

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SECOND MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL.

3222: Present: Cllrs D Snook (who took the Chair), S Johnson, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, H Joyce (from 8.20 pm), K Mansbridge, C Mahaddie, C Peck, C Sage, C Everidge and D Turner (DCC), M Robinson (WDDC), Ben Hanley /Jill Exton (JE) (DCC Rangers) and five members of the public

3223: Apologies: Received from Cllr Gollop.

3224: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: A question was asked about the responsibility on farmers to clear footpaths and bridleways of any crops planted to ensure the paths are clear for walkers, and would the parish council write to local farmers reminding them of their responsibilities under the Law? The 1990 Rights of Way Act makes it clear the path must be cleared within 14 days of the first disturbance of that crop or within 24 hours of any subsequent disturbance. JE confirmed that if DCC was advised of non-compliance it will speak informally to the landowner and if the path remains uncleared DCC will clear the path and bill the cost to the landowner. Footpaths need to be 1 metre wide across a field and for bridleways it is 2 metres. The difficulties for farmers in some circumstances were discussed and also the irresponsible behaviour of a minority of walkers. It was agreed the Clerk will either draft a letter or send the Rights of Way guidance notes produced by DCC to as many farmers within the parish as possible. JE will see if she can provide more signs asking for responsible behaviour from walkers.

3225: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: None

3226: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 21st July 2014: Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3227: Actions Following Last Meeting: The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

3228. Dorset County Council – new rights of way clearance proposals: Ben Hanley and JE explained what was being proposed. DCC will continue to cut twice yearly those paths that it has historically cut. A map showing these, surprisingly small in number and length, was left with Cllr Peck. DCC is offering to cut additional paths chosen by the parish council at an annual cost of 20p per metre for two cuts per annum. This is 50% of the cost. DCC pays the other 50%. The funds are used to train volunteers in chain saw, strimmer etc use. The new Service Level Agreement would start in April 2015 and it would be possible to join the scheme in the future if now is not the right time. It was noted that CVPC is already investing significantly in the Lengthsman scheme, but 20p a metre seems good value. It was agreed that Cllr Peck will organise a working group to consider which paths might benefit from the new SLA. The list and charge can then be considered at a future parish council meeting.

JE now has responsibility for verges. She explained that contractors cut the rural verges twice a year. Councillors reported some verges (e.g. Pitmans Lane) that seem not to have been cut for two or three years. JE will investigate with the contractor. It is acknowledged at the highest level within DCC that its effectiveness in cutting verges in 2014 has been poor.

3229: Reports: Police: None **ROW:** Nothing to report **Transport:** Nothing to report **BLAP:** Cllr Everidge reported on a surfeit of weaver fish due to the continued spell of fine weather, warning signs are to be erected; search and rescue co-ordination will move to Fareham in mid September, the helicopter will remain in Portland until 2017, thereafter it will move to Lee-on-Solent; Poole's decompression chamber has been unable to cope with the volume of referrals this summer **DAPTC:** The Western area agm is on 25th September **Village Halls: Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall:** The new heating system is in place; forthcoming events include a Young Farmers harvest supper, harvest lunch on 19th October, a dance in November and a dinner dance in December **Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall:** Committee meets on 14th October, there is a harvest supper planned in November **James Hargreaves Community Hall:** Newsletter has been circulated; an afternoon tea is now being organised on the second Sunday of the month aimed at some of those with little social contact **Lengthsman:** Nothing to report **Ancient Monuments:** Nothing to report

Parish Councillor Reports: Cllr Bailey: She expressed concerns about a lack of information from Hastoe for the applicants for the new housing – deferred to later in the agenda, see minute 3233 **Cllr Joyce:** She had received complaint about a clay pigeon shoot on a Sunday afternoon - noted **Cllr Creed-Castle:** Reported work for the Lengthsman – Cllr Mansbridge will liaise **Cllr Johnson:** She had see fly tipping of rubbish in the River Char – the Environment Agency was not interested if it wasn't toxic; the Clerk will see if DCC or WDDC might help **Cllr Mansbridge:** Mill Lane has at last been resurfaced but the drain by Champernhayes Lodge remains blocked **Cllr Everidge:** Local potholes have been filled and the

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

velocopatcher has been in use; knotweed at Moores Bakery is being dealt with; the barn near the A35 has been confirmed as permitted development by the Enforcement Officer, but no criteria for his decision have been provided **Cllr Mahaddie:** Nothing to report **Cllr Snook:** She attended with Cllr Creed-Castle the Sir George Somers memorial service; the bridge at Green Pit Knapp is now repaired **Cllr Sage:** Nothing to report **Cllr Peck:** She reported complaints from residents about damage to hedges, telegraph poles, trees etc caused by inconsiderate driving of large vehicles in the narrow lanes. Many of these are agricultural vehicles. A discussion ensued on the difficulties, which are not limited to West Dorset, and it was agreed to incorporate a request for more consideration and slower speeds from drivers in the letter to be sent to farmers by the Clerk (see minute 3224 above); she will contact BT to try and have the phone box painted; the notice board in Fishponds needs new legs – Cllr Mansbridge will ask the Lengthsman; an update on progress on main drainage is likely at the end of October; she is planning a site meeting with DCC Highways to consider the most sensitive way to deal with the overhanging trees in Crooked Lane

