

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY SIXTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2016 IN THE WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL

3509: Present: Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, S Johnson, C Sage, C Bailey, C Mahaddie, J West (Clerk), S Christopher (WDDC) and six members of the public.

3510: Apologies : K Vaughan, C Peck, D Turner (DCC)

3511: Public Discussion Period: Mr Tompkins a resident of Berne Lane spoke in relation to the operation of the Dolphin Caravan Park in Berne Lane and made the meeting aware of the concerns of his wife and himself as to whether the existing planning consents and related conditions attached to the site were being complied with. His comments were duly noted. This matter was due to be discussed under the enforcement section of the agenda.

3512: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: none.

3513: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 11 January 2016 : Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3514: Actions Following Last Meeting: The Clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. He added that he had received a reply from WDDC in respect of Loscombeswell Lane (minute 3500). It appeared that the official list of streets in the Gazetteer held at Dorset County Council did not recognise Loscombeswell Lane as an official street name and that a "lengthy administrative process" was required to change names. The Clerk advised that he had written to enquire what the administrative process consisted of. The Council confirmed that they continued to support action to clarify the naming of this section of road.

Cllr Everidge confirmed that she had collected and distributed all of the flood signs (minute 3500 (i) Flood Risk Management). The meeting thanked her for this.

3515: Reports:

Local policing : PCSO Burton reported that PC Ball had now rejoined the Lyme Regis policing team. He advised that 16 PCs were being recruited by Dorset Police at the end of the year and a further 16 in 2017.

He reported that there had been no acquisitive crimes in the Char Valley area in the recent period. Finally he gave details of breath testing carried out by Dorset Police over the Christmas and New Year period, which had resulted in 105 arrests for driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. He disclosed that 25% of road traffic collisions generally were linked to alcohol or drugs.

Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) : **Cllr Snook** reported that two training days for councillors were being held, anyone interested to contact the Clerk. **Cllr Joyce** was interested in attending the annual conference, the Clerk would endeavour to book her on, although it was understood it might be full.

Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) **Cllr Everidge** reported that it was now fairly certain that BLAP would continue, albeit with reduced funding. BLAP had been represented at the community fair at the Town Hall on Saturday.

Transport : **Cllr Joyce** reported that several people went to the recent bus services review consultation meeting Bridport. Her clear impression was that the cuts to service funding would be made regardless. Community buses had been mentioned but the drawback was that such services would have to be booked every week, by phoning up if you wanted to use them.

Lengthsman : **Cllr Creed-Castle** reported that the annual budget had now been exceeded and re-iterated that requests must come through her and not be made direct to the Lengthsman himself (there were suggestions that this had been happening recently, but it was unclear whether the calls were from members of the public). The Clerk endorsed this directive, as it was essential in order to maintain effective financial control.

Rights of Way : **Cllr Snook** introduced Chris Peek and Don Newman (who had been Rights of Way Liaison Officer for Whitchurch until 2014). Chris had kindly offered to take on the role with support from her husband. Don Newman had passed over paperwork and given advice on the role. The Council formally resolved to adopt Chris Peek as the new Rights of Way Liaison Officer for Whitchurch Canonorum. The Clerk would advise DCC accordingly.

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Councillor Reports :

Cllr Joyce reported that the culvert in the church path had collapsed. This was likely to exacerbate problems with the church wall. She added that water flowing into the village of Whitchurch was a problem that needed to be discussed, despite recent rains the effects of a downpour and water coming off Hardown Hill could cause a major problem. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at a future meeting.

Cllr Mahaddie reported that residents of a part of Verriotts Lane, that was not an adopted highway, had asked about grants for flood prevention measures. The consensus was that the Environment Agency could be contacted but there was little optimism that grants would be available.

Cllr Snook had reported a water leak and potholes, which had been dealt with. A small landslide near Dairy Farm was causing ongoing problems. She reported that Wootton Toddlers were expecting to reopen at Easter. Wootton Fitzpaine hoped, to once again, enter the best kept village competition this year.

Cllr Johnson reported that there were drains blocked in Cardsmill/Gassons Lane. It was agreed that the Lengthsman could look at these.

Cllr Everidge advised that she there were mixed feelings about the proposed closure of the footpath at Charmouth, personally she felt that it was disappointing. She advised that she would check whether Langdon Lane had been repaired. She had reported a problem today, also in Langdon Lane, with a fallen tree and it had been cleared very rapidly. She told the meeting that she had recently attended a meeting about the Jurassic Coast and explained in outline the proposed Jurassica visitor project on Portland.

3516: District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher noted that a planning application in Cheselbourne to convert a public house into domestic residence had been turned down and this decision had been supported on appeal. He suggested that this might be an indicator for similar applications elsewhere. He reported back on a question previously asked in relation to Morcombelake about criteria for providing public car parks in villages and advised that despite numerous enquiries he had not found evidence that such a policy existed. **Cllr Christopher** also provided an update on delays in processing searches on land charges and explained that following a meeting staffing resources were being transferred on a two day a week basis to help address the problem.

3517 :Planning

To Consider : WD/D/15/002875 – Thistlegate House, Charmouth, DT 6BY - Extension to bungalow, new first floor and swimming pool area

Cllr Snook reported on the site visit to the above application. She advised councillors that although the proposed dwelling was larger than the 10% by volume as recommended in the West Dorset Local Plan, it was felt that would result in a benefit to the character and appearance of the area."The Council resolved to support the response of "no objection".

