

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIRST MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2014 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL.

**3201: Present:** Cllrs I Gollop (Chairman), D Snook, S Johnson, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, H Joyce, K Mansbridge, C Mahaddie, and D Turner (DCC), M Robinson (WDDC), P Friend (Hastoe) and P Burton (PCSO)

**3203: Apologies:** Received from Cllrs Everidge and Peck.

**3204: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion:** There were 6 members of the public present. A question was asked about responsibility for dealing with Japanese knotweed, especially in Pitmans Lane. Dorset County Council should deal with this. Cllr Mahaddie thought it had been sprayed and but the Clerk was asked to send a further report to DCC highlighting the problem.

**3205: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations:** None

**3206: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014:** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved, subject to a minor alteration concerning grant funding for the Whitchurch Canonicorum village hall.

**3207: Actions Following Last Meeting:** The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

**3208: Reports: Police:** PCSO Burton reported there were no crimes reported in Char Valley in the previous month. **ROW:** Nothing to report **Transport:** Nothing to report **BLAP:** Nothing to report **DAPTC:** Nothing to report **Village Halls: Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall:** Work is about to start on a new heating system and doors to the extension **Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall:** They have applied for a grant towards the cost of replacing the safety matting in the play area; the official opening of the new telephone box library is imminent **James Hargreaves Community Hall:** Finances are in good order; forthcoming events include a strawberry tea on 27<sup>th</sup> July, the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> August and Harvest Supper on 1<sup>st</sup> October. **Lengthsman:** Cllr Mansbridge noted that matters were working well **Ancient Monuments:** Nothing to report

**Parish Councillor Reports: Cllr Bailey:** She reported that Jill Exton of DCC ROW team had not returned her call of two weeks ago concerning a gate opening onto the highway; she also noted the problem of speeding cyclists putting themselves in danger in the narrow lanes, particularly given the lanes are used frequently by large agricultural vehicles – the Clerk will ask DCC if some safety notices might be appropriate on the designated cycle routes **Cllr Joyce:** The George Summers memorial service on 23<sup>rd</sup> July is being attended by Cllrs Creed-Castle and Snook on behalf of the parish council **Cllr Creed-Castle** Her concerns over large lorries being routed by sat-nav through inappropriate narrow lanes in the area were noted **Cllr Johnson** nothing to report **Cllr Mansbridge** Noted a report that DCC had been allocated £3m for highway repairs – could some of this be used on Mill Lane in Wootton Fitzpaine? **Cllr Everidge** In her absence she had submitted a report on various matters to the Chairman and clerk **Cllr Mahaddie** Nothing to report **Cllr Snook** She reported on the bakery in Wootton Fitzpaine – it seems planning conditions relating to a filter and a fan may not have been fulfilled meaning neighbours have problems with odours if the wind blows from the north west. The clerk was asked to check the planning application and contact WDDC enforcement if appropriate.

**3209: District / County Reports Cllr Robinson** Concerns had been expressed to him about a barn built behind metal gates on the A35, however this is covered by permitted development rights; discussions are underway about closer linkage between West Dorset, North Dorset and Weymouth District Councils with a view to save money; the affordable housing development in Marshwood Vale is under way, completion due in the spring of 2015 **Cllr Turner** Three public consultations are in the public domain; he is developing a new e mail group for parish councillors who wish to receive even more information, anyone who wants to join contact him direct; the planning, licensing and rights of ways committees are being merged into one “super committee”; the 47 bus service from Bridport to Yeovil College has been replaced by the number 40, running 6 days a week; he suggested Knotweed problems should be reported to Jane Williams in Environmental Health at WDDC **Tree Officer** Nothing to report

**3210: Planning Applicants presentation:** None

**3211: Planning Applications:**

**Late Planning: None To Consider:** WD/D/14/001506 – Stonebarrow Cottage, Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth, DT6 6RA – garden shed to replace existing – no objections **To note:** WD/D/14/001264 – The Old Engine House, Stony Down Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NQ – construction of a single storey kitchen and sitting room extension with a first floor balcony – no objections