3230: District / County Reports Cllr Robinson: Processing of planning applications is being delayed because of large volumes but the situation is being addressed; following a Scrutiny Review future S106 agreements will split the planning from the housing allocation aspects; West Dorset, Weymouth/Portland and North Dorset District Councils are looking at joining together to deliver many services; the Marshwood affordable houses should be ready in March 2015; a new Boundary Commission review is expected shortly **Cllr Turner:** A further £100k has been allocated for work on verges which are in a poor state generally; £682k has been allocated to establish 19 electric vehicle charging points, including in Bridport and Lyme Regis. **Tree Officer** Nothing to report

3231: Planning Applicants presentation: None

3232: Planning Applications:

Late Planning: None **To Consider:** None **To note:** WD/D/14/001468 – Wild Thyme, Verriotts Lane, DT6 6DU – single storey kitchen extension and extension over garage – no objections

WD/D/14/001853 – Well Cottage, Higher Lane, Ryall, DT6 6EJ – replacement garage - recommend objection

WD/D/14/001695 – Penn Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6BZ – convert single storey outbuilding into two storey holiday accommodation - recommend objection

Planning Approvals/Refusals (to note): None received

Planning Related Correspondence: A request had been received to allow the whole of Fernhill to be included in the Charmouth Neighbourhood Plan area. After a discussion it was agreed to reject this suggestion.

3233: The Veiv – planning and the AONB: Cllr Everidge had circulated a note highlighting the failings of WDDC and DCC to enforce given policy, especially with regard to development in the AONB. Somewhat tongue in cheek, she suggested recommending the area be removed from the AONB. WDDC Cllr Robinson reported that WDDC Cllr Summers had briefed the Chief Executive on this sorry saga and he will ensure it is kept on peoples agendas. It was agreed that when the parish council makes comments on planning matters it will also send these to the AONB if appropriate.

3234: Affordable Housing: Councillors felt there was little information coming from Hastoe to allow them to provide information to applicants on the allocation timetable. The clerk was asked to seek full information from Hastoe as a matter of urgency. He was also asked to see if a retaining wall is to be built between the properties and High Orchard, where the retaining earth bank has been cut away, and also the plans for the soil and spoil at the rear of the properties – is there room for this to be removed?

3235: Superfast broadband: The roll-out promised with much fanfare back in May seems to have evaporated. The clerk will try and get an update from the project team.

3236: Village questionnaire – update: So far 63 have been returned and it was agreed to accept the offer from Mr Nick Ziebland to analyse the results and data. Cllr Sage questioned its value – do only those with negative views complete questionnaires, were the questions slanted and did people have enough information to make informed choices? It was pointed out that the whole concept of the questionnaire including its design, distribution and analysis had been approved as parish council policy as the best way to try and get some understanding of how people felt about fracking and other related issues. Once the results are analysed consideration can be given as to how these are communicated – Char Chat in early 2015 perhaps?

3237: Finance

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

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

(ii) Payment approvals: The following payments were approved:–

- 1303 – M Wilson – August pay and holiday pay - £498.17
- 1304 – M Wilson – September pay - £321.45
- 1305 – HMRC – PAYE – August - £120.60
- 1306 – HMRC – PAYE – September - £76.40
- 1307 – S Lee – lengthsman - £130.00
- 1308 – CPRE – subscription - £36.00
- 1309 – Bopper Bus – grant - £600.00
- 1310 – Wootton toddler Group – grant - £100.00
- 1311 – S Lee – lengthsman - £120.00
- 1312 – Broker Network – insurance - £705.81
- 1313 – Whitchurch village hall – hire - £19.50

(iii) – Insurance: The clerk had advised councillors that the current 3 year insurance deal ends on 1st October. Competitive quotes had been obtained and circulated to councillors in advance and it was agreed to accept the lowest offer of a three year deal from Came and Co, underwritten by Hiscox Insurance – the annual premium is £705.81

3238: Combined Whitchurch event: Details had been circulated and Cllr Joyce had undertaken more research. It was agreed there was no appetite to get involved.

3239: Correspondence: The clerk had circulated the correspondence list – noted.

3240: Items for the next Agenda: To include Andrew Kirby from A35/Connect; superfast broadband, affordable housing, village hall and other grants, Questionnaire, the Veiw, Speed limits, the Resilience Plan. It would be helpful if councillors could send any specific questions for Andrew Kirby in advance to the clerk.

3241: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th October 2014 at 7.30pm at the Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall.

3242: Matters of Urgency: Cllr Creed-Castles new computer doesn't yet have Word of Excel - any documents sent to her must be in pdf format.

3243: Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.