

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2014 IN THE WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM.

Present: Cllr K Mansbridge, Cllr S Johnson, Cllr C Peck, Cllr C Everidge, Cllr C Mahaddie, Cllr I Gollop, Cllr C Bailey, Cllr C Sage and Cllr H Joyce. Also in attendance were Cllr M Robinson (WDDC), Cllr D Turner (DCC), J Rose (ROW), A Gordon-Farleigh and D Lockhart (Superfast Dorset), M Wilson (Acting Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

3156. Election of Chairman and Signing of Acceptance of Office: Cllrs Gollop and Snook were proposed and seconded as candidates, on a vote Cllr Gollop was elected as Chairman for the coming year.

3157. Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr Snook was elected as Vice Chairman

3158. Previous Chairman's closing remarks: Cllr Mansbridge summarised the last three years, which had culminated in the long awaited delivery of affordable housing. Other matters remain unresolved, especially congestion in the Marshwood Vale when the A35 is closed. He thanked all volunteers, councillors and clerks for their support and hard work and wished Cllr Gollop the best of luck in his role. Cllr Gollop proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Mansbridge, which was agreed.

3159. Apologies for absence: Received from Cllrs Snook and Creed-Castle, D Newman (ROW) and T Chambers (Char Chat)

3160. Declarations of interest: None were declared

3161. Superfast broadband (sfb) – presentation from Abby Gordon-Farleigh and Dougal Lockhart of Superfast Dorset: The key points were as follows:

- this is a 3 year project to deliver a step change in broadband speed across the County
- 95% of properties will have access to sfb and even the remainder should have at least speeds of 2 meg compared with the current 0.5 meg.
- it will be an open network allowing access to any ISP, this widens choice and drives down prices for consumers
- the project has focussed on getting as many properties connected as quickly as possible to maximise benefits across the County. Inevitably this has meant a focus on the areas of greatest population rather than the remote rural areas.
- given imminent and continuing improvements in technology it is hoped sfb can be rolled out even further than currently expected by 2106.
- a map showing indicative areas of likely service was displayed- this is based on postcodes and should not be regarded as being reliable on a property by property basis. The blue area should get sfb within the next two or three weeks; the green area will be later in the project and may seek to use different technologies; and the yellow area, which is very challenging to deliver sfb given the available budget.
- an application to Defra for additional funding is being prepared for the Upper Marshwood Vale. Parish councillors were surprised and disappointed that Char Valley had been dropped from this, particularly given the amount of work undertaken. DL said that if Char Valley had been included the application would have failed Government "gateway" criteria.
- the difficulties for remote farming communities in managing their businesses (Defra is insisting on farmers using Windows 8 but this needs sfb to work) and for their children to do homework where the expectation from the town senior schools they attend is that they will have excellent internet connections were noted and understood, but no quick or easy solution is envisaged in this project. There is no Government commitment that all properties will have broadband access, unlike the position with telephones.
- the impact of the rollout of sfb on the tourist industry is understood.
- DL announced to the surprise of all attending that an application for a further tranche of funding of £0.75m had been made to central government which would be matched locally by DCC and WDDC – DCC Cllr Turner and WDDC Cllr Robinson were unaware.
- once sfb is available residents will have to approach their ISP to get connected. Residents can register at www.dorsetfor you.com/superfast to receive an e mail to tell them when their property goes live. The more people take up sfb the more revenue will accrue aback to the project team for re-investment
- Government is happy that the project will deliver sufficient speed to futureproof the ability to handle future demand, given the decision to use the existing copper wire infrastructure as much as possible.

