

**FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
REMOТЕLY ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**MINUTES**

**4564: Present:** Cllrs. H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Peck, C Noon, S Johnson, J Eager, A Carey, J Jones, S Creed-Castle, C Bailey, A Marks (Clerk).

**4565: Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Vaughan, Christopher and Hansford (unable to access link).

**4566: Public Discussion Period:** Nothing to report.

**4567: Declaration of interest:** None.

**4568: Resolution to approve the minutes of the CVPC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020:** It had previously been agreed that the clerk would advise all the councillors of planning responses submitted to Dorset Council at the time they were made. This has not been happening, and the fact needed to be recorded in the minutes with a renewed instruction to the clerk. The July minutes were agreed provided they were amended in this respect. Proposed Cllr. Creed-Castle and seconded by Cllr. Noon and agreed unanimously.

**4569: Actions following last meeting:** as circulated by the Clerk to the councillors.

**4570: Reports:**

- WATAG – whilst there haven't been any meetings during lockdown, Cllr. Noon queried whether there had been any bus service surveys carried out for the CV area. Cllr. Joyce suggested that Cllr. Noon should contact Dorset Community Action for information. Most bus services are sponsored by Dorset Council which recognises the need for more buses. Cllr. Joyce knows of people who wish to use buses to get to hospital and whilst they can travel there, the return journey is difficult with no connecting services.
- PCSO – no report.
- Dorset Assn. of Parish & Town Councils – Cllr. Eager advised the meeting that there is nothing to report.
- Bridport Local Area Partnership: nothing to report.
- Verges – Cllr. Mahaddie that there was nothing to report.
- War memorials – the parish council has received a quote for cleaning the war memorials.
- Trees – Cllr. Peck had nothing to report apart from the sorry state of the ash trees.
- The councillors' reports have been distributed to all councillors.
- Cllr. Simon Christopher's report was received on the afternoon of the meeting and forwarded to all councillors. He advised that he was dealing with the following issues –
  - Broadband provision across the ward.
  - Footpaths – he was in contact with Russell Goff of Dorset Council who hoped that a new bridge on the footpath to Charmouth would be in place by the end of October.
  - Enforcement – he was working with enforcement officers on a regular basis, as this is the continuing theme across the ward.
  - Highways – he was in contact with Dorset Council officers regarding poor road surfaces and speeding motorists.

**4571: Planning applications**

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before the meeting:**
- WD/20/D/001501 LAND KNOWN AS SOUTHFIELDS FARM, WOOTTON LANE, WOOTTON FITZPAINE . Erection of a timber mono-pitch agricultural building for the housing of sheep & associated feed/bedding/machinery storage & creation of concrete yard – CVPC has no objection to this application.

- WD/D/20/000998 DODPEN STABLES, FISHPOND, DT6 6NW. Erection of stable block consisting of four stables, one tack room and one feed room – CVPC has no objections to the design or size of the stables. However, we are concerned about the position of them, some distance from existing buildings and in a previously undeveloped part of the AONB. There are doubts about suitable access and we are concerned about the health of the horses so far from the main house and farm which are currently being advertised for sale. On receiving further information CVPC has no objection to this application.
- **Responses to be considered at September’s meeting**
- WD/D/20/001729 SHIP FARM, SHIP KNAPP, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6EW. Internal and external alterations including replacement of openings on ground and first floors to revert to original historic form. Window specification to accommodate new openings. Moving and modest enlargement of doorway, New internal opening and bathroom. Removal and replacement of modern fireplace. CVPC has no objection to this application.
- **Dorset Council Decisions** – CVPC have received notification from Dorset Council that they have approved the following applications: Bredon, Norchard Farm, Pax Cottage, Birds Cottage and Bellair Haye Nursery
- **Appeal Decision** - none
- **Enforcement** - none

#### 4572: Finance:

##### PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST 2020

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Aount
Annette Marks	Clerk’s salary	500347	0820/1	£370.27
HMRC	PAYE for August	500348	0820/2	£88.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>500344</b>	<b>0720/4</b>	<b>£458.27</b>

Payee	Details	Cheque no	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk’s salary including payment of £239 to Footeprints	500349	0920/1	£619.27
HMRC	PAYE for September	500350	0920/2	£88.00
DAPTC	Training for agendas and minutes	500351	0920/3	£35.00
Mystic Ltd	Sign for playground	500352	0920/4	£42.00
Hilary Joyce	Cost of additional calls during Covid 19 and Gotomeeting	500353	0920/5	£27.68
Came & Co	Annual insurance premium	500354	0920/6	£948.48
S Lee	Fixing noticeboards and cutting play area	500355	0920/7	£436.32
Earth Anchors Ltd	Supply three replacement notice boards	500356	0920/8	£1,375.80
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£5,702.55</b>

#### 4573: Whitchurch playground:

- Cllr. Eager is to head up the committee regarding maintenance of the playground. The committee also includes Cllrs. Joyce and Creed-Castle. DAPTC suggested all councils should examine playgrounds before re-opening following the Covid 19 lockdown. The inspection was undertaken by Ken Hussey. The most immediate actions recommended by him have already been undertaken urgently by Dale Wright so that the playground could be opened quickly. Despite notices, a blocked gate and prohibiting tapes it was already being used illegally. Mr Wright’s estimate of £350 was accepted by councillors by email. This included tidying the playground, undertaking urgent alterations and erecting a Covid warning notice.
- The costings provided by Ken Hussey for repairs in his report, recommended by the committee to CVPC, amount to just under £900. In the future, he also suggested a quarterly inspection. The clerk suggested that the CIL payment of £843.20 could be used towards the repairs. The clerk will investigate. It had been thought to accept Mr Wright’s estimate of approximately £80 per month for all grass cutting and

preliminary maintenance. However, Cllr Peck thought that Mr Hussey's three-monthly offer to inspect would also include maintenance and repairs. No decision was taken. Cllr. Eager will follow this up.

- The cost of any repairs could be included in Ken's inspection fees, Cllr. Eager will follow this up.
- The small climbing frame is currently in Cllr. Joyce's barn and will be installed after the inspector, Ken Hussey, has advised how best to secure it in the Whitchurch playground.

**4574: S106 progress:** our original award for S106 monies was £5,684.35 and so far we have drawn down £2,702.61 – this has covered the play equipment for Whitchurch playground, the contribution towards the acoustics at Whitchurch village hall and the cycle racks outside the church at Whitchurch. The balance remaining is to be drawn down is £2,638.29. We are making a claim this month for £2,130.00 for the cost of the summer house to be erected outside Whitchurch village hall and we will submit a further claim for £500 for the bench being built at Goodens Hill by Nick Shannon.

**4575: CVPC noticeboards and benches:** the three new noticeboards have now been erected and are for community use as well as the parish council. There are 6 interchangeable keys in total and the clerk will hold the spares. We will mark the boards to make one half for CVPC use and the other for the community. Cllr. Noon and the clerk will set up an arrangement for community groups to put up their notices.

**Action: Cllr. Noon and the clerk**

Cllr. Joyce has investigated the circumstances of the bench that is currently broken and is sited on the corner of the Monkton Wyld road out of Wootton Fitzpaine and one of the benches in the Whitchurch playground. As there are too many benches in the playground at Whitchurch, it was decided to transfer one of the benches there to Wootton. Cllr. Joyce has this in hand.

**4576: Future CVPC planning policy: Future CVPC planning policy:** CVPC is concerned that there may be a shortage of housing for local people. Similarly, it may be appropriate for CVPC to look at general planning developments in the area. About 2 years ago, Dorset Council offered to carry out a Housing Needs survey for Char Valley and the CVPC expressed an interest. Since then nothing further has happened. CVPC to follow up.

**Action: Cllr Joyce**

Cllr. Joyce then introduced an idea for sub-committees of 3-4 people to look at all aspects of CVPC work, planning being one of them. Councillors generally welcomed the idea. Cllrs. Mahaddie and Noon volunteered to be part of a planning group and Cllr. Vaughan would be asked if he would also join. Cllr Joyce undertook to send out a paper outlining possible committees for consideration in October.

**Action: Cllr. Joyce**

**4577: Report from CVPC Communications working party:** the five councillors had a meeting in early September and came up with the following suggestions.

- Put on hold any integration with the Upper Marshwood Vale newsletter.
- Sending Char Chat electronically saves money, but many people like to read a paper copy. There is agreement in principle that it is desirable to send out hard copies. We could save costs by reducing the number of issues each year to three. Three copies a year was proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and hard copies were proposed by Cllr. Noon. Both proposals were seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie.
- The Communications Working Group is to act as editorial board for Char Chat News with full authority to decide its content. Nothing will be presented to the other councillors before publication.
- Cllr. Carey's website, <https://www.charvalley.org>, will be used in future and not that set up by Hugo Fox. Cllr. Carey will manage it initially but will need help in the future. The site will be open to local community groups, but there will be a clear demarcation between space for their input and space for the parish council. This was proposed by Cllr. Noon, seconded by Cllr. Jones and passed unanimously.
- It has been decided not to use the Facebook page any longer but instead set up a 'What's App' group to communicate with other 'What's App' groups. Proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Eager and approved unanimously.

**4578: Report from River Char working party:** Cllr. Joyce reported that - AONB are confident they can obtain an Environment Agency grant for the River Char project. If so, there will be no CVPC financial input, if not, it will be £350, the remaining shortfall being met by AONB.

- A total of ten days research is required, costing £3,000.
- Cllrs. Vaughan and Joyce will have a meeting soon with AONB to progress matters.
  
- **Covid 19:** Cllr. Joyce thinks that we will continue with virtual meetings until May 2021. Our future plans are to create working parties for all subjects that we cover. Both Cllrs. Carey and Noon thought this would be a good idea.

**4580: Any other business:** Broadband – CVPC have been advised by Dorset Council that they are hoping to increase Broadband provision across the Vale; however this can be a problem if one's neighbours do not want the increased service. One can obtain a grant of up to £3,500 but it usually costs considerably more. Cllr. Simon Christopher is now working on Broadband provision across the ward, but he is finding it increasingly exasperating.

- Cllr. Joyce has contacted Dorset Council for their adverse weather warning policy for this coming winter and is awaiting their response.
- Community fridges – CVPC received an email regarding the siting of community fridges in Beaminster. It is thought that it is not necessary in the Char Valley area as many residents put fresh vegetables out for people to take, and there is already a community fridge in Bridport.

**4581: Date of next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020,**

**Meeting closed** at 21.20.