

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## THREE HUNDRED AND NINETIETH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL

**3400: Present:** Cllrs: I Gollop (Chair), D Snook, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, S Johnson, J West (Clerk), Cllr S Christopher (WDDC) and two members of the public.

**3401: Apologies:** Cllr Peck, Cllr Vaughan

**3402: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion:** A member of the public, Mrs Goombridge advised the meeting that a petition had been gathered in respect of speeding traffic and safety of pedestrians in Morcombelake, particularly at the west end of the village. Another member of the public highlighted the problem of school children crossing the road. Suggested solutions included another crossing, a reduction in the current 40 mph limit and a traffic island. 263 people had currently signed the petition and Oliver Letwin MP had agreed to help re-examine the issue (subsequently confirmed a meeting with him will take place on 25 July).

**3403: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** none.

**3404 : Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015:** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to the addition of the question raised by Cllr Creed-Castle in relation to Stoke Mill Lane under councillors reports.

**3405: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

**3406: Reports:**

**BLAP : Cllr Everidge** reported that the partnership was currently actively involved in developing a neighbourhood plan for Bridport and surrounding parishes. The volunteer transport scheme was in need of more volunteers.

**DAPTC : Cllr Snook** advised that the current Chief Executive Cynthia Starkey would be retiring shortly.

**Village Halls – Wootton Fitzpaine : Cllr Snook** reported that the recent annual fete had been the best ever in terms of fund raising with £2,488 raised. This to be split between the church (£500) and the village hall (£1,988).

**Lengthsman : Cllr Creed-Castle** reported that the problems with the noticeboard had been resolved. **Cllr Johnson** suggested that grass trimming around road signs would be useful. **Cllr Creed-Castle** agreed to arrange this.

**Councillor Reports : Cllr Creed-Castle** mentioned advice given at a training session that the use of "Matters of Urgency" on council agendas should be avoided. It was agreed to consider this as part of the review of standing orders. She advised that she would be taking photos of councillors after the meeting for general use and a short profile could also be added for each councillor. **Cllr Joyce** enquired whether the planning application for the Whitchurch churchyard wall had yet been received, the Clerk confirmed that it had not. **Cllr Bailey** reported that a new neighbourhood watch contact was needed in the area. **Cllr Everidge** agreed to make enquiries on this. **Cllr Snook** noted that verge cutting had taken place in Wootton Fitzpaine. **Cllr Peck** had submitted an update, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This reported on the latest activity by conservation bodies in the Parish (copy appended to minutes).

**District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher** gave an extensive report that included the following : Traffic diversions through the Vale; the forthcoming WDDC tourist information centre review consultation; housing provision under the local plan; consultation processes on planning applications; abusive van drivers; a meeting with Chideock residents in relation to air pollution; garden waste collection issues and sheep worrying.

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## 3407 :Planning

### i) To consider :

WD/D/15/000601 - Valley View, Berne Lane, Charmouth. DT6 6RD – Erect garage and extension

**Cllr Bailey** advised the meeting that there were no issues with overlooking and the site appeared suitable for the extension, the councillors making the site visit were agreed that there was no objection. The meeting was agreed to support the position of no objection. Clerk to register this with WDDC.

**ii) To note :** WD/D/15/000307 - Copplestones, Main Road, Morcombelake - Erect replacement utility room and new gable extension and raised decking – this revised application had been considered acceptable and thus no objection had been made in response.

**iii) Approvals / Refusals (to note):** ):- WD/D/15/000597 – Oaklands, Fishpond Bottom Road, Fishpond – Alterations and single story extension – approved.

**iv) Enforcement :** the Veiw at Muddyford Lane - The Clerk had written as instructed 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. He had received prompt acknowledgements from both, but no substantive response. It was agreed that he should write again expressing disappointment that no response had been forthcoming and enquiring when one might be expected. It was noted that there had been an appeal lodged against the previous planning refusal. **Cllr Everidge** reported that some items had been removed from the site.

**Cllr Snook** reported that correspondence had been received, via the Clerk, in relation to Little Oak Farm at Champerhayes Lane, which had been the subject of a complaint to the Ombudsman by an adjoining resident. WDDC had now issued an enforcement notice, requiring the removal of a wooden structure and re-instatement to grass of a hard standing and re-instatement of a hedge.

**v) Footpaths :** **Cllr Snook** asked about a letter that had been circulated by the Clerk in relation to an report being dealt with by the County Council's Regulatory Committee on 11 June with regard to request for new footpaths in the Ryall/Whitchurch/Chideock area. It was noted that the request had been made in 2006 since which time the applicant had not responded to correspondence from DCC. The examination of evidence by the county council had not revealed a case for dedicating new paths in the area, so refusal was being recommended. Following further discussion it was agreed to take no further action.

## 3408 : Finance :

**(i)** The Clerk updated the meeting on the review of standing orders, he had circulated draft revisions to the "reference group" along with new financial regulations based upon the NALC model. He would next be looking at meeting structures. He hoped to bring recommendations to the July meeting and would be able then to progress the review of the website.

