

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY NINTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015 IN THE WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL

**3376: Present:** Cllrs: I Gollop (Chair), D Snook, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, C Mahaddie, C Everidge, C Sage, H Joyce, S Johnson, K Vaughan, J West (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**3377: Apologies:** Cllr Peck

**3378: Election of Chairman :** Cllr Gollop was proposed by Cllr Snook and seconded by Cllr Johnson. There were no further nominations and he was duly elected Chairman for the coming year.

**3379: Election of Vice Chairman :** Cllr Snook was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Joyce. There were no further nominations and she was duly elected Vice Chairman for the coming year.

**3380 :Previous Chairman's closing remarks :** Cllr Gollop thanked all members of the council for the time, effort and financial cost of their council role, noting that these roles were entirely voluntary and were often not appreciated. He went onto reflect on the disappointing pace and unsatisfactory outcomes from the roll-out of Superfast Broadband in the local community. He observed that the affordable housing scheme in Whitchurch had got up and running in the course of the year and was undoubtedly a success. The fracking questionnaire had also been a success in a different way and perhaps pointed to a means of consulting the local community, which could help build a local plan. He noted that there had been a change to a new permanent clerk during the year and felt that the transition had been smooth and that the new clerk was performing well. Closing his remarks Cllr Gollop stated that while not wishing to be political, the cuts in public expenditure seemed set to continue. The impacts had already been felt in diminishing levels and standards of service delivery by the District and County Councils and were likely to get still worse. He added that he was concerned that the joining together of district council services between councils was taking place without any consultation or democratic mandate.

### **3381: Resolution to Co-opt Councillors**

Cllr Gollop proposed that the following co-options should be made to the council, seconded by Cllr Joyce :

#### **Whitchurch South**

Christine Bailey  
Sylvia Creed-Castle  
Clare Mahaddie  
Christopher (Kit) Vaughan

#### **Stanton St Gabriel**

Christine Everidge

This was unanimously agreed and the declarations of acceptance of office were duly signed by the above.

It was noted that following the retirement of Cllr Ken Mansbridge there remained one vacancy for Wootton Fitzpaine. Cllr Snook undertook to pursue enquiries with suitable candidates for this.

**3382: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** none.

### **3383 : Election of members to committees and review and appointment of representative positions**

The following were proposed, seconded and agreed.

- (a) **Finance Committee** Cllrs Gollop, Snook, Johnson, Creed-Castle and Bailey
- (b) **Planning Committee** Cllrs Gollop, Snook, Johnson, Creed-Castle, Bailey, Joyce, Sage, Mahaddie and Everidge
- (c) **Complaints Committee** Cllrs Gollop, Snook Joyce and Everidge
- (d) **Rights of Way Officers** Wootton Fitzpaine – Mr P Mills, Whitchurch Canonicorum – Vacancy, Stanton St Gabriel - Mr Rose – subject to confirmation
- (e) **Trees** Cllr Peck (provisional)
- (f) **Transport** Cllr Everidge
- (g) **DAPTC** Cllr Snook

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- (h) **Bridport Local Area Partnership** Cllr Everidge
- (i) **Village Halls** James Hargreaves – Cllr Mahaddie; Whitchurch – Cllr Peck; Wootton – Cllr Snook
- (j) **Ancient Monuments/photographer** Cllr Creed-Castle
- (k) **Planning Areas** Monkton Wyld – Cllr Sage; Wootton – Cllr Snook; Whitchurch North – Cllr Bailey; Whitchurch South – Cllr Mahaddie; Stanton St Gabriel – Cllr Everidge
- (l) **Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field** Cllr Snook
- (m) **Flood Warden** Cllr Bailey
- (n) **Char Chat** Cllrs Gollop, Snook, Peck, Johnson, Creed-Castle (distribution) and Everidge
- (o) **Affordable Housing** – position deleted
- (p) **Lengthsman liaison** Cllr Creed-Castle

### **3384 : Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field Trustees**

**Cllr Snook** reported that John Bradbury, Jon Snook and Nigel Chapman were all prepared to continue as trustees. The meeting was grateful for their continued interest and agreed to re-elect them.

