

## CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 AT JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL.

**4317: Present:** Cllrs. H. Joyce, C. Bailey, S. Johnson, J. Eager, S Creed-Castle, C. Mahaddie, C. Sage, A. Carey, C. Noon, A. Marks (clerk), Cllr, S. Christopher,

**4318: Election of Chairman:** Cllr. H Joyce said she was prepared continue as Chairman; her election proposed by Cllr. Sage and seconded by Cllr. Johnson, passed unanimously.

**4319: Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Bailey proposed that Cllr. Peck should stand as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle, passed unanimously

**4320: Chairman's closing remarks:** The Chairman reported that during the past year, CVPC had reviewed 48 planning applications representing 144 councillor visits but noted that communication with both West Dorset District and Dorset County Councils had become more difficult probably due to staff cuts. CVPC has attended BLAP, WATAG and A35 meetings and kept a watching brief on proposed national park developments for West Dorset.

Local elections were publicised and two wards contested resulting in two new councillors.

Routine playground and playing field maintenance and inspections have taken place and specific items include the replacement of White Gates, Wootton Fitzpaine, fingerpost replacement and the re-painting of the lettering on the Whitchurch War Memorial.

A Countryside Working Party was formed to suggest to CVPC any measures designed to improve relationships between residents, visitors and farming businesses and to support local businesses. To this end, CVPC agreed that new councillors should visit at least one farm; farmers should invite people on to their farms if possible (resulting in several visits to dairy farms and sheep shearing on an organic farm). There was also a no-cost campaign to increase awareness of good countryside behaviour including gate signs on dog control and distribution to all residents and tourist offices of Natural England's Countryside code. Investigations were also made into the pollution levels of the River Char.

Liaison with local residents included the maintenance of a website, one issue of Char Chat distributed with the Countryside Code and three articles in the Marshwood Vale Church magazine. More names have been added to the CVPC email list but progress is slow despite articles in Char Chat over 3 years. Two emails were sent regarding road works in Chideock and Whitchurch.

Donations were given to maintain church graveyards, Charmouth Scouts, Whitchurch Playgroup and three village halls. Decisions were made on how to spend S106 payments for the community.

CVPC also supervised the lengthsman in clearing drains, minor road repairs, occasional cutting back of vegetation and other repairs.

Future projects include a bus shelter at Morcombelake and the planting of bulbs.

**4321: Apologies for absence:** Cllr. C. Peck

**4322: Declaration of Interest:** None

## 4323: Election of Members to Committees and Review and Appointment of Representatives Positions

- a. Finance Committee
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
  - Cllr. Kit Vaughan
  - Cllr. Sue Johnson - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Sylvia Creed-Castle - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Christine Bailey - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Christopher Noon
- b. Planning committee
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
  - Cllr. Sue Johnson - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Sylvia Creed-Castle - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Christine Bailey - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Cllr. Clive Sage
  - Cllr. Clare Mahaddie
  - Cllr. Julia Eager
  - Cllr. Kit Vaughan
  - Cllr. Christopher Noon
- c. Complaints Committee
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
  - Cllr. Julia Eager
  - Cllr. Andrew Carey
  - Cllr. Sue Johnson - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
- d. Rights of Way
  - Whitchurch Canonorum – Mrs C Peat
  - Wootton Fitzpaine – Ms S Dewe
  - Stanton St Gabriel
- e. Trees
  - Cllr. Carolyn Peck
  - Cllr. Kit Vaughan
- f. Transport
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
- g. DAPTC
  - Cllr. Julia Eager
- h. WATAG
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
- i. Bridport Local Area Partnership
  - Cllr. Hilary Joyce
  - Cllr. Clare Mahaddie
- j. Ancient Monuments / Photographer
  - Cllr. Sylvia Creed-Castle - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
- k. Planning Areas
  - Wootton Fitzpaine / Monkton Wyld                      Cllr. Clive Sage
  - Whitchurch Canonorum North                      Cllr. Sue Johnson - proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
  - Whitchurch Canonorum South                      Cllr. Clare Mahaddie
  - Stanton St. Gabriel                      Cllr. Andrew Carey
- l. Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field
  - Mr. J Snook
  - Lord J Bradbury
  - Nigel Chapman