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

Date	Payee	Purpose	Chq	Amount
8.6.15	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire May	1371	£22.00
8.6.15	J West	Clerk pay & expenses June	1372	£372.78
8.6.15	HMRC	PAYE June	1373	£79.60

**(iii)** Bank account – At a previous meeting **Cllr Vaughan** had suggested that the Council's bank account should be moved to a bank who were not associated with investments in climate damaging operations, such as fracking – the Co-operative Bank having ethical investment policies being recommended. The Clerk had explored this and confirmed that a suitable account could be opened with the Co-operative Bank that would retain all of the current functional requirements. Following discussion it was resolved that the account should be moved from the TSB to the Co-operative Bank. The Clerk advised he would aim to achieve the transfer during the summer period.

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**3409 : Fingerposts :** It was agreed to form a working party consisting of **Cllrs Peck, Snook and Everidge**. **Cllr Snook** would arrange a meeting of the group. Cllr Snook mentioned one fingerpost in Wootton that was in need of repair. **Cllr Creed-Castle** agreed to remind the Lengthsman about quoting for repairs to posts.

**3410: Superfast Broadband : Cllr Gollop** outlined the continuing issues with variable connection speeds that largely failed to live up to the publicised superfast levels. It was noted that local businesses with poor connections could apply for vouchers with a value of £100-£3,000 to be used to purchase better broadband through a variety of measures. Details were on the [Dorsetforyou](#) website. **Cllr Everidge** reported that work was still going on to introduce Superfast Broadband in Swyre and West Bexington. It was agreed that the Clerk should write again to the Superfast team requesting them to take up their offer to attend a council meeting.

**3411 : Road Safety A35 : Cllr Bailey** noted that several years previously there had been unsuccessful attempts to get a second pedestrian crossing at the west end of the village. **Cllr Gollop** felt that pedestrian numbers were unlikely to be sufficient to meet the formula that determined whether crossings should be provided. **Cllr Joyce** felt that it was 25 years since the issue had first been raised, traffic is now higher than ever and it was worth having another try. **Cllr Everidge** suggested that the 40mph limit should be moved further west as current signs were hidden by foliage and poor light conditions. **Cllr Bailey** suggested that a crossing could increase rather than reduce risks to pedestrians.

**3412 : Correspondence :** The Clerk had previously circulated a list of correspondence received during the month.

**3413: Items for the next agenda :** Fingerposts, Superfast Broadband, Neighbourhood watch, review of standing orders.

**3414: Date of next meeting :** 20 July Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall

**3415 : Closure of meeting :** The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

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## Appendix

Report from **Cllr Peck** (see minute 3406)

### Hardown Society (from Liz Henderson, Society Secretary)

The society held its AGM recently. The Chair, Paul Light, reported that implementation of the agreed land management strategy for the site (a SSSI) following last year's meeting between landowners has been slow. There is a consensus that the best way to manage the top of the Hill in the longer term is grazing by hardier breed of native cattle. Belted Galloways already graze the hill. The plan is to allow the farmer to graze these animals on both National Trust and Chideock Manor land within the SSSI without interfering with public access.

Paul Light also reported on the purchase of the Hardown Society Cup to be awarded to the child with most points across all categories at the annual Whitchurch, Morcombelake and Ryall Flower and Dog Show.

New members are welcome and existing members were asked to make new residents in the area aware of the Society and its aims.

The Society continues to organize social events as well as walks and a moth trapping and identification sessions is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> /9<sup>th</sup> July. Anyone spotting any interesting birds is asked to report the spot to Des Poole. Night jars are annual visitors and a red kite was seen recently.

An A2 board is to be placed at the top of Loves Lane, covering info on SSSI, Management of the site, Prehistoric burial mounds, flora and fauna. A second board (A3 size) will be sited at the Quarry face (beside the barn) covering Geology and Quarrying aspects of the hill. The bodies involved in this initiative are the Hardown Society, Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust and DIGS (which I think is Dorset Important Geological Sites)

Dog fouling continues to be a problem.

### National Trust (from Jon Sibthorpe)

The NT has purchased around 50 acres of land known as Wainhouse Farm which abuts the existing land at Shedbush Farm. The plan is now to fence the boundary and farm in it a traditional manner with hay making forming part of the annual management. It has been let to a local farmer who is based towards Whitchurch. The Trust was keen to acquire the land as it had some great hedgerows from a conservation perspective, footpaths that cross it link better with Morcombelake and located where it was against Muddyford lane its purchase has enabled the NT to secure the access to the existing estate in terms of preventing any undesirable development in one form or another.

Other projects on the estate include the setting up of a disabled tramper route on the estate. Members of the public can hire a tramper through the West Dorset office to access the estate. It will be formally opening soon, booking details are on the website.

In May the NT held a celebration of 50 years of Enterprise Neptune, the fund by which the NT has put together Golden Cap estate and indeed acquired much of its coastal property nationally. The event was held on Stonebarrow Hill .

The NT is investigating ways to help clear up the dog fouling issues at Stonebarrow and Lamberts Castle and had a meeting with someone from DCC who spearheads a group called Litter Free Coast and Sea. She is providing advice and contacts and the NT will keep CVPC informed as to any developments.

### DWT (from their website)

Regular working parties are organised in the area to deal with specific problems such as himalayan balsam led by Nick Grey.