

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES MEMORIAL HALL, MORECOMBELAKE.

**3071: Present:** Cllrs K Mansbridge (Chairman), D Snook (Vice Chairman), S Johnson, C Everidge, C Peck, S Creed-Castle, I Gollop, C Sage, H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Bailey, D Turner (DCC) and Don Newman (ROW).

**3072: Apologies:** WDDC Cllr Robinson,

**3073: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion:** None

**3074: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** None

**3075: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013:** Draft minutes had been circulated and, subject to the alteration of "Eton" to "Exton" in minute 3056 and the alteration of minute 3061 to "repaint the Wootton sign", were approved.

**3076: Actions Following Last Meeting:** i) Cllr Peck has still to photograph the fingerposts ii) Cllr Mahaddie reported on a tour of local verges with Jill Exton and an ecologist from DCC with the latter focussing on the wild flower areas. Hopefully this will provide a good basis for future contact and a more sympathetic approach to managing the verges.

**3077: Reports: Police:** None **ROW:** Mr Newman reported the footpaths, as expected, were in a parlous state after the recent severe wet weather but in time will recover **Highways:** Nothing to report **BLAP:** Cllr Snook noted the following forthcoming meetings – January 14<sup>th</sup> DCA in Lyme Regis on "staying warm and cheaper energy"; January 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm, Town Hall, Bridport – DPCC "community mapping" exercise; February 1<sup>st</sup>, 9am-3pm – Bridport Community Forum **DAPTC:** Cllr Snook reported on the roll out of superfast broadband. This begins in the Spring 2014 and will continue until 2016 in quarterly tranches. New green cabinets will be located adjacent to existing cabinets. Households in roll out areas will be asked if they wish to become connected which will involve new equipment being installed in properties and potentially a small increase in line rentals. Doubts had been expressed over the accuracy of the maps showing which areas and properties would be connected. After a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Everidge will contact Charles Summers to emphasise the need for clarity and certainty of roll out locations. **Village Halls:** **Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall:** Cllr Peck noted a forthcoming farmhouse breakfast on January 26<sup>th</sup>. **Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall:** Cllr Snook reported on a recent concert by a capella singers and an upcoming concert by Steve Knightly, both in aid of church funds. **James Hargreaves Community Hall:** Nothing to report **Parish Councillor Reports:** **Cllr Gollop** Nothing to report. **Cllr Creed-Castle** Reported potholes and gravel on the road at Cottsgate **Cllr Bailey** She had been contacted by the Environment Agency in her capacity as Flood Warden. There had been no reports of properties being flooded in the parish. She has reported subsidence problems at the BroadOak/Shave Cross junction **Cllr Johnson** Noted that the repairs to the surface of the carriageway in Gassons Lane had largely been washed away **Cllr Peck** Reported large trees down on the bridle path from Bakers Cross to Catherstone and a tree had fallen in Pitmans Lane and the roots had damaged the road surface; she had been asked if fingerposts in poor condition would be replaced, as these are formal waymarkers – probably not!; she asked that the dates of meetings for 2014 could be displayed in chronological order on the web site – the Clerk will investigate with the web site host; she had reported problems with gravel from Cothayes being spread over the road in the recent wet weather. This was not the first time this had happened. The Clerk was asked to write to Chris Hawkins thanking him for his work in clearing the gravel and also for generally trying to keep the local drains clear. The Clerk was also asked to write a formal letter to the owners of the property pointing out the recent problems and their responsibilities to try and prevent a reoccurrence. **Cllr Mansbridge** Reported that the problem with the drain in Mill Lane was unresolved despite further jetting. Fundamentally the drain needs to be dug up and replaced. He will report a damaged fingerpost to the Lengthsman. **Cllr Snook** Reported that gravel and tree damage had been fixed. Discussions have taken place with DCC ROW officers over the footpath from Wootton to Charmouth where a new watercourse has appeared and is causing erosion. It is hoped DCC may be able to help with funding to solve the problem. Potholes have reappeared by Burton Bungalows and the Wootton to Charmouth Road. She had been approached by a Charmouth parish councillor to see if the parish council would support moving the parish boundary so that 1-8 Fernhill Heights would move into Charmouth, thus straightening the boundary. Given this would involve a loss of Precept income and would require a referendum, with its associated costs, to gauge the views of Char Valley electors this proposal was rejected. She reported that Charmouth may consider a developing a Neighbourhood Plan. **Cllr Joyce** Reported a roadside bank, about 13 feet high, that looked to be in danger of imminent collapse in Goddens Hill– this should be reported to Highways; damaging gravel was on Berne Lane, she had reported to the Clerk; excavation work was due on the footpath beside the church in Whitchurch to investigate the impact of tree roots on the wall, which was beginning to bulge dangerously – it

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may be that the footpath will be closed temporarily. **Cllr Mahaddie** Nothing specific to report **Cllr Everidge** She enquired about progress with the agricultural tie on Grand View bungalow. She will provide details to the Clerk who will follow up with the Planners. She had reported 3 blocked drains on the A35 to Connect on New Year's Eve and these had been cleared very promptly. **Cllr Sage** Thanked Cllr Turner for the forthcoming work on the gulleys in Monkton Wyld.