- m. Flood Warden  
Cllr. Christine Bailey proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Mahaddie passed unanimously
- n. Char Chat Liaison  
Cllr. Christopher Noon  
Cllr. Andrew Carey  
Cllr. Carolyn Peck  
Cllr. Clare Mahaddie
- o. Lengthsman Liaison  
Cllr. Creed-Castle

Except where shown, all the above positions were proposed by Cllrs. C Bailey and S Johnson and seconded by Cllr. S Creed-Castle, they were agreed unanimously. Cllr. Kit Vaughan agreed to be co-opted onto the council, this was proposed by Cllr. Mahaddie and seconded by Cllr. Eager, this was agreed unanimously. Cllr Noon wished to represent CVPC on transport issues but the Chairman suggested there was a conflict of interest with the objectives of the group he leads on the A35 on which CVPC has not taken a view.

**4324: Resolution to agree the re-election of the Wootton Fitzpaine Field Trustees:**

Mr. J Snook, Lord J Bradbury and Nigel Chapman have agreed to continue in this role.(see above)

**4325: Public Discussion Period:** nothing was raised

**4326: Adoption of councillor conduct policy:** Cllrs. Carey and Noon have to sign this policy which was sent to them on 11<sup>th</sup> May

**4327: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019:** proposed by Cllr. Bailey and seconded by Cllr. Snook and agreed unanimously. (see above)

The Chairman also mentioned two items from the April minutes. Firstly item 4286; Byway 89 between Ryall Road and Pitmans Lane which Cllr Creed- Castle will investigate and secondly item 4293 Hildyard Memorial in Langdon Woods - Cllr Creed-Castle will return to CVPC with proposals, probably in the autumn.

**Action: Cllr Creed-Castle**

**4328: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:**

- a. The clerk has contacted the lengthsman regarding cleaning village signs and fingerposts but has not heard from him, she will continue to chase him up on this matter. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Regarding the state of repair of some of our notice boards the clerk feels that it is appropriate for both her and one of the councillors take a look at each of our notice boards to see what repairs require to be done, the clerk has contacted the lengthsman on a couple of occasions but he has not replied, the maintenance of these is certainly something that needs doing for insurance purposes.  
**Action: Clerk/Councillor**
- c. The chairman agreed to pay the clerk 8 hours overtime for the work she did in the recent council elections, payment will be made in her May salary.
- d. The clerk met with the auditor on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May to go through the finances for the tax year 2018/19, it was an extremely useful meeting and the new auditor Ian Wigglesworth spent time going through the guidelines of items that the parish council need to follow – up to this point there have not been any real guidelines in place. The clerk has spoken to the chairman and feels that we need to have an extraordinary meeting of the finance committee to ensure we follow the guidelines.  
**Action: Clerk/Finance Committee**

- e. The clerk sent the agenda for May's meeting and the minutes for April's meeting to the two new councillors – Andrew Carey in Stanton St. Gabriel and Christopher Noon in Whitchurch Canonorum South.
- f. Cllr. Johnson was finally able to speak to the Co-op Bank as we needed confirmation who can sign on our bank account – the signatories are Cllrs. Johnson, Creed-Castle, Joyce, Everidge and Snook, as Cllrs. Everidge and Snook are no longer members of CVPC we will have to make amendments to the mandate. The bank were somewhat less than helpful and said we would download the forms from their website. . As discussed previously, the nearest branches of Co-op Bank are in Exeter and Taunton which is a long distance to travel if we need to pay in any funds. We were advised that we could pay in at the post office but the post office in Bridport is unable to accept items for the Co-op Bank. The clerk asked at the Nationwide if they offered accounts to groups such as ours but unfortunately, they only open private accounts.
- g. The clerk received an Email from the Whitchurch pre-school advising that the playground fence was wobbly and they think that one of the posts is rotten, the clerk has passed this information onto Ken Hussey and asked him to look at the fence. **Action: Clerk**
- h. The clerk has emailed all the councillors regarding claiming their expenses following the recent elections and asked that the forms are returned via her as she has to complete a spreadsheet detailing all election expenditure. The Clerk will try to claim expense for the time spent on behalf of councillors. **Action: Clerk**