WD/D/16/000045 - Byways, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NJ - Replacement dwelling and conversion of residential annexe to ancillary garage and removal of outbuildings.

Cllr Snook reported that the site visit for the above application had concluded that it was an improvement on previous submissions and the next door resident had no objections. Following discussion the Council resolved to support the response of "no objection".

WD/D/16/000097 – Bracken, Fishponds Bottom Road, Whitchurch Canonicorum –erect replacement dwelling.

Cllr Bailey reported that this was a resubmission following withdrawal of the previous application. The roofing materials previously a concern has been changed and there was no objection to the proposals. The Council resolved to support a response of "no objection".

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ii) **To note :** none

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

WD/D/14/00140 – Heathlands, Morcombelake, DT6 6EP - remove existing timber garage and parking area, construct annexe parking and timber garage over – approved

WD/D/15/002684 - Monkton Wyld Farm, Scotts Lane, DT6 6DB - Demolish existing shower block and erect new - approved

iv) **Enforcement :**

Following the earlier presentation by a member of the public, Mr Tompkins, the Council discussed the planning issues relating to the operation of the Dolphin Caravan Park in Berne Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Planning Officers at WDDC expressing the council's concern at the apparent non-compliance with the planning conditions attached to the consent for the operation of the site and request an urgent investigation, with appropriate follow up action.

The current position with regard to unauthorised activities at The Veiv in Muddyford Lane was discussed. Gravel had been put down, which now had spread out onto the A35. The inspectors report on the appeal against the enforcement order taken out by WDDC was still pending. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to WDDC copy to various other parties including Oliver Letwin MP expressing the Council's concern about the ongoing situation.

v) **Cllr Joyce** gave an outline of the issues surrounding the refusal by WDDC of an application to rebuild part of the wall of the Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum. The Church had chosen the most expensive solution in an attempt to achieve a lasting and quality restoration, but had been taken aback by the refusal, which suggested that a lesser scheme would have been preferable. The Church was going to appeal the decision and Cllr Joyce asked that the Council's support for this be considered by the Council at a future meeting, which was agreed.

vi) **Planning consultation process :** The Council considered proposals set out in a paper from the Clerk suggesting changes to ensure that all councillors were aware of applications received from WDDC for consultation purposes. Through strengthening and clarifying the current procedures it was intended to ensure that wherever possible major applications and those giving rise to concern from councillors or the public were considered at a full council or planning committee meeting. Following discussion it was resolved to adopt the revised procedures and update the Council's standing orders as required to reflect the changes.

3518 : Clerks Report

i) **Budget report** – The Clerk gave a verbal report to support the printed report previously circulated. Key points were that it was expected that overall expenditure and income for the current year would be close to break-even. Fingerposts were expected to underspend in the current year, and there was no expenditure for salt bin or noticeboard replacement. Grants received had been greater than budgeted for. The only significant overspend was likely to be on the Lengthsman's budget, which was due in the main to work to clear drains as a consequence of recent wet weather.

ii) **Bank account** – The TSB account had been due to close and transfer across to the Cooperative Bank on 1st February. Some problems had been encountered due to the failure of the TSB to action the instruction promptly. These had hopefully now been resolved.

iii) **Payments**

Date	Payee	Detail	Chq. No.	£
8.2.16	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire January	500001	£22.00
8.2.16	J West	Clerks pay and expenses February	500002	£356.34
8.2.16	HMRC	PAYE Feb.	500003	£79.60
8.2.16	M Slegg	Fingerpost work	500005	£74.08
8.2.16	S Lee	Lengthsman January/February	500006	£984.00*

- This sum was an adjusted one to reflect changes to work charged for on the invoice.

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3519 : Neighbourhood Planning : The Clerk reminded councillors that a presentation had been arranged with an officer from West Dorset District Council, although the date needed to be finalised. There followed some discussion about where individuals now stood in relation to the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was, however, agreed that the workshop should proceed on the 6th April, for councillors only, with a decision taken at the Council's April meeting, which would define the way forward. The Clerk agreed to a request to circulate the Uplyme Neighbourhood Plan.

3520 : Fingerposts : The Clerk read an update from **Cllr Peck**. This stated that letters for the Monkton Wyld fingerpost had now been ordered. Estimates to restore a further three posts (Wootton Village Hall, Peter's Gore and Penn Cross) had been accepted and Cllr Peck would be applying to the AONB office for grants towards the cost of that work. DDC are scheduled to remove the posts at Crooked Lane, Gassons Lane, Wootton Cross and Penn Cross (no date for that). Following the damage to the telegraph pole (cabling nearly ripped through) by a truck cutting the corner of Gassons Lane and Lower Street, re-siting the restored posts needs to be considered.

3521 : Char Chat : It was agreed that articles to be included would be : "red posts" – **Cllr Mahaddie**; RoW Liaison Officer profile – **Cllr Snook**; Fingerposts – **Cllr Peck**; Queen's 90th birthday, Whitchurch – **Cllr Joyce**; Lengthsman – **Cllr Creed-Castle**, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre – **Cllr Snook** .

3522: Litter Problems: **Cllr Everidge** reported that a new officer at Dorchester was addressing litter issues and various "hotspots" were discussed. It was agreed following a request from **Cllr Sage** that the Clerk would write to East Devon District council about litter in the ditch on the B3165.

3523 : Items for the next agenda : Fingerposts, Neighbourhood Planning, Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross planning appeal, Char Chat.

3524: Date of next meeting : 14 March 2016 – Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall

3525 : Closure of meeting :The meeting was closed at 10.05pm.