

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Kit Vaughan, Cllr Chris Bailey, Una Christopher, Sue Barrance, Nicholas Dyson.
2. Hilary Joyce was elected as Chairman
3. Carolyn Peck was elected as Secretary.
4. Last year's minutes were accepted: proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Creed Castle.
5. Nothing was raised during the public discussion period.
6. Matters arising:
 - It was reported that the layout of the chamber had been altered but it had not resulted in any material increase in attendance by members of the public.
7. SFB: Cllr Joyce reported that the green box promised for a site near the Church in Whitchurch had been promised for December 2016 but had yet to appear. CVPC TO CHASE. There are still no plans to extend the service further into the Vale. The advice is to use 4G.
8. Cllr Joyce reported on the situation regarding the Church Path in Whitchurch. New plans are being drawn up by a local resident. A grant of £3000 has been received. Any work will require planning permission as it is in a conservation area.
9. Cllr Peck read out the Clerk's report on the results of the recent residents' survey and confirmed that this report and the full results are available via the CVPC website. There was a question about the 5 year land bank, the County's shortfall and the review on the County's Local Plan that ensued. Mr Christopher clarified the situation. Mr Ziebland said that he did not feel a neighbourhood development plan was appropriate for the parish. Mr Christopher said that not having enough land set aside (4.9 years instead of 5) can encourage speculative planning applications that are difficult to refuse. Cllr Joyce read an overview of the neighbourhood planning process and its implications. Mr Smith sought clarification on some points of planning in relation to neighbourhood plans. CVPC TO RESEARCH AND ADVISE. Mr Christopher explained that there would be a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
10. Cllr Peck explained the necessity for the large rise in the precept.
11. It was explained that it seems a group of residents in Chideock have again raised the issue of a bypass for the village which would have a serious impact on Char Valley parish residents. There has been no consultation but a representative has been asked to come and talk to the Council. It appears that the initiative does not have the support of Chideock Parish Council. Mr Christopher confirmed that Oliver Letwin has declined to get involved unless a consensus emerges.
12. A group of interested individuals are promoting the idea of a National Park for Dorset. A speaker has been invited to address the parish council meeting on 8th May.
13. Dorset is moving towards becoming a unitary authority. The Secretary of State is due to rule imminently.
14. Cllr Peck spoke briefly about the finger post restoration project and expressed her thanks both for the work of volunteers and the generous donations received to date.

The meeting closed at 20.10