#### **4329: Reports**

##### **West Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group -**

##### **Bridport Local Area Partnership –**

Indicative of the credibility BLAP is accruing, especially with regard to **Parish Liaison**

- **House of Lords - Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities**  
BLAP recently submitted a response to The House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities consultation.  
BLAP's response can be viewed in appendix 2 of the report; written response RST0074  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldseaside/320/320.pdf>
- A new standard for websites has been issued which could affect town and parish councils.

##### **Homelessness**

- Helpful Hampers have produced a flyer detailing their work; seeking comments on the service they provide also welcoming enquiries and notification of people in need who could benefit.  
[Contact; chrishilburn@outlook.com](mailto:chrishilburn@outlook.com) copy to [tandpjones@hotmail.com](mailto:tandpjones@hotmail.com)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - [Tackling Homelessness Together consultation](#); BLAP has collated responses from members and will make a submission by May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dorset Association of Parish and Town Clerks;** - Nothing to report

**Verges:** - Nothing to report

### **Cllr. C Mahaddie**

- A parishioner reported a large excavation into the road bank in Ship Knapp. It looks as if it might be intended as the beginning of a new driveway to the hidden house behind Grand View Bungalow. The councillor doesn't know of any planning application but has had an acknowledgement from the enforcement officer, Chris Thompson, who intends to investigate. There is a concern as the gas main runs alongside.

### **Cllr. C Bailey**

- The wishing well is an asset of the parish council. Cllr. Bailey thinks it is the parish council who put a new door on it a while ago. It is now unlocked, and inside there appears to be a tool which could lift the well grating. The door needs varnishing and the hinges are rusty. Glass needs cleaning. Cllr. Bailey thinks this could be a safety issue if the cover can be lifted, we will contact the lengthsmen to see if he can undertake the work. **Action:**

**Cllr Joyce**

### **Cllr. Everidge**

- DC confirmed that responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of bus shelters – including cleaning – lies with the owners and not the bus companies as stated at the last CVPC meeting. Responsibility for information relating to routes and timetables e.g. in display cases, belongs to the bus company, i.e. First, Damory, SW Coaches
- The bus shelter outside Artwave West is owned by DC and is currently cleaned 6 monthly - January and July.
- The bus shelter on the south side of the A35 is not logged and therefore research is being done to ascertain who has responsibility for its maintenance and upkeep.
- The dead deer reported 30.04.2019 appeared to have been removed speedily
- Replacement of the irreparable hand rail outside Cedar End is in the process of being costed out by Connect who are also in contact with the adjoining landowner. The rail to the west of Star Cottage is due for assessment.
- The repairs to Ship Knapp potholes are completed – thanks to Dorset Highways.
- What is the response from listed buildings re the removal of the milk stand at Ship Farm, Ship Knapp? - **Action – the clerk**
- Why are Stanton St Gabriel and Whitchurch South still listed under 'Morcombelake' in the planning portal? **Action – the clerk**
- As we are aware the Community Severance Feasibility Survey recorded concerns over parking on pavements.  
The Transport Committee, parliament.uk is currently calling for written evidence on
  - the impact of pavement parking;
  - the enforcement of pavement parking offences; and
  - enforcement and, if necessary, reform of traffic regulation orders need to deal with pavement parking.
- Link; <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/pavement-parking-17-19/>
- In addition, Living Streets are putting together a submission to Parliament that everyone should be able to rely on pavements that are safe and clear.
- To answer 3 short questions and to submit a view. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/pavement-parking-17-19/>
- CPRE has confirmed the increase in light pollution in Morcombelake, reporting more affected than Bridport and, at 13, is approaching the severe light pollution category beginning at '10'.