**3078: District / County Reports** **Cllr Turner** emphasised that problems with the roads – potholes, gravel and the like – should be reported on the Dorsetforyou website which was now fully functioning. The links are easy to follow and a reference number for each report is issued. Over 2,300 potholes have been reported in 2014. Jill Exton's replacement is Demelza Hyde. **Tree Officer:** See comments in previous minute **Ancient Monuments Officer / Events Photographer:** Cllr Creed-Castle reported photographs of the Affordable Housing Site will be sent to DAPTC for its forthcoming newsletter.

**3079: Planning Applicants presentation:** None

**3080: Planning Applications:** **Late:** 1/D/13/001732 – Tempest House. Hawkchurch, Axminster, EX13 5UW – proposed alterations and extension – resolved no objections, although the lack of full supporting documentation was lamented **To Consider:** 1/D/13/001534 – Thistlegate House, Charmouth Bypass, Charmouth, DT6 6BY – illuminated entrance signs – resolved no objections **To note:** None. **Planning Approvals (to note):** None **Planning Related Correspondence:** None

**3081: Update Affordable Housing:** Pete Friend from Hastoe had provided some information about likely sewage treatment arrangements – these would of course need an Environment Agency licence. Cllr Johnson reported difficulties with Hastoe's contractors over the installation of a land drain. After a discussion about the seeming lack of communication and co-ordination between Hastoe, its contractors and the community the Clerk was asked to write to Hastoe to see if these issues can be resolved.

**3082: Superfast broadband:** Covered in minute 3077 above.

**3083: Update on parish plan:** Cllr Mahaddie has agreed to update the copy covering Morecombelake. Cllr Gollop has reviewed the document and added updating comments where relevant in bold type.

**3084: Gulleys at Monkton Wyld:** These are due for clearance in the Spring.

**3085: Lengthsman scheme:** There was agreement that the Lengthsman, Steve Lee, provided a valuable service and one which the parish wished to keep despite WDDC withdrawing financial support. Upper Marshwood Vale parish council appear to be planning to act independently from April 2014, although the Clerk was asked to clarify the position, if the parish had to interact directly with the Lengthsman over arrangements some formal schedule of works and payment will be necessary. A request should be made to DCC to argue the case for at least some funding support for the Lengthsman given that he will do some work which otherwise would need to be done by DCC.

**3086: Development monitoring:** It was felt that a lack of proper enforcement by WDDC Planning officers had led to the possibility of local councillors being devolved this work. The Clerk was asked to invite Kevin Perry of WDDC to attend a parish council meeting to explain WDDC's enforcement policies.

**3087: Wootton Fitzpaine playing field:** Cllr Snook had received the safety inspection and passed a copy to the playing field trustees. Responsibility for any repairs lies with the parish council. Two low risk, minor matters had been highlighted – monitoring the condition of the goal posts and making good the bare earth in the centre of the goals. It was agreed Cllr Snook will do the former and the lengthsman will be asked to do the latter.

**3088: Health and Safety Policy:** Having received advice that there was no requirement to have a qualified first aider as a parish councillor, it was agreed to remove this from the Health and Safety Policy. The acting Clerk is happy with the working at home workplace assessment.

**3089: Finance (i) Clerks report:** Nothing to report **(ii) Payment approvals:** The following payments were approved - M Wilson Clerks Salary, Expenses Jan 2014 - £423.08 James Hargreaves Community Hall (Hall Hire) - £12.00; Burial grants as follows Whitchurch Canonicorum PCC - £280.00 Wootton Fitzpaine PCC - £280.00 Fishpond PCC - £60.00 Stanton St Gabriel PCC - £60.00 James Hargreaves (URC Burial Ground) - £60.00 Monkton Wyld PCC - £245.00; Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall (Maintenance grant 2013/14) - £350.00 James Hargreaves Community Hall (Maintenance grant 2013/2014) - £350.00 Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall (Maintenance grant 2013/2014) - £350.00 **(iii) To agree a budget and Precept for 2014/15:** The last three years budget figures had been circulated by the Clerk. In normal circumstances a budget would have been considered by the Finance Committee before a recommendation was made to the full parish council.

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However, in view of the delay in WDDC setting out its policy on Council Tax grant relief and the need to demand a Precept by the end of January the Chairman proposed that for this year only the budget be considered by the full parish council. This would also avoid the need for two more meetings before the month end (a Finance Committee and a full parish council meeting to ratify the Committee's recommendations). The figures circulated in advance were reviewed and allowance made for funding the Lengthsman on the basis of one day a week throughout the year. It was finally agreed that the budget would be set at £18,451. The Council Tax grant from WDDC will be £442 leaving a Precept of £18,009. The Band D rate should therefore be £32.44

**3090: Correspondence:** Cllr Everidge commented that the parish was still not receiving information by e mail on proposed changes from the Boundary Commission. She will forward details of contacts to the Clerk so these can be chased.

**3091: Items for the next Agenda:** Update of Affordable Housing; Char Chat; Fingerposts (including details about what can and cannot be done by way of repairs, Cllr Bailey has access to a leaflet giving full guidance); A 35 Connect (presentation due from Andy Kirby

**3092: Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 7.30pm at Wootton Fitzpaine village hall.

**3093: Matters of Urgency:** None

**3094: Close of Meeting:** 10.20 pm.