

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2016 IN THE WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL

3526: Present: Cllrs: D Snook, C Peck, H Joyce, S Johnson, C Sage, C Bailey, J West (Clerk), S Christopher (WDDC), D Turner (DCC) and one member of the public.

3527: Apologies : Cllrs K Vaughan, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, C Mahaddie,

3528: Public Discussion Period: Mr Ivan Gollop, a resident of Whitchurch, spoke in relation to the cuts in rural bus services made by Dorset County Council. He observed that there had been no consultation until January and noted that the funding had been withdrawn despite a commitment made two years previously that no rural community should be left isolated without a bus service. Noting that the Council had received £4.1M RSG in February he wondered why the cuts had not been halted. His comments were duly noted and Cllr Turner agreed to respond to them in his report later in the meeting.

3529: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: none.

3530: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8 February 2016 : Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3531: Actions Following Last Meeting: The Clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. He added that Mrs Tompkins had sent a further letter to WDDC chasing a response to the planning enforcement concerns at the Dolphins Caravan Park in Berne Lane.

3532: Reports:

Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) : Cllr Snook reported that the annual conference had been very interesting, the main topic being the possible unitary council arrangements for Dorset. There had also been a report on the current partnership of the three councils in the western part of the county.

Transport : Cllr Joyce reported that a meeting was to take place to discuss the bus service issues and options available at the Bottle Inn at 6pm on 17th March. She would endeavor to attend. Several people went to the recent bus services review consultation meeting Bridport. The Clerk drew attention to correspondence received from a Symondsburry Parish Councillor about Parish Council's providing financial support to sustain existing services. Her feeling was that it would not be viable for the Parish Council to provide support to a continued service 76 but that there might be options to join up other services to provide a bus through Whitchurch.

Lengthsman : Cllr Johnson asked about the drainage issues in Cardsmill/Gassons Lane identified at the last meeting. Cllr Snook confirmed that the Lengthsman would be asked to look at both these and the issue reported by Cllr Mahaddie. The Clerk would action this.

Councillor Reports :

Cllr Bailey commented that there were a lot of potholes and some of them had been recently filled but the filling had come out, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the process.

Cllr Snook had reported a water leak but this had still not been resolved and would require further investigation. An oak tree on the playing field at Wootton Fitzpaine was overhanging the old bakery building following a request from the person using the property, she had examined it and concluded that tree surgery work was necessary to make it safe. It was agreed that she would progress this.

Cllr Joyce raised the question of white gates adjacent to Charmouth Forest that would benefit from repainting. Following discussion it was agreed **Cllr Snook** would make some initial enquiries about responsibility for this.

3533: County Councillor – Cllr D Turner responded to the points raised about bus services in the public discussion period. He stated that the County Council had suffered an additional cut of £7.4m on top of the £13m reduction it had expected in the new financial year. Following lobbying the further cut had been reduced by £4.1m, but this was not new money. He regretted that the consultation period had been so short. He warned that a further cut of £1m was expected in bus subsidies in the year following. He added that the

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Council saw community transport as a means of getting people from rural areas to main bus routes rather than to their final destination.

Commenting generally, **Cllr Peck** felt that citizens in rural areas were now consistently disadvantaged in terms of the level of public services they could expect. She felt this was very unfair.

Cllr Turner went onto report that the Council was streamlining its committee structure from 1st April. Finally there were two unitary council options being considered, the first involved a council for Bournemouth and Poole and one for the remainder of Dorset and the second option added Christchurch to the Bournemouth/Poole council. Both options could involve the establishment of “area boards” based around principal towns. The chosen option would be submitted in a bid to the Government, there would then be public consultation, followed by a decision by the Government. It was envisaged that any new arrangement would be in place by around 2019.

District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher reported that the recently adopted local plan would shortly be entering a review process. One of the reasons for this was that the Councils needed to ensure that a 5 year supply of building land was in place.

3534 :Planning

(i) To Consider : WD/D/16/000402– Hinkhams Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum – two storey extension – **Cllrs Bailey, Snook and Peck** had considered this application and believed it would not have any significant material impact. Therefore it was agreed that the submission would be “no objection”.

WD/D/16/000431 - Orchards, Higher Street, Whitchurch Canonorum- erection of timber garden building to be used as an arts studio. This had been considered by **Cllrs Bailey, Snook and Peck**. There were no obvious grounds for objection but a near neighbour would be consulted before the submission was made.

WD/D/16/000361 - Brimbles, Westover Hill, Wootton Fitzpaine, erection of a porch. Cllr Snook reported that this was a relatively minor proposal, which should enhance the property. After consulting with Councillors Bailey and Johnson, it was decided to submit a comment of no objection to WDDC.