- There were no other councillor reports

#### 4330: County and District Council Reports: - None

#### 4331: Planning applications

- i) **Responses submitted to Dorset Council prior to May's meeting:** (full comments can be found on the CVPC website)

WD/D/18/2270/71 CHERRY COTTAGE, WHITCHURCH CROSS TO JN GASSONS LANE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RF – Erection of single storey side extension & alterations, incorporating existing garage. CVPC have no objections.

WD/D/19/000709 MARSHWOOD HOUSE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RQ. Erection of single storey front extension – We believe that the conservatory is acceptable in an AONB area and not overlooked by neighbouring properties

WD/D/19/000266 PIPPINS, PITMANS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6EB. Erection of pitched roof on top of existing flat roof at rear of property – CVPC has no objections.

WD/D/19/000741 LITTLE CANDIDA, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RQ. Erect single storey extension – No objections

- ii) **Responses submitted to Dorset Council following May's meeting**

There were none

- **West Dorset District Council Decisions (to note):** none
- **Appeal decision**
- **Enforcement:** none to consider

#### 4332: Finance:

##### PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2019

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500253	0519/1	£453.83
HMRC	PAYE for May	500254	0519/2	£88.00
S Lee	Lengthman's services for April	500255	0519/3	£592.80
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	Hall hire for 4 meetings	500249	0519/4	£80.00
Creeds	Printing Char Chat	500250	0419/5	£525.00
Dorset Council	Signage for Taylors Lane	500251	0419/6	£548.40
Annette Marks	Stamps for Char Chat	500252	0419/7	£167.75
Total				£2,455.78

#### 4333: Report from Parish Council Meetings (see annex to these minutes)

#### **4334: S106 updates**

- Cllr. Mahaddie advised the meeting that Nick Shannon, a local carpenter, will provide a design that CVPC can forward to planning at Dorset Council, it will stand on land belonging to Moores Biscuits. Cllr. Johnson said that Cllr. Peck had suggested planting hawthorn trees by the bench on Goodens Hill, Cllr. Vaughan suggested that we should buy local daffodil bulbs from Nick Gray, Dorset Wildlife Trust. Cllr Joyce questioned the ownership of the land where the new bench is proposed and will make enquiries.

• **Action: Mahaddie, Johnson, Joyce**

#### **4335: Light pollution impacting on West Dorset's sky**

- The clerk will contact Campaign for the Protection of Rural England for advice and then contact planning

**Action: Clerk**

#### **4336: Donation request from Charmouth guides**

- The clerk will write to the leader of the Charmouth guides and ask for a breakdown as to what they require the funds for.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **4337: Election comments**

- The clerk was sent the incorrect link to find the nomination papers on the Dorset Council website and once located the instructions were not very clear especially for Char Valley as we are a grouped council. Cllr. Carey was given assistance by the Green Party and Cllr Noon found the application forms to not be user -friendly. It was agreed to write to the electoral office with constructive comments.

**Action: Cllr Joyce**

#### **4338: Cllr. Simon Christopher**

- Cllr. Christopher has been elected as Conservative councillor for Marshwood and advised the meeting that Spencer Flower was proposed as Council chairman. He had attended a session regarding safeguarding vulnerable adults and children in care. He will hear who is in charge of what in the next few days – he believes there could be a number of changes. The new council is made up of 43 Conservative councillors and 39 non-Tory.

#### **4339: Creation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes**

- Char Valley Parish Council arranged for the PCSO to speak at the Wootton Fitzpaine and Whitchurch Canonorum village meetings but there was no response from the public at either to be involved. It was suggested that we check the police website regarding crime rates posters to display and also to look into Farmwatch for Farmers.