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**Planning Approvals/Refusals (to note):** None received

**Planning Related Correspondence:** None received

**3212: Dorset County Council Rangers – new footpath and rights of way clearance proposals:** An e mail from Ben Hanley waxing lyrical about the “exciting prospects” of a reduction in the work done by DCC had been received and circulated. Councillors were disappointed at the basic premise (Localism exposed?) that DCC wants to pass the cost and some of the work involved in keeping rights of way clear onto the parish council and community volunteers (does DCC understand the age profile of Char Valley residents?). The Clerk was asked to invite Mr Hanley to a forthcoming parish council meeting to explain this apparent abdication of a legal responsibility and also why there has been no advance warning to allow for proper budgeting.

**3213 Wootton Toddler Group – request for financial support:** An e mail had been received from Helen Roberts and Marie Winnett who are considering reviving a toddler group in the community. They enquired about possible funding support from the parish council and as they thought the previous grant from the parish council to the old toddler group had not been cashed. The clerk reported that cheque number 1252 for £250 had been issued on 9<sup>th</sup> September and debited to the bank account on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Cllr Johnson will advise the two ladies and suggest they liaise with the old group about a transfer of residual funds.

**3214: Affordable Housing:** Following a flurry of e-mails over prospective purchasers of the shared ownership properties and information about applicants for the rented properties, Pete Friend from Hastoe updated the meeting on progress. The two applicants for the shared ownership properties have impeccable local connections. Unfortunately only 4 of the bidders for rented properties have connections with Whitchurch and 2 others have connections to Wootton and Marshwood (although Wootton is defined as “local” in the S 106 agreement). This is unexpected and disappointing since a couple of years ago there were about 14 names registered with WDDC. A discussion ensued as to why so few may have applied – the delays in the project meant some had been forced to move outside the area rather than wait, the rents are high, the advert by WDDC had not been that informative or helpful, single people will not be eligible under WDDC allocation policies for a 2 bedroom property etc. There is an open evening at the site on 24<sup>th</sup> July and the offer has been made to re-advertise, provided this is done quickly. This was supported by the parish council provided those with a local connection who have already applied are not disadvantaged. Parish councillors will try and encourage anyone in need of housing and with a local connection to apply. (subsequent to the meeting, the clerk noticed in the S106 agreement (para 4.5.1 and 4.5.2) that the properties cannot be offered to anyone outside the greater local area until 4 months have passed from the date of first marketing).

**3215: Superfast broadband:** Roll-out is delayed and potentially less widespread than originally promised, but some areas do now have access.

## **3216: Finance**

(i) **Clerks report:** Nothing especial to report

(ii) **Payment approvals:** The following payments were approved –1300 – S Lee – Lengthsman - £273.00; 1301 - HMRC Paye July £120.60; 1302 - M Wilson Clerks Salary, holiday pay and expenses July 2014 - £592.73.

**3217: Correspondence:** The clerk had circulated the correspondence list – noted. The Dorset AONB management plan for 2014-19 was passed to the Chairman who, in time, will pass to Cllr Joyce. It was agreed to allow the National Trust to refurbish the fingerpost in Stonebarrow Lane

**3218: Items for the next Agenda:** To include superfast broadband, affordable housing, Andrew Kirby ( A 35 Connect), Ben Hanley (DCC Rangers), the View in Muddyford Lane (Cllr Everidge to cover), village hall grants.

**3219: Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30pm at the Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall.

**3220: Matters of Urgency:** The deadline for returning the “have your say” leaflet circulated with Char Chat has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Cllr Creed-Castle is gathering completed forms and a reminder will be posted at all village notice boards and hopefully on the website. The clerk had circulated draft meeting dates for 2015 and asked that any required changes be brought to his notice as soon as possible to allow bookings to be made

**3221: Close of Meeting:** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43 pm.