The Chairman thanked DL and AGF for attending

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3162. Election of Members to Committees and Appointment of Representatives: The following elections and appointments were made:

- (a) **Finance Committee** Chairman, vice chairman and Cllrs Johnson, Creed-Castle and Bailey
- (b) **Planning Committee** Chairman, vice chairman and Cllrs Johnson, Creed-Castle, Bailey, Sage, Mahaddie and Everidge
- (c) **Complaints Committee** Chairman, vice chairman and Cllrs Joyce and Everidge
- (d) **Rights of Way** Mr Rose will continue and it was noted that Mr Newman had retired
- (e) **Trees** Cllr Peck
- (f) **Transport** Cllr Everidge
- (g) **DAPTC** Cllr Snook
- (h) **Bridport Local Area Partnership** Cllr Everidge
- (i) **Village Halls** James Hargreaves – Cllr Mahaddie; Whitchurch – Cllr Peck; Wootton – Cllr Snook
- (j) **Ancient Monuments/photographer** Cllr Creed-Castle
- (k) **Planning Areas** Monkton Wyld – Cllr Sage; Wootton – Cllr Snook; Whitchurch North – Cllr Bailey; Whitchurch South – Cllr Mahaddie; Stanton St Gabriel – Cllr Everidge
- (l) **Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field** see agenda item 3170
- (m) **Flood Warden** Cllr Bailey
- (n) **Char Chat Liaison** Chairman, vice chairman and Cllrs Peck, Johnson, Creed-Castle and Everidge
- (o) **Affordable Housing** Cllr Gollop
- (p) **Lengthsman liaison** Cllr Mansbridge

3163. Resolution to Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th April 2014:

Cllr Peck requested that an addition be made to minute 3144 to include her question as to how the application for Wakeleys Farm differed to that for Little Oak Farm, and her request that each should be judged under the same criteria. Subject to this addition, the minutes were approved.

3164. Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion Period: A blocked drain at Blackmore Farm, Bluntshay Lane was mentioned and Cllr Mansbridge will refer to the Lengthsman.

3165. Meeting Re-opened for Actions Following Last Meeting: These had been circulated by the clerk and were noted

3166. Reports:

PC Ball / PCSO White / PCSO Burton: None

Representatives Reports: **Trees** – nothing to report; **Transport** – Cllr Everidge will circulate the new timetable for the X31 and 33 bus services; **ROW** – Mr Rose reported the coastal footpath is now likely to be reinstated by June 2015.

Parish Councillors: **Cllr Sage** – He reported the poor state of the B3165 near Lamberts Castle, DCC Cllr Turner said this was due for resurfacing in July; **Cllr Peck** – She reported concerns from a parishioner that bright security lighting might be installed by occupants of the new affordable housing. It was noted this could be an issue in any property in the parish, but the point would be made by the clerk to Hastoe. She had also seen a site contractor driving a fork lift truck on the road whilst using a mobile phone and the clerk will also pass on this information to Hastoe. She has also noticed a number of locations where Japanese knotweed is growing – she will supply grid references to the clerk for him to report to DCC/WDDC/Dorset Wildlife Trust; **Cllr Bailey** – she asked that the Lengthsman cut cow parsley where it is obscuring sight lines at junctions and road signs given that DCC Highways are not due to cut verges for another month – Cllr Mansbridge will organise with the Lengthsman; she enquired about boundary changes – WDDC Cllr Robinson said that nothing had been finalised – Char Valley would prefer to stay linked to the Marshwood Vale rather than a coastal town; **Cllr Johnson** – on behalf of Cllr Creed-Castle she reported that the forthcoming exhibition costs might exceed the £100 allocated; **Cllr Mahaddie** – nothing to report; **Cllr Joyce** – The manhole cover near Bybrook in Whitchurch (reported previously) remains dangerous; a footpath sign by Whitchurch Bridge in Becklands Lane is in danger of falling over and the clerk will report; **Cllr Everidge** – a drain is blocked at Giggs (??) Lane causing surface water to flow onto the A 35 – she will advise Connect. She asked that the clerk send a letter of thanks to Clare Dene at Connect. She reported that Chancery House care home is in need of more business. The scrap metal at Gold Cap Farm previously reported might be on DCC land. She reported on developments with the planning application at the View. It appears the AONB team (a statutory consultee) have not been asked to comment as the site is considered too small to matter. WDDC's landscape architect has asked WDDC's Strategic Policy unit to reconsider its decision not to object to the application. The lack of a joined up coherent approach is damning and Cllr Robinson will see if he can improve the approach at WDDC/DCC; **Cllr Mansbridge** – nothing to report

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3167. Reports:

District Councillor M Robinson – He has sent the clerk details of the road names for the affordable housing for circulation and confirmed applicants need to be on the WDDC housing register. WDDC's criteria are changing so that only those with a local connection, apart from odd exceptions, will be entitled to be on the register. The new Chief Executive, Matt Prosser, starts on June 3rd. There is still concern over the lack of as proper scale on some paper based planning applications. WDDC is looking to see what it might do to rectify this problem for parishes looking at plans.