#### **4340: Sign at bridle path near Wakeleys Farm**

- It is assumed that this sign was put up by the rangers but the sign does not take you to Mandeville Stoke Lane which is the other side of the river and needs to be removed. The clerk will contact the rangers initially to see if they erected the sign. **Action: Clerk**

#### **4341: Countryside Working Party:**

- The members are to meet again to see if any further action is needed, Cllrs. Noon and Carey wish to join. **Action: Cllr Joyce**

**4342: Items for next agenda:**

- Increasing the profile of the parish council
- Climate and environmental emergency
- Extraordinary meeting of finance committee
- Meeting start times

**4343: Date of next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Whitchurch Canonorum village hall

**4344: Any other business:**

**4345: Close of meeting** – meeting closed at 9.40

**4333: Report from Parish Council Meetings (see annex to these minutes)**

**Whitchurch Canonorum**

Held at Whitchurch, Ryall and Morcombelake Village Hall on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 19.00

Present: Cllrs Joyce, Peck, Mahaddie, Bailey, Creed Castle, Eager, Johnson and four members of the public.

- 1 Cllr Joyce was elected to chair the meeting, proposed by Cllr Mahaddie and seconded by Mrs Helen Davies.
- 2 Cllr Peck was elected to act as secretary, proposed by Cllr Eager and seconded by Cllr Bailey.
- 3 Apologies were received from Cllr Vaughan.
- 4 The minutes of last year's meeting were read and approved.
- 5 Matters Arising:
  - Problems on Gassons Lane persist. CVPC continues to investigate.
  - There has been no further discussion about the Chideock Bypass.
  - Possible introduction of speed limits and its associated signage have been discussed by CVPC. Following a survey in Wootton which revealed that the majority of road users did not speed, it is not thought to be a significant enough problem here. Cllr Joyce explained that for there to be an enforceable 20 mph speed limit in the village, the limit on surrounding roads has to drop down in increments and the process is subject to lengthy monitoring of speeds over many years. Speed restriction require personnel to enforce to be effective. There is no news on the proposed cycle path east of Chideock.
  - CVPC's rural needs housing survey has not progressed. CVPC to pursue.
  - Dorset Unitary Authority is going ahead with one councillor for the Marshwood Vale. There will be fewer representatives over all.
  - CIL /S106 monies – see agenda item 12
  - Finger post project continues. Nearly all posts have been refurbished.
  - Help at Hand initiative: Cllr Peck confirmed that the idea has been parked but not abandoned.
- 6 PCSO Amanda King arrived late and addressed the meeting at the end of the evening on the advantages of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- 7 No CVPC report as such.
- 8 Matters of interest were covered during the course of the meeting and there was a brief discussion about previous animal activist activities in the area.
- 9 Countryside Working Party: Cllr Joyce reported on the initiatives implemented in response to concerns raised by local farmers and to improve relations between farmers and non-farmers. Copies of the Countryside Code were sent out to all households with the latest edition of Char Chat and it is



proposed that proprietors of holiday cottages and tourist accommodation provide copies for holiday makers. The problem of attacks on sheep by dogs has increased. Remit and membership of the group will be reviewed after the elections.

10 CVPC continues to keep a watching brief on developments for a National Park in Dorset / Devon and Cllr Joyce cited the South Downs National Park as a good example of what can be achieved.

11 Nothing further to report on the establishment of a **Unitary Authority**.

12 Projects to benefit from **CIL\* / S106** monies:

- Wootton Fitzpaine's white gates
- Cycle racks for the village hall and church
- Acoustic panels for village hall
- Trees, bench and bulbs for Goodens Hill
- Money has been agreed for a bus shelter in Morcombelake, but siting is problematic. Cllr Mahaddie is hopeful it will be resolved.

Cllr explained that the money can only be claimed for specific projects in clearly defined categories.