### **3385: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: None**

**3386: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015:** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to the correction of Pine Copse to Prime Coppice on page 3.

**3387: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. He explained that there had been some discussion with the website provider, Tim Heap in relation to adding council information in order to comply with the national code of transparency. Not unexpectedly this would incur some one-off costs. This had prompted discussion about the future of the website with Tim Heap, who had suggested that it should be modernised, which would incur a one-off cost. The Clerk advised the meeting that Tim currently provided the site to the Council at a discounted rate and asked for guidance on the way forward. He stated that there were a large range of potential suppliers of varying cost and quality but warned that savings would not necessarily be made if the consequence of a changed approach was significant ongoing additional work for the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk should develop a paper setting out the requirements and options for consideration, including a shortlist of providers and the Council would then decide the next step. The current provider should be fully included in discussions.

On a separate matter one councillor commented that the response from Devon County Council in relation to the occupation of a lay-by on the B3165 by Travellers continued to be unsatisfactory. It was now understood that the occupiers would be moved in June.

### **3388: Reports:**

**Transport : Cllr Everidge** reminded the meeting that the working times for resurfacing of the A35 had changed.

**DAPTC : Cllr Snook** advised that neighbourhood planning support grants would continue to be available until 2018. One of the difficulties was finding 12 volunteers to support plan development. It was noted that some other councils had incurred additional costs in developing their plans. **Cllr Gollop** observed that the plans were demanding in terms of resources and process to produce and were of limited value as they were subordinate to the higher tiers of the planning policy framework.

**Ancient Monuments Officer and Photographer : Cllr Creed-Castle** asked that at the conclusion of the next meeting councillors take part in a group photograph.

**Councillor Reports : Cllr Creed-Castle** asked if there had been any further news about Stoke Mill Lane, Clerk to follow up. **Cllr Snook** had been trying to trace reported effluent smells in the stream adjacent to Wotton Manor. **Cllr Joyce** reported that a damaged footpath sign in Becklands Lane had now been mended. She also mentioned that a planning application would soon be coming forward to rebuild a section of the church wall. **Cllr Joyce** also commented on problems with the election process most significantly the decision by a member of elections staff at WDDC to change her nomination paper from Whitchurch South to Whitchurch North without consultation. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write to WDDC raising concerns about that issue as well as the requirement to deliver nomination papers by hand

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and the publishing of results on the website as Whitchurch rather than Whitchurch Canonicorum North and the error made with Susan Johnson being shown as Susan Gollop. **Cllr Bailey and Cllr Mahaddie** raised issues in relation to verge cutting and the new notification of work arrangements, which were rather cumbersome. **Cllr Bailey** reported on Flooding correspondence from DCC and Charmouth Council dealt with by the clerk and herself. The consequence of this being that we had indicated a willingness to erect six signs for three flooding points in area and also agreed that we were happy for Charmouth Council to manage signage at points adjacent to their boundary with us. **Cllr Mahaddie** reported that a footpath sign in Pitman's Lane had not yet been mended and she would report this to the Lengthsman. **Cllr Everidge** reported persistent condensation/damp problems with the noticeboard situated at James Hargreaves Community Hall. The Clerk agreed to look into this. She also repeated previous concerns about recycling collection times in Morcombelake coinciding with peak traffic flows, e.g. 8.30am. The Clerk agreed to take this up with the Dorset Waste partnership. Finally she asked for clarification as to whether the Highways Agency had become "Highways England" and whether building could be situated with 25 metres of a trunk road. The Clerk agreed to explore these matters.

### 3389 :Planning

#### i) To consider :

WD/D/15/000829 Seaward, Verriotts Lane, Morcombelake - Outline application for new dwelling

**Cllr Mahaddie** advised the meeting that the site was steeply sloping and there were other concerns about the development of the site. Following discussion it was agreed that the council's response should highlight concerns about backland development, intensification of the residential area and impact on the visual amenity of the AONB.

#### ii) To note : none

#### iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note): none

**iv) Enforcement – Cllr Everidge** referred to the enforcement issues relating to the Veiv at Muddyford Lane and the failure of WDDC to act on the Enforcement Notice that had been served in January and expired in April. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chief Executive of WDDC, copy to Oliver Letwin MP seeking an explanation for the delay in prosecuting those named in the enforcement notice and threatening to go to the media with the matter if it remained unresolved.