(ii) To note : WD/D/15/002980 - The Old Byre, Wootton Lane, DT6 6NQ - Extensions to provide new kitchen and dining area with accommodation in the roofspace, new utility room, conservatory and extension to living room. External alterations. Change of part of land from agricultural to residential domestic use – no objection.

iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note): WD/D/15/001438 Damson Tree Cottage, Stonebarrow Lane – Permanent residential use of property – removal of condition 2 of planning permission - approved

iv) Enforcement : **Cllr Joyce** drew attention to the risk that the credibility of the development control process in West Dorset was being undermined by the lack of robust enforcement and consequently there appeared to be a growing public perception that people who strived to comply with planning regulations were at a disadvantage to those who flouted them. **Cllr Christopher** noted her comments and stated that the Planning Committee was always intent on taking a robust approach wherever possible.

The Clerk read a written update he had received on unauthorised activities at the View. This would be discussed further at a future meeting. It seemed unlikely that WDDC would take any action until the inspectors report on the planning appeal by the site owners was published.

v) WD/D/15/001246 - Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum : **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, which involved rebuilding sections of the wall. This would achieve a lasting and quality restoration, rather than one that would only last 10 to 15 years. The Council had refused this and in doing so suggested that a lesser scheme would have been preferable. The Church was going to appeal the decision (in the next two months). The problems had been added to the recent collapse of part of the church footpath and adjacent culvert. The repair work and resurfacing of the whole of the path would cost a further £20k. **Cllr Joyce** added that she was seeking grants to cover the cost of this work. It would be desirable to surface the path by a means other than tarmac although this would cost more. She asked that the Parish Council give consideration as to whether they could possibly make a grant towards this work. It was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

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3535 : Clerks Report

i) External Audit – The Clerk advised that the change in the external audit arrangements arising from the introduction of the new code of transparency had led to a complicated set of options that had caused much confusion amongst clerks. He had now arranged for the Council to be “opted-in” to the SAAA scheme. The consequence of this was that there would be an exemption from external audit while the council’s expenditure and income remained under £25k per annum. The Council’s account would still be subject to an annual internal audit and annual returns would continue to be made, so adequate safeguards would be maintained.

ii) Budget – Now all payments for the year had been made and subject to final reconciliation of the accounts the overall position was that the Council had received a total of £20,627 in income and had spent £19,497, resulting in a balance of income over expenditure of £1,130 (the Council’s reserves would increase by this amount). A formal finance report would be brought to the next meeting.

iii) Lyme Regis/St George Twinning Association - The Clerk had received a letter from the secretary giving details of this year’s event, to be held on Wednesday 27th July. This was noted and it was agreed to respond a request confirming that the Mayor of Lyme Regis would be welcome to wear their civic regalia in Whitchurch for the duration of the ceremony.

iv) Payments

The following payments were agreed.

Date	Payee	Detail	Chq. No.	£
14.3.16	S Lee	Lengthsman	500007	£299.00
14.3.16	S Lee	Lengthsman	500008	£156.00
14.3.16	J West	Clerk Pay & expenses March	500009	£355.11
14.3.16	HMRC	PAYE March	500010	£79.60
14.3.16	DAPTC	Annual conference fee	500011	£60.00
14.3.16	Whitchurch Village Hall	Hall hire	500012	£80.00
14.3.16	Janie Prince	Fingerposts work	500013	£334.00

3536 : Neighbourhood Planning : A workshop had been arranged with a senior planning officer from West Dorset District Council at Whitchurch Village Hall, time 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 April. It was confirmed that this was not a council meeting, but a training workshop for councillors to make sure they fully understood the neighbourhood planning process and other planning approaches and had the opportunity to ask whatever questions they felt appropriate. Following the workshop the council would decide the next step at its meeting on 11th April.

3537 : Fingerposts : Cllr Peck reported that unfortunately there was little progress to report, particularly as regards the removal of posts requiring work. The AONB have confirmed that there will be further grant funding available from April. **Cllr Peck** has identified three potential local sponsors that she intends to contact.

3538 : Char Chat : The following articles were envisaged : “red posts” – **Cllr Mahaddie**; Fingerposts – **Cllr Peck**; Queen’s 90th birthday, Whitchurch – **Cllr Joyce**; Lengthsman – **Cllr Creed-Castle**, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre – **Cllr Snook** . In addition there would be a section on the Neighbourhood Development Plan issue. The deadline for copy to Ivan Gollop would be 15 April with the publication going to the printers around the end of April, subject to Ivan’s availability and commitments.

Linked to this **Cllr Peck** commented positively on the Council’s website. She thought that a link to the Local plan would be useful and if possible more “news”. The Clerk agreed to action a link to the plan and also said he would circulate usage statistics.

3539: Items for the next agenda : Dates for parish meetings, Fingerposts, Neighbourhood Planning, Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross (church path), Char Chat.

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3540: Date of next meeting : 11 April 2016 – James Hargreaves Community Hall

3541 : Closure of meeting :The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.