\* Community Infrastructure Levy

13 Cllr Peck updated the meeting on the Marshwood Vale Diversion Volunteer Management Group headed by Mr Noon from Morcombelake. In a meeting with Oliver Letwin, the MP explained that the police were reluctant to empower volunteers for roles that would see them accountable for any problems. The group has agreed to reconfigure the proposal and start with a more passive role. CVPC has taken no part in this initiative but continues to monitor developments.

At 7.30 PCSO Amanda King arrived to talk to the meeting about the benefits of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Village (Morcombelake already has one) and how to go about doing it. CVPC agreed to put an article in the Parish Magazine to inform residents and source volunteers to run it. She reassured the meeting that this remains a low crime area though there have been reports of oil thefts and thefts from vehicles at the Langdon Hill car park.

14 Any Other Business: Cllr Joyce reported that the establishment of a Unitary Authority might result in additional responsibilities being devolved to Parish Councils but without any additional funds or resources. She reminded the meeting of the Lengthsman Scheme. There was a short discussion about annual activities in the area.

Mr Don Newman asked about an item in the draft minutes of CVPC's April meeting concerning the responsibility for maintenance of signs in the parish. Cllr offered clarification and Cllr Peck offered to check the minutes for inconsistencies / confusion.

The meeting was closed at 20.15.

## **Wootton Fitzpaine Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 11 April, 2019**

### **At Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** John Bradbury, Jon Snook, Jackie Collis, Margaret Taylor, Anne Sharp, Peter Sharp, Simon Christopher, Una Christopher, Katie Millar, Marion Brooks, Debby Snook, Charles Tait, Christopher Roper.

**Apologies:** Received from Bill Taylor Sean Kitcher, Teresa Kitcher

**Election of Chairman:** Debby Snook offered to stand as Chairman. There being no other candidates, she was elected unanimously. Proposed by Margaret Taylor and seconded by Marion Brooks.

**Minutes of the last annual meeting:** These were circulated and agreed as a true record. Proposed by John Bradbury, seconded by Debby Snook.

**Neighbourhood Watch Representative Report:** PCSO Amanda King from Lyme Regis gave a report about the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She has been based in Lyme Regis for 18 months and covers a wide area. A neighbourhood watch unit in a village can consist of one person or several who each cover a small area. Any activity which is considered to be of interest to the police can be reported on line or phoned in on 101. A neighbourhood watch scheme can protect the vulnerable and reduce isolation. Statistics suggest that with a scheme in place, rates of crime can fall by between 10% and 26%. Some insurance policies will give a discount of 10% if a location is within a neighbourhood watch area. Dorset Alert is an online information system which anyone can subscribe to free, even if they are not in a neighbourhood watch area. Amanda reported that there has been an enormous increase in cybercrime, and scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Chris Conroy is a speaker who gives informative and useful talks about this expanding problem, and the meeting was very keen to invite him to speak to our village. Amanda left her contact details for this to be arranged.

### **Report on the activities of the Char Valley Parish Council 2018/2019**

Debby Snook, Char Valley Council Representative, gave her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She covered topics concerning the refurbishment of the White Gates, and updated the progress on the refurbishment of the fingerposts. Information about the new Dorset Council and the local elections on 2 May was also included. Improvements to the playing field, the new footpath officer, Sarah Dewe, a parish council grant to the village hall, diversion through the Vale due to closure of the A35 and the parish precept were other topics covered. Details of the new countryside working party formed by the parish council were given. As Debby is not seeking re-election in May 2019, along with Richard Colby, current Wootton Councillor, there is only one candidate, Clive Sage who is standing for the 3 seats in Wootton, leaving 2 vacancies. It is to be hoped that 2 candidates will be quickly co-opted for these vacancies. Debby is very happy to help anybody who would be interested in being on the parish council.

**Report from the Playing Field Committee Trustees:** Jon Snook gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The hedge along by the Estate Yard needs trimming. Jon will ask John White to do this in the autumn. Jon volunteered to clear the drain in the carpark. A new tree to be planted to replace an old one, playing field funds to be allocated for this. Some discussion took place regarding ownership of the playing field. CVPC owns half of it along with WDDC (now replaced with Dorset Council). Debby will ask the clerk of CVPC to investigate, particularly to ascertain the legal position. The Nationwide accounts stand at £ 464.25 and £2012.21.

**Election of Playing Field Committee Trustees:** Jon Snook and John Bradbury are willing to continue to be Trustees. Nigel Chapman will be asked if he also would like to continue. All Trustees elected unanimously.

**Report from the Best Kept Village Committee:** Jon Bradbury gave this report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Wootton hasn't entered for this competition for 2 years running, because various repairs had not been completed. It was the meeting's wish that we entered for the 2020 competition. David Brooks has volunteered to repair Diana Kennedy's seat, and even though we are not taking part for this year, it was agreed that we should have a village clean up on Sunday 12 May, from 10 am onwards. Debby agreed to do a poster and have details posted on the village website and Facebook page. Balance in the nationwide account stands at £667.59.

**Report from Village Hall Committee:** Christopher Roper, who has been the Chairman of the Village Hall committee for a year, gave his report. A major refurbishment of the toilets is in the offing, drawings by retired architect Ivan Mazija, having been on show at the recent AGM. A large proportion of the costs can be from Village Hall funds, with some local fund raising for the balance. It has been

suggested that the fence at the front of the village hall is replaced by cattle trough planters. Bookings and events at the village hall continue to flourish, including Arts Reach, and we now have regular film showings.

**Wootton 2000 Group:** John Bradbury gave the report for this group and began by saying it was really a moribund entity and needs some revitalising. The closing balance for this group stood at £4,440.96. There are 48 books remaining. A donation of £350 was made towards the refurbishment of the White Gates. There is a great deal of information of the history of our area on boards currently stored at the Manor. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of transferring this for digital storage. Ray Dyer will be approached for advice. There was also the possibility of a photographic competition taking place along with an exhibition, the photos to contrast the current village with that of the past.

**The Friends of St Paul's Church, Wootton Fitzpaine:** In the absence of Sue Bradbury, John Bradbury reported that the church is having services once a month, attended by between 10 and 15 people. The fund set up solely for the maintenance of the fabric of the church would still be administered by the Trustees even if the church were to close or become a venue for occasional services only. It is anticipated that this fund will increase to such an extent that the income will provide sufficient monies to maintain the fabric of the church. Should the church close, decisions would need to be taken as to its future, for example, to be used as a museum, although ongoing damp problems could be problematic.

**Residents' Discussion:** Peter Sharp asked about the possibility of a speed limit through the village. Some years ago, Highways arranged for a test to be made over one week, and concluded that the average speed through the centre of the village was less than 30 mph. Debby will ask the clerk of CVPC to investigate further. Jon Snook has observed that verges are encroaching slowly but steadily onto the lanes, and this could have serious consequences if allowed to continue. Debby will advise the clerk to contact Highways. Jon Snook also mentioned that the footbridge on the footpath to Charmouth now needs repairing. He has already contacted the Rights of Way officer, who has seen the bridge, but now the matter is becoming very urgent and needs immediate attention. Ref No for ROW officer is MNT 42897. Debby will inform the clerk.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

## **Stanton St Gabriel, Morcombelake Annual General Meeting**

**25th April 2019**

Chairperson - Cllr Everidge

Secretary - Cllr Eager

Present: Cllr Mahaddie, Cllr Christopher and three members of the public

Minutes of 2018 were agreed and signed off.

### **1. A35 improvements**

Sir Oliver Letwin convenes a quarterly meeting in Bridport with interested bodies over concerns regarding A35. Cllr Everidge attends and offered to take any concerns/comments to future meetings.