**3390 : Review of the Council's Standing Orders** : The Clerk introduced a short report outlining the need for a review of the Council's standing orders, financial regulations and other matters associated with council meetings. **Cllr Gollop** supported the need for such a review. It was agreed that a review would take place led by the Clerk and supported by a reference group consisting of **Cllrs Gollop, Snook, Joyce and Everidge**.

### 3391 : Reports from Annual Parish Meetings

**Whitchurch Canonicorum – Cllr Johnson** reported that the meeting had been attended by three councillors and six members of the public. Points arising from the meeting included :

- Support for relaxation of holiday cottage status in planning policy to allow use as affordable housing
- Concerns about traffic issues, including speeding both on A35 and rural roads – It was agreed that the clerk would write to DCC regarding the need for a 30mph speed limit in the village.
- Appreciation of the way recent work was carried out by Wessex Water
- Concerns about pollution of the River Char

**Wootton Fitzpaine – Cllr Snook** reported that eleven people had attended. Points arising from the meeting included :

- Continuation of existing playing field trustees
- Willingness to continue to enter Best-Kept Village competition
- Village Clean-up 26th April
- Meeting of Wootton 2000 group to decide way forward following the death of Guy Bryan

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**Stanton St Gabriel – Cllr Everidge** reported that points arising from the meeting included :

- Traffic issues in Morcombelake, particularly at western end of village
- Access issues in village around James Hargreaves Community Hall in particular
- Use of the Post office lay-by

## **3392 : Finance :**

**(i)** The Clerk presented the annual accounts for the 2014-15 financial year (copy appended to the minutes). He noted that the expenditure has exceeded the budget by £143 with a consequent reduction in the level of reserves held to £20,033. There had been additional costs relating to the clerk position during the year with the acting clerk incurring high mileage costs due to his location, recruitment costs and a one-month handover period. The Lengthsman budget had been underspent as our requirements had not grown quite as fast as anticipated during the year. The Council had saved money on a new insurance deal that would last for three years. He reported that the accounts and financial records had been subject to an internal audit on 5th May and that the auditor, Sue Mullins, had not identified any adverse issues. He asked for the meeting to adopt the formal accounts and governance statement. This was moved by **Cllr Gollop**, seconded by **Cllr Joyce** and duly agreed.

**(ii) Payment approvals May :** the following payments were approved :

11.5.15	S Lee	Lengthsman April 2015	1368		£286.00
11.5.15	J West	Clerk Pay & expenses May	1369		£352.98
11.5.15	HMRC	PAYE May	1370		£79.60

**3393 : Fingerposts :** In the absence of **Cllr Peck** it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

**3394: Char Chat : Cllr Gollop** reported that he had now completed production of Char Chat as circulated by him earlier that day. The meeting noted their satisfaction with the outcome. **Cllr Gollop** thought it desirable to get the newsletter printed as soon as possible and leave the contact insert of councillors until the next edition (this could be dual purpose and also used on notice boards, etc.). He would liaise with **Cllr Creed-Castle** with regard to printing and distribution. The clerk would check the position with regard to email distribution.

**3395: Superfast Broadband : Cllr Gollop** reported that to his knowledge no-one in the village was receiving superfast connection speeds. In fact speeds were well below 4mbs in places. In a personal capacity he had contacted Oliver Letwin MP who had previously voiced support for everyone obtaining high quality broadband and Mr Letwin was due to visit him on 26 June. He had invited a very small representative group of local residents to join him. Meanwhile there had been no recent response from the Superfast Broadband Team to his questions and request to attend the Parish Council.

**3396 : Correspondence :** The Clerk had previously circulated a list of correspondence received during the month.

**3397: Items for the next agenda :** Enforcement, Fingerposts, Superfast Broadband, Road safety on A35, possible transfer of bank account..

**3398: Date of next meeting :** 8th June James Hargreaves Community Hall

**3399 : Closure of meeting :** The meeting was closed at 9.37pm.