

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

T-THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THIRD MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2014 IN THE WOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL.

3244: Present: Cllrs I. Gollop (Chairman), D Snook, C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Everidge and D Turner (DCC), P Burton (PCSO), Kay Johnston-Hyde and five members of the public

3245: Apologies: Received from Cllrs Peck, Mansbridge, Johnson and Sage, and WDDC Cllr Robinson.

3246: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: Kat Johnston-Hyde has just handed in her notice as Clerk as she will not be returning after maternity leave. She expressed her thanks to councillors for all the help and support she had received in her time as clerk, but family commitments meant it was not practicable to return. She in turn was thanked for all her hard and effective work over the years.

3247: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: None

3248: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 8th September 2014: Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved.

3249: Actions Following Last Meeting: The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted. He thanked Cllr Creed-Castle for her help in compiling addresses for the letter to farmers.

3250. A Kirby of A 35 Connect: Mr Kirby unexpectedly did not attend the meeting as planned.

3251. A Marler of Wessex Water regarding water main replacement road closures: Mr Marler had sent his apologies. He has asked to meet a local contact regarding the works and Cllr Mahaddie volunteered.

3252: Reports: Police: There was one reported crime in the last month – a theft of 200 litres of heating oil in Star Lane. Police advice is to fit a tank alarm **ROW:** There was no formal report but a general discussion on responsibility for cutting verges and footpaths, and the dire performance of DCC's contractors. It was agreed Cllr Peck would lead a small sub-group of herself and Cllrs Mahaddie and Everidge to review the footpath map provided at the last meeting and produce recommendations and costs for those paths that might be cut under the new DCC scheme at 20p per metre. The group should also liaise with BLAP which is looking at DCC footpath initiatives across the area. Verge cutting by DCCs contractors this summer has been patchy at best and non-existent at worst. Farmers and others have undertaken this work at their own peril to keep sight lines on lanes clear. The clerk was asked to write to DCC expressing the parish councils discontent and also ask for a list of work actually carried out by contractors this year – it is expected that officers managing the contractors will have such information, otherwise how can invoices have been paid? **Transport:** Nothing to report **BLAP:** Cllr Everidge reported on the possibility of the cost of elections in 2015 being passed on to parish councils (the clerk has made an allowance in the 2015/16 budget); the round England coastal footpath should be in place by 2020; BLAP is hosting a meeting between farmers and the community about dog fouling **DAPTC** Cllr Snook reported that council meeting can now be recorded and photographed by the press and public. At some future stage it might be appropriate to revise Standing Orders to reflect this **Village Halls: Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall:** Harvest lunch this coming Sunday might be in jeopardy due to low numbers **Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall:** Committee meets 14th October, next Artsreach event is on 4th December **James Hargreaves Community Hall:** Autumn supper was a sell-out, Sunday teas up and running; some surface water flooding problems, but clearance of drains in surrounding lanes will hopefully prevent a re-occurrence **Lengthsman:** Cllr Creed-Castle reported he has posts to repair the notice board at Fishponds – the clerk is trying to contact the Fishponds PCC to see if the notice board could be relocated within the churchyard to prevent it being knocked over yet again; he is looking at a broken drain at Far Horizons; she will contact Mr Taylor about the lengthsman moving a pile of shingle on the Copse Gate part of Bluntshay Lane. He should be able to do it in the near future. **Ancient Monuments:** Nothing to report

Parish Councillor Reports: Cllr Bailey: She has found a rare plant on her farm – thornapple, which is poisonous to cattle and also hallucinogenic. It may have come from seed in bird droppings – be aware. There is a site in Upper Marshwood Vale subject to a various planning application – Cllr Turner reported that UMV PC had now approved the original application for 2 houses which is now being considered by WDDC **Cllr Snook:** Nothing to report **Cllr Creed-Castle:** Nothing to add **Cllr Gollop:** Nothing has been done about the broken drain covers near Bybrook in Whitchurch – the clerk will report again to DCC Highways **Cllr Everidge:** Raised the issue of enforcement at the Veiw and also asked for details of the criteria that allow for the development of a very large barn on the A35 (she will provide property name to the clerk so a report can go to WDDC) – these were covered in full in Minute 3255 below; she asked if the DWP could empty bins on the A35 other than at peak times on Wednesdays **Cllr Mahaddie:** Nothing to report **Cllr Joyce:** the river bank on a footpath across land belonging to her and Cllr Johnson is being eroded and might need remedial action in the longer term – noted; the churchyard wall in Whitchurch needs repairs, possibly buttressing.