The recent Community Severance Feasibility Study has produced an extensive draft report which is looking positive. There has been a request from the Highways England Route Manager to hold a meeting with the core group of the elected members of CVPC to discuss the improvement options set out in the report. This will take place once the May 2nd council elections have been finalised. Cllr Everidge reminded that for this there is allocated money available outside routine maintenance, upkeep and repairs. Cllr Christopher confirmed that there was going to be a second road crossing in Morcombelake opposite the Art Gallery.

A Diversion Voluntary Group (DVG) has been set up with the aim of helping the police deal with diversions off the A35. There have been a couple of community meetings which, in consultation with local police, have discussed routes and procedures. The leader of the DVG has recently met with Sir Oliver Letwin and will soon be distributing a summary of their discussion.

## 2. Morcombelake Post Office and Post Box

Cllr Mahaddie described the lack of action by the Post Office to replace Morcombelake Post Office. Post Office remuneration currently does not adequately cover expenses here and so it is hard to find someone to run a Post Office in Morcombelake. We discussed the use of outreach Post Offices with set opening times a week, maybe combining Charmouth and Morcombelake. Many people now use Charmouth Post Office but once that goes in May there will be a good number of people who will have nowhere to go.

The current postbox is in the garden of the old Post Office and CVPC have agreed to the planning application to remove it with the stipulation that the post box will be reinstated in an alternative and suitable position. The Post Office, however, will not provide another post box as there are two post boxes within half a mile radius of each other. One of these post boxes is next to the Village Hall but access is very limited and involves walking on busy roads without pavements. There was discussion around getting support to lobby for another post box on the main A35. Regulations specify that there needs to be a wide enough area to put it on; a postbox on land governed by Highways will require an in-depth Health and Safety assessment. An area near Moores has been discussed but nothing has been progressed as yet. Cllr Christopher will mention the situation to Jane Gordon-Banks when he meets her at Wootton.

## 3. Dorset and East Devon National Park

There has not been much activity recently. CVPC supports a move to the second stage of assessment and has asked to be kept informed regarding the situation. Further information can be found at <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com>

## 4. Planning - Section 106 funds

CVPC want to use this money to put a roof over the existing seat at the bus stop opposite Moores. There are problems as the roof cannot overhang the footpath without an in-depth Health and Safety assessment so CVPC are investigating setting the bench further back into the bank. The next stage is to contact Moores who own the land. It will cost more than our current allocation but we might be able to do the work in stages whilst awaiting the next instalment of CIL money for the second stage. Cllr Christopher suggested mobilising donations of money and the appropriate skills.

## 5 Changes to Hospital Services

Two local information meetings put on by NHS about changes were not well attended due to unsuitable venues and there has been no news on the outcome of the third and final meeting. There are concerns regarding accessibility as certain disciplines have moved hospitals: musculoskeletal services are to be moved to Blandford whilst bladder/kidney matters remain in Dorchester. Cllr Everidge has a powerpoint of the reasons behind the changes which she is willing to circulate to people.

## 6. May Elections

There have been changes to electoral areas and the local ward is now Marshwood where there are 5 candidates competing for 1 seat: Cllr Christopher, Phyllida Culpin, Simon Fairlie, Eddie Gerrard and Jaqui Sewell. For Char Valley Parish Council there are 2 contested positions so there will need to be elections for parish councillors: in Whitchurch South where there are 5 candidates for 4 seats whilst in Stanton St Gabriel there are 2 candidates for 1 seat. Everyone needs to be encouraged to vote.

#### 7. Other topics raised by attendees

- Cllr Everidge requested someone new to take on role of footpath officer for Stanton St Gabriel.
- Cllr Everidge reported that the stile near Felicity's is a courtesy by the landowner, not a right of way.
- Concerns were raised that people now seem to be living in the building described on the Hill Farm planning application WD/D/16/002880 as a replacement outbuilding. CVPC will report this planning issue to the enforcement officers.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.