County Councillor D Turner - He has forward some information on fingerposts and the role of the AONB team in planning process to the clerk for circulation. DCC's budget for 2014/15 is balanced but additional savings need to be made going forward - £11m in 2015/16 and £16m in 2016/17. In the light of the superfast broadband presentation above, he will investigate the matched funding position for additional central government funding. In response to a question from Cllr Bailey about what had happened to the funds returned from the collapsed Icelandic banks he said these were being retained in reserves.

Ancient Monuments Officer – nothing to report

3168. Planning Applicants Presentation:

3169. Planning Applications:

(Late Planning): None

(To Consider): WD/D/14/000794 – Great View, Verriots Lane. Morcombelake, DT6 6DU – no objections to the planning application per se, but the parish council does have concerns over the structural integrity of recent works and will urge that Building Control officers visit the site. WDDC Cllr Robinson will do likewise.

(To Note): None

Approvals (to note): None

Refusals (to note): WD/D/14/000431 – Thistlegate House Bungalow – refused; WD/D/14/000500 – Little Oak Farm - withdrawn

Planning related Correspondence: None

3170. Resolution to agree the re-election of Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field Trustees: It was agreed to re-elect Lord Bradbury, Jon Snook and Nigel Chapman

3171. Update on affordable housing: No report had been sent by Hastoe. The clerk will chase and refer items mentioned in the minutes, and also remind him of the commitment to allow the parish council to comment on the validity of claims of "local connection" for applicants

3172. Char Chat – update on latest edition: The clerk had been advised that the next edition would leave the printers by 19th May. The latest edition includes a plea for a new editor to come forward.

3173. AONB and enforcement policies – draft letter: Cllr Everidge, supported by the Chairman, will prepare a draft letter for consideration at the next meeting.

3174. Fingerposts: Nothing to report.

3175. Annual Parish Meeting reports:

Whitchurch Canonorum: Matters for the parish council were as follows: Crooked Lane drains – need jetting; Windover – erosion of bank, clerk to contact Dave Maunder of DCC Highways to see what is planned; Cotthayes – disappointingly further gravel has been deposited in the drive giving even more potential for erosion in times of flood, the clerk had no response to the polite letter sent earlier in the year – he was asked to see if DCC Highways might be able to exert some influence; could planning consultation postcards – "we called but you were out, please contact etc" – be used, the clerk has a template which he will circulate for consideration; could contentious planning applications be considered at full parish council – this might be possible but the timetable does not always allow for this to fit in the regular timetable of meetings so an extension might need to be applied for; it was agreed that plans would be set out for the public to view before parish council meetings.

Stanton St Gabriel: Matters for the parish council were as follows: Doubt was expressed as to whether the same poles could be used for mobile phones and electricity supply; a Neighbourhood Plan was not needed; keep Char Chat going; one footpath had been added to the DCC Rangers map; could gardeners allow refuse to dry before burning on bonfires.

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3176. Finance:

i) Clerks Report/General Financial Matters (to note): The clerk is seeing the internal auditor on 16th May; hopefully the accounts will be approved and they and the Annual Return can be approved and signed at the parish council meeting on 9th June 2104.

ii) Resolution for Payment Approvals: The following payments were approved:

Cheque 1293 – HMRC – PAYE - £76.23

Cheque 1294 – M Wilson – pay and expenses - £377.47

3177. Correspondence (to note): Circulated and noted

3178. Items for the Next Agenda: Annual Return, fingerposts, affordable housing, superfast broadband

3179. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th June 2014 in Wootton Fitzpaine village hall

3180. Matters of Urgency: None

3181. Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.02 pm.