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Costs are likely to be in the region of £15k - £40k, and four larger trees will need to be felled. WDDC and DCC are fully involved - noted

3253: District / County Reports Cllr Robison: His report had been circulated **Cllr Turner:** He promised to look into the question of verge cutting; he reported that DCC needs to save a further £47m so more cuts in services are inevitable; he doubted election charges would be passed on as the matter was to go to Policy Scrutiny **Tree Officer** Nothing to report

3254: Planning Applicants presentation: None

3255: Planning Applications:

i) Late Planning: None

ii) To Consider: None

iii) To note: WD/D/14/002233 – Bay View, Tizards Knap, Morcombelake. DT6 6EE – first floor extension – no objections; WD/D/14/002383 – Lower Abbots Wootton Farm, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NL – agricultural covered yard – no objections; WD/D/14/001911 – Dairy Farm, Wootton Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6Q – installation of a 10kw photovoltaic system – no objections; WD/D/14/002289 – Sun Ridge, Sun Lane, Morcombelake, DT6 6DL – change garage to holiday letting – still to be considered, but delegated councillors will bear in mind comments made about previous applications at this site.

WD/D/14/001853 – Well Cottage, Higher Lane, Ryall, DT6 6EJ – replacement garage – revised plans have been submitted reducing the height and removing the studio but the footprint has increased from 34 sq metres to 38 sq metres. Delegated councillors will make their comments shortly

iv) Planning Approvals/Refusals (to note): WD/D/14/000297 – The Veiw, Muddyford Lane – this application has been refused because of the adverse impacts on the surrounding landscape as part of the AONB and Heritage Coast and doubts over the gypsy status of the applicant. The parish council expects WDDC to enforce its refusal with all its vigour

v) Planning Related Correspondence: A letter date 2nd October 2014 had been received from Kevin Perry, Senior Enforcement Officer at WDDC, following apparent breaches in planning conditions being reported by the Clerk. The letter says the council will not take enforcement action to remedy the acknowledged breaches as its authority to do so is “discretionary” and Government advice is only to pursue breaches “when it is clear significant harm is caused to the public interest.” Another local complainant has received further details which seem to contradict some of the content of Mr Perry’s letter and he is pursuing the matter through Cllr Bremner and seeking more information under the FOI Act. WDDC Cllr Robison is due to speak to officers on 14th October and report back to the Clerk.

The failure of WDDC to enforce its own policies and decisions is deplored. It undermines public confidence in the planning process and also diminishes the value of local councillors undertaking neighbourhood consultations and taking time to consider applications. If applicants can ride roughshod through the process what is the point of it all? Once the clerk has heard back from Cllr Robison the council will consider sending a strong letter to WDDC expressing its concerns.

3256: Recruitment of a new clerk: The acting clerk had prepared a draft advertisement and researched the costs. The following timetable was agreed:

- Adverts to go in Bridport News and The View From Lyme Regis and Bridport, plus the DAPTC web site
- Closing date for applications will be 7th November
- Short list by 10th November
- Interviews on 13th November ideally
- Interview panel – Cllrs Snook, Creed-Castle, Everidge and Joyce, plus the acting clerk

3257: Affordable Housing: An e mail had been received from Pete Friend of Hastoe. All properties are allocated and occupation is underway. He thanked the parish council for its resolve and support over many years – without this the project would not have been pursued to a successful completion. A cowardly anonymous letter about allocations had been sent to the Chairman and Clerk. Parish Council policy is to ignore such letters.

3258: Superfast broadband: Two updates had been circulated – the roll-out still seems muddled and over-optimistic in its promises.

3259: Speed limits: PCSO had received reports of speeding past the 5 Bells, but as the speed limit is 60 mph he doubted vehicles were speeding, but could be going too fast. If a reduced speed limit was needed the parish council could apply through DCC Highways. This process was happening in Thorncombe parish Previous analysis undertaken in Wootton had not shown excessive speeding but it was agreed to approach DCC Highways about the possibility of a 20 mph limit in Whitchurch

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

3260: Finance

i) Clerks report: The Clerk had prepared a detailed summary of expenditure to date against budget predictions for the full financial year and an initial draft budget for 2015/16. Noted

ii) Payment approvals: Payments totalling £3,210.91 covered by cheques 1314 to 1332 as detailed on the schedule attached to the minutes were approved

iii) Annual Return: The Annual Return had been approved by the external auditors and was approved

3261: Resilience plan: The clerk had found no trace in the files but will investigate with WDDC

3262: Correspