report : Cllr D Turner reported that the “Reshaping our Councils” consultation ended on 25 October. The councils were currently looking at issues associated with devolving services downwards. A decision by councils on the shape of the new council arrangements would be made by the end of January. He invited pupils affected by broadband issues to volunteer to take part in an event on 11 January highlighting problems for students, anyone interested to contact him. In response to a question he mentioned that there were grants available for satellite broadband services for the 5% approximately who would be unable to otherwise access superfast broadband.

3677 : District Councillors Report : Cllr S Christopher reported that WDDC had debated what would happen to various sources of revenue such as car parks income when unitary councils took over. The sale of assets such as the Chantry in Bridport had raised a lot of concerns. Delays in processing land charge searches continued, although £60k had now been allocated for new staffing for this function. **Cllr Christopher** went on to outline various recent district-wide planning issues and cases.

3678 : Planning :

i) To Note:

WD/D/16/001997 - Highcliffe Cottage, Fishpond Bottom Road, DT6 6NN - Demolish existing building and ancillary accommodation and rebuild dwelling and ancillary accommodation with extended footprint – no objection, now approved

WD/D/16/0022318 - Dedley Farm, Ryall Road, Ryall, DT6 6EN Install French doors at ground level, new front and rear dormers. Internal works (retrospective) – no objection

WD/D/16/002168 - Stubbs Cottage, Bluntshay Lane, Whitchurch Canonorum, DT6 6RJ Remove existing roof structure and install a first floor level with balcony over sunroom - objection

Cllr Mahaddie asked the Clerk whether he had clarified the location of the proposed change of use to the annexe at Myrtle Cottage. He advised that he had written requesting the application be clarified but was not sure if there had been any action in response (subsequently confirmed that a location plan was now provided on the WDDC planning website portal).

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

WD/D/16/001767 - Great View, Verriotts Lane, Morcombelake DT6 6DU – Erect Two Storey Extension - approved

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 she had attended the WDDC Planning Committee meeting and spoken against the proposal. As reported previously trees and shrubs had been removed, decimating the site and drastically changing the nature of the proposal, as the existing screening that would have been available had been destroyed. On the basis that the developer proposed new landscaping the application had however been approved on the officers recommendation. Councillors were generally very unhappy with this approach, which appeared to reward cavalier behaviour by developers. **Cllr Everidge** to supply the Clerk with further details in order that a representation could be made to the Planning Manager. It was also agreed that the Council could consider whether a more pro-active approach could help protect trees on potential development sites.

iii) Appeals : Cllr Snook reported that a planning appeal had been submitted by the applicants in relation to the refusal last year of various sheds, shelters and a polytunnel at Little Oak Farm, Champernhayes Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine. The inspection would be by means of written representations and the councils previous objections would be taken into account.

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3679 : Clerks Report :

(i) Payments – The following payments were approved :

“Emergency payments” made since the last meeting

Date	Payee	Details	Chq no.	Amount
31.10.16	J West	Job advert/printing re-imburement	500058	£460.14
31.10.16	Les Kitcher	Grass cutting	500059	£590.00
31.10.16	K Hussey	Play area inspections	500060	£115.50
31.10.16	Creeds	Envelopes - residents survey	500061	£12.00
31.10.16	Marshwood Vale Ltd	Recruitment advertising	500062	£108.00

routine payments :

Payee	Details	Chq no.	Amount
Whitchurch Village Hall	Annual playground rent	500063	£25.00
S Lee	Lengthsman	500064	£169.00
D Snook	Postage residents survey	500065	£132.00
J West	Pay and expenses Nov.	500066	£402.23
HMRC	PAYE Nov	500067	£80.80
Golden Cap Magazine	advertising	500068	£8.00

(ii) Budget – The Clerk reminded the meeting that a deficit budget had been agreed for the year in order to reduce the level of reserves held and use these to remove the need for any increase to the level of precept (council tax). The overall position at this point of the year was still in line with expectations. He suggested that it might be necessary to increase the precept next year in order that the gap between available funding and planned spending was smaller, otherwise it might become harder to close the gap in future years. **Cllr Peck** asked about the cap on council tax increases for all councils trailed in the Government’s Council tax consultation for councils. The Clerk felt that this was unlikely to be imposed on smaller councils in the next twelve months but nevertheless agreed that it presented a risk that needed to be factored into the Council’s considerations, as modest increases in the Parish precept raised very little actual income and a percentage cap could restrict the ability to respond to changing needs.

(iii) Correspondence : The Clerk reported that among recent letters notably he had received one from Whitchurch Flower Show with a generous donation of £500 specifically for the fingerposts renewal programme. This was very much appreciated by the meeting. Also he had received a letter from the Air Ambulance and Pre-School thanking the Council for recent grants made to them.

3680 : Clerk’s Position : The Clerk disclosed that four applications in total had been received to date. The closing date was 25th November. Following discussion it was agreed to endeavour to bring the interviews forward to the 8th December, starting at 9am, first interview 9.30am, assuming that the candidates were available. **Cllrs Snook, Joyce, Creed-Castle** and **Johnson** would comprise the appointment panel. **Cllr Everidge** would probably be attending an NHS consultation event in Dorchester. The Finance Committee to discuss the budget would follow on the same morning.

3681 : Residents Survey : Cllr Snook reported that she had collected 51 survey forms from various (but not all) locations. Forms were due back by the end of November with the analysis to be carried out in December/January.

3682 : Fingerposts : **Cllr Peck’s** described the challenging issues she was experiencing with the re-siting of the Lower Street/Gassons Lane fingerpost. DCC were resisting the location of the post on private land, however if put back in its original position it was very likely to be damaged again in a short time. It was hoped to hold a site meeting with DCC representatives to resolve this.

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3683 : Defibrillator : The Clerk referred to the previous meeting where a decision had been made in principle to give a donation of £200 towards a defibrillator for the village. The Council now needed to confirm if they were content to go ahead with this. It was reported by **Cllr Peck** that the defibrillator would now be sited at the Five Bells Inn. It was agreed to authorise the payment.

3684 : Play Area Whitchurch – inspection report : The Clerk introduced the inspection report conducted by Play Inspector, Ken Hussey. It was noted that the swing seats were in need of replacement. There was some discussion about other points and it was felt that these needed to be reflected upon further and discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime the pre-school would be offered the opportunity to comment on the report.

3685 : Verge Cutting : The Clerk had written to Phil Sterling (copy to Giles Nicholson) at DCC to follow-up the non-response to the previous email and complain that despite assurances Bluntshay Lane and Pitman's Lane verges had not been cut. There had been no response to date, **Cllr Turner** offered to follow this up.

3686 : Items for the next agenda : Residents survey, recruitment, verges, fingerposts, budget, play area report, response to church wall planning appeal, changes to NHS services.

3687 : Date of next meeting : 9 January 2017 – James Hargreaves Community Hall

3688 : Closure of meeting : The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.