

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY FIRST MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 IN THE WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL**

**3416: Present:** Cllrs: D Snook, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, S Johnson, Peck, Vaughan, Mahaddie, J West (Clerk), D Turner (DCC), S Christopher (WDDC) and five members of the public.

**3417: Election of Chair :** Cllr Snook was nominated by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Joyce. There were no further nominations and Cllr Snook was elected unanimously as Chair.

**3418 : Election of Vice-Chair :** Cllr Everidge was nominated by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Snook. There were no further nominations and Cllr Everidge was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair.

**3419 : Apologies:** none

**3420: Superfast Broadband :** Cllr Snook welcomed Dugald Lockhart from the Superfast Broadband project and Grant Munn from BT to the meeting. They gave an update on the latest position in relation to rolling out Superfast Broadband across Dorset and described the issues faced in rural areas and the plans to address these. The following is a summary of the points that emerged from their update and the questions that followed :

1. In Dorset as a whole superfast broadband is available to 50,000 premises out of a target of 90,000 so far.
2. In West Dorset approximately a third of the current project was complete.
3. A "green box" has to be no more than 1.2kms from a dwelling in order to obtain a superfast connection (defined as 24mb and above).
4. In Whitchurch around 150 premises have superfast and 40-50 faster fibre, the expectation is 400 will have fast broadband leaving about a quarter of premises without a superfast solution currently. In Ryall about 70 premises have access to superfast and an uplift to 34 (take-up is 14%) in Wootton Fitzpaine 81 premises have superfast (take-up is >35%).
5. In the Char Valley area it is estimated that there will be 100-150 premises that will not achieve superfast broadband through the current project. These premises will be able to get subsidised access to superfast speeds through alternative technologies, in the short-term this will be by satellite connection. The aim is to achieve this by the end of the 2015 calendar year.
6. There are potential issues with erecting satellite dishes on listed buildings, this needs clarification. Also the cost of satellite operation.
7. Around 150 premises in Morecombelake will get superfast by December 2015 following external works to the current exchange, there are however issues of access to be overcome with Highways England.
8. Superfast availability can be checked by registering with the Dorsetforyou website and the BT infrastructure tester.
9. DCC are setting up a member-led task group to look at access in rural areas.
10. Users whose broadband speed does not meet what they are paying for will be able to move suppliers without penalty under a national arrangement.
11. It was agreed that Mr Lockhart and Mr Munn would be invited to give a further update in six months time.

**3421 : Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion:** none

**3422: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** none.

**3423 : Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015:** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to changing of the word "suggestion" to "recommendation" in minute 3411, line 5.

**3424: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

**3425: Reports:**

**Village Halls – Whitchurch Canonicorum – Cllr Peck** reported that a speed bump was to be installed at the right-hand side of the building to protect the porch, she added that new users were impressed with the halls facilities.

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**James Hargreaves Community Hall – Cllr Mahaddie** reported that the hall would be closed for the floor to be refurbished in August.

**Wootton Fitzpaine : Cllr Snook** reported that the Harvest Supper would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Consideration was being given to a suitable memorial in the hall to Guy Bryan who had done so much for the hall and the village.

**BLAP : Cllr Everidge** reported that the results of a survey of peoples' opinions of rural housing would be interesting. BLAP was reviewing its focus and dates of various meetings would be released shortly.

**DAPTC : Cllr Snook** advised that the new Chief Executive would be Hilary Trevorah, the current clerk of Chickerell Town Council..

**Photographer : Cllr Creed-Castle** advised that at the conclusion of the meeting she would be taking photos of councillors not photographed at the previous meeting. She added that she would provide the Clerk with a list of all suitable photographs for potential use on the new website.

**Lengthsman : Cllr Creed-Castle** asked if there were any jobs that required the Lengthsman. In response to a question from the Clerk she confirmed that there had been no work in Stoke Mill Lane and added that she was trying to identify the ownership of two hedges that had not been cut.

**Transport : Cllr Everidge** reported that the A35 patching was intended to be a permanent solution. Water mains were to be replaced in Chideock next year with resurfacing to follow. Highways England were apparently going to discuss the speed limit in Morecombelake at their June meeting, but she had not heard anything of the outcome of this discussion. **Cllr Vaughan** mentioned a dangerous loss of visibility due to vegetation that needed cutting near the access to the A35. He had reported this sometime ago and if there was no response he would advise Cllr Turner. **Cllr Creed-Castle** stated that Bluntshay Lane had not been cut this year yet, the consensus was that it should have received at least one cut by now. The blue and yellow posts identifying potential wildflower areas were felt not to be working very well. **Cllr Mahaddie** would report the cutting issue following further discussion with **Cllr Creed-Castle**. **Cllr Johnson** noted that there was an abundance of wildflowers in Gasson's Lane this year. It had been reported to her that the footpath by the River Char was overgrown at the Charmouth end by the caravan park, Daryl Turner offered to report this to Jill Exton. **Cllr Peck** added that on the same path there was also a leaking animal water trough in a field by the by-pass.

**Councillor Reports : Cllr Snook** reported that a bad water leak had occurred in School Lane, this had been reported. There was also an issue with an overgrown hedge in Monkton Wyld Lane, although the highways service did not agree entirely. **Cllr Joyce** reminded the meeting that the annual Sir George Somer's Day service would be held on Wednesday at the church. She drew the meetings attention to the bridge in Beckland's Lane, which was in need of repainting, it had not been painted since the current structure was erected around 15years ago. She offered to repaint it herself, following discussion it was agreed that the work could be undertaken by the Lengthsman subject to DCC's agreement (the Clerk would seek this). **Cllr Joyce** also reported that there was some concern in the village in relation to camping proposals at Beerhayes involving Yurts and a motor home. She emphasised that nothing material had been done to date in the field concern. The Clerk advised that he had been passed a letter prior to the meeting from the owner of Beerhayes, which he proceeded to read to the meeting. *This stated that it was intended to place five yurts in the paddock (2 this summer). They would be supplied and erected by a charity called "Young Dorset" that works with disadvantaged young people. No planning permission or licence was required provided that the site is occupied for a maximum of 28 days per year. The site would be promoted as couples only holidays and all profits will go to the charity.* Following discussion it was agreed that assuming the site owner acted on the basis of his letter, then no further action was required or could be taken. **Cllr Peck** reported that she hopefully identified a new Rights of Way rep for the Council, subject to confirmation. She mentioned that the Hardown Society had set-up moth traps on Hardown Hill and in one week had captured over 60 species of moth. **Cllr Mahaddie** reported that the Hardown Society and Natural England were now working closely together. She went onto to remind the meeting that the meeting on A35 road safety with Oliver Letwin MP was due to take place this coming Saturday, she felt it was very important that some action was taken (this view was supported by the meeting) and asked if there were any views to let her know. There would be a report back on this at the next meeting. **Cllr Everidge** reported the filling of potholes in Ship Knapp to Pickaxe Cross - 97% of potholes had now been filled.

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Don Newman the ROW rep was present and reported that winter wheat was being grown across the footpath at Middle Range, a local farm. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the farmer to bring this transgression to his attention.

**Cllr Johnson** reported that Whitchurch pre-school had purchased a "little train" for the play area. The piece of equipment needed fixing to the ground however to prevent theft. It was agreed that the Lengthsman could do this but enquiries should be made with the supplier first to ascertain the correct approach.

**District Councillor : Cllr S Christopher** advised the meeting that he now had the Chideock A35 petition to hand to Oliver Letwin at the meeting on Saturday. He was now on WDDC's planning committee. The new Waste Transfer Station in Bridport were keen to have visits in September from councils ahead of their opening, he would send a link to the Clerk. There were some problems with hedges overgrowing the highway, he had shown one such hedge to Cllr Turner prior to the meeting. He also referred to problems with dog attacks on farm animals and bad driving by van drivers on rural roads.

**County Council : Cllr D Turner** reported that round 2 of the Ask Dorset consultation exercise had started. This would include events at local shows including the County Show and Melplash Show. The theme was working together with communities. He also reported on recent personnel changes in the environment directorate.

### **3426 :Planning**

#### **i) To consider :**

**WD/D/15/001438 – Damson Tree Cottage, Stonebarrow Lane** – Remove condition 2 of previous approval, which limits the property to holiday lets.

**Cllr Everidge** advised the meeting that there were concerns about the loss of holiday accommodation. This was at odds with Dorset's economic strategy of attracting more visitors to the Heritage Coast. The meeting discussed this and considered the implications of the recent letter from WDDC responding to questions raised by the council, which appear to shift the policy to consideration on a case by case basis. A vote was taken on the recommendation to object. This was tied initially and the Chair used her casting vote to support the recommendation. The Clerk to register this with WDDC.

#### **ii) To note :**

**WD/D/15/001200 - Odd Acre, Ryall Road, Ryall**, - Erect PVCU conservatory to rear of property – no objection – now approved

**WD/D/15/001246 - Church of St Candida and the Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum** - Rebuild part of church wall – no objection

**WD/D/15/001287 - Sheepwash Mead, Grandfathers Knap, Fishpond** - Two storey rear extension with basement storage – no objection – now approved

**WD/D/15/001160 - Bridles Place, Wootton Hill, Fishpond** - Replacement of storage outbuilding – no objection

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

**WD/D/15/000307 - Copplesstones, Main Road, Morcombelake** - Erect replacement utility room and new gable extension and raised decking - approved

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

**WD/D/15/000601 – Valley View, Berne Lane, Whitchurch Canonorum** – erect extension and garage Approved

**WD/D/000437 – Hinkhams Farm** - Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 1/D/10/000031 the Clerk reported that the June Planning Committee's decided to approve a revised set of conditions, which largely followed the Parish Council's recommendation to restrict contracting and associated operations to the hours 0600-02200. However between the Committee meeting on 11 June and issuing of the decision notice a sentence had been removed from the recommended condition including the words "other associated processes". A member of the public, Mr Nicholas Dyson had queried this in several emails to WDDC as it appeared to materially weaken the condition, as while the movement of vehicles and repair and maintenance was restricted to the set hours other activity could seemingly continue. Following

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correspondence from Mr Dyson, who had failed to receive a clear response, the Clerk had also written to seek clarification. WDDC's response, in summary, was that the July Committee had agreed that the decision taken in June had been correctly recorded and they were satisfied that the conditions controlled contracting activities outside the stated hours.

**iv) Enforcement :** the Veiw at Muddyford Lane - The current situation was that there was no action from WDDC while an enquiry was pending on the appeal lodged against the previous planning refusal. It was reported that unauthorised activities at the site continue as previously.

### 3427 : Finance :

(i) Payment approvals July : the following payments were approved :

Date	Payee	Details	Chq. No.	Amount
20.7.15	DAPTC	New councillors course	1374	£30.00
20.7.15	Creeds	Printing Char Chat	1375	£220.00
20.7.15	Bridport Town Council	Planning Training	1376	£30.00
20.7.15	Sylvia Creed-Castle	Refund of postage and publication	1377	£120.30
20.7.15	DAPTC	annual subscription	1378	£351.64
20.7.15	J West	clerk pay and expenses July	1379	£555.42
20.7.15	HMRC	PAYE July	1380	£116.60
20.7.15	S Lee	Lengthsman May/June	1381	£390.00
20.7.15	Bopper Bus	S137 Grant	1382	£600.00
20.7.15	Logomotion	Upkeep of website 2014-15	1383	£750.00

(iii) **Bank account** – The Clerk reminded the meeting that following a previous decision he was in the process of moving the council's account to the Co-operative Bank. He asked the council to agree that the remaining account signatories **Cllrs Snook, Johnson** and **Creed-Castle** should be signatories to the new account – this was agreed. He also asked that two additional signatories be agreed so that any two of five could sign cheques, **Cllrs Everidge** and **Joyce** were proposed, seconded and agreed.

### 3428 : Review of position re councillor vacancies in Wootton Fitzpaine and Whitchurch Canonorum North

**Cllr Snook** advised that there were two possible candidates, one of whom had attended the meeting. It was agreed that posters prepared by the Clerk would be put up inviting candidates to come forward.

**3429 : Fingerposts, update from working group :** **Cllr Peck** reported that a fingerposts meeting had been held and that good progress had been made. All but one of the 22 fingerposts had been photographed. Three fingerposts needed urgent repairs, these were Crooked Lane/main street, Gassons Lane/main street and Wootton Cross. All had fingers missing. Details had been sent to the AONB for details of grant funding and to get quotes for repair by Mr Bond. In the meantime a local man, Chris Hawkins was interested in doing work to the fingerposts and it was agreed that if willing, he could be asked to look at other fingerposts in need of repair. The Council may need to cover costs of materials. **Cllr Snook** confirmed that the owners of Knapp Farm had kindly taken on maintaining the fingerpost situated in their garden and were doing some fundraising to meet the cost of this.

**3430 : Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and associated matters :** The Clerk advised the meeting that the Standing Orders had needed significant revision to update them, remove duplication and move some sections into a logical order, this had taken several hours work and he was grateful to ex-**Cllr Gollop** and **Cllrs Snook** and **Everidge** for their input as a reference group. The Council agreed to adopt the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with regard to the other matters brought forward by the Clerk they agreed to drop the pre-agenda summons, correspondence list, retain the "urgent matters item" on the agenda with a note for discussion only and make the village hall reports once a year only at the AGM. Following discussion they felt that, contrary to the Clerk's recommendation, the individual councillors

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reports section should be retained as in a grouped parish with diverse issues it still provided the best means of ensuring that individual councillors could highlight any issues affecting their area.

**3431 : Council website** : The meeting considered a report from the Clerk produced at the Council's request, that set out the options and a recommendation for future provision of the council website. The Clerk advised that the website, which currently cost the council £750 per annum, needed modernising, a view supported by the current provider who could make the changes but at a cost to the council. The provision of a more modern site capable of being maintained by the Clerk could however be achieved at no direct cost by moving the website to another provider. The Council resolved that the website should be moved to Hugo Fox, as recommended by the Clerk and that links with the current provider should be ended in an amicable manner. **Cllr Joyce** thanked the Clerk for the comprehensiveness of the report.

**3432 : Neighbourhood watch – Cllr Everidge** advised the meeting that a reduction in the “hang-up time” following a phone call had effectively brought to an end a scam being practiced to fraudulently obtain funds from peoples bank accounts. Dorset Alert could now be signed up for on-line (<https://member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/130/Join>). Doorstep trader stickers were also available.

**3433 : Neighbourhood Plans update** : **Cllr Peck** said that while she personally did not favour the Neighbourhood Planning process she felt uncomfortable if the council dismissed the idea without first engaging with the local community. It was noted that neighbourhood plans while approved by the local community have to be subordinate to, and consistent with, the plans and policies contained in the adopted local plan at a district level. **Cllr Peck's** view was shared by some other councillors, although **Cllr Joyce** felt that there would be benefits from the community deciding what provision, e.g. for affordable housing needed to be made in the future. Following discussion the consensus was that the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council, who had recently embarked on the neighbourhood planning process should be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to briefly outline what they hoped to achieve from the process. The Clerk would get in contact with them to facilitate this.

**3434 : Correspondence** : The Clerk had previously circulated a list of correspondence received during the month.

**3435: Items for the next agenda** : Fingerposts, Superfast Broadband, A35 meeting feedback,, Neighbourhood Planning, Website update.

**3436: Date of next meeting** : 14 September 2015 – Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

**3437 : Closure of meeting** :The meeting was closed at 10.30pm.