

DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance;

Cllr Clare Mahaddie, 11 members of the community; Sandra and Richard Brown Dorset National Parks Team

David Everidge was elected as chairperson

Chris Everidge was elected as secretary

Minutes of 2017 were agreed

**1. Dorset and East Devon National Park - Q&A session with Sandra Brown former chair of the Council / Campaign for National Parks**

Sandra distributed the latest edition of the Dorset National Park campaign summary, <http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/single-post/2018/03/27/Dorset-National-Park-Leaflet>, drawing attention to the Conservative's 25 year Environment Plan and also that Natural England is continuing to the next stage of more detailed assessment of Dorset's NP.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Ultimate decision lies with Defra however the Government's / Michael Gove's support could accelerate the process which if successful could see Dorset's NP in existence within 5 – 6 years. Cross-party support indicated that the application would continue despite whichever government may be in power. The boundary of the proposed NP was not 'cut and dried' though in all probability it would reach offshore. In respect of anticipated impact on infrastructure the meeting was reassured that historically a NP did not increase numbers, rather value. Visitors tended to spend more and stay longer, hence NPs had a remit to boost sustainable transport.

**2. Unitary Authority**

The meeting was updated on local government reorganisation which will come into being at midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019; West Dorset will be included in a new Dorset unitary authority which will cover the whole county except for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

The reorganisation will involve transferring a number of assets and services from WDDC to various town and parish councils and WDDC had produced a document ("Devolution of services and assets to Town and Parish Councils") with proposals as to how this would work.

CVPC is one of Bridport's 13 parishes that form the Parish Council Liaison Group co-ordinated by Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP). Parish Liaison has responded jointly to the Devolution survey which will be discussed at a forthcoming WDDC meeting on 02.05.2018 convened by Cllr Alan Thacker, Lead member for the West Dorset Transfer of services and assets programme.

**3. Planning**

CVPC has received £2,100 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money paid by a developer at a standard rate per sq m. The parish council also has the right to claim a further £5,684.00 from so-called Section 106 payments agreed between WDDC and developers within the parish. These funds can only be used for new projects and, if not claimed presumably remain with WDDC. There was some discussion about whether this money might be used towards parking provision in Morcombelake but it was agreed that there was so far no project sufficiently advanced to justify making a claim.

The need to protect our starry skies was explained and there was general agreement that this was important. Bob Mizon's contribution to Char Chat on this subject was appreciated. It was agreed that the new street lighting for Star Lane should be appropriate for its rural setting.

**4. Chideock Bypass Resolution; proposal**

Position Statement of Char Valley Parish Council on the A35 "Chideock bypass"

*Char Valley Parish Council is aware of third party proposals for potential improvements/changes to the A35 in and around Chideock that include a single carriageway bypass. Any change to the management, operation or routing of the A35 west of Bridport has the potential for significant impact on residents and property in the Parish and Char Valley Parish Council will maintain a watching brief on the current proposals.*

*If in the future any proposal for the A35 west of Bridport be taken forward formally for design or further investigation by Highways England, it's agents or contractors (or any Highway Authority currently responsible for the A35 at the time) Char Valley Parish Council should have the role of a primary consultee and be fully informed and consulted.*

The wording was accepted; however, a joint statement with Symondsburry PC would be welcomed.

#### **5. Highways England / Dorset County Council Highways Community Severance Feasibility Study**

All contributors to the survey (34) were thanked. Findings from HE's route-based speed study of the A35 from Honiton to Bere Regis, financial year 2017 – 18, were distributed. It revealed that Morcombelake's kerb to kerb carriageway falls below the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges; typical forward visibility east and westbound exceeds the Desirable Minimum; the collision rate lies below the 2006 Traffic Accident Threshold; the recommendation being that *'the existing 40mph speed limit is appropriate'*.

HE would however conduct a further speed study as part of the Dorset Village Pedestrian Safety and Community Severance Survey. When complete CVPC will receive a copy. Details of how this is to be carried out were requested. For best use of time and effort given over by residents a meeting with the engineering team before decisions are made is crucial.

Pursuance of an equestrian – friendly crossing was favourably received.

#### **6. Char Valley Parish Council – effective communication**

The meeting favoured more communication from CVPC. Suggestions included a newsletter, more frequent issues of Char Chat and greater use of email.

#### **7. Car parking - James Hargreaves Hall**

Problems exist: however there is nothing new in the situation. Solutions were being sought; what was required was input from DCC in the light of the

- West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan 2015 Vision and Objectives and
- Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement March 2015.

#### **8. Any other topics raised by attendees** No other topics were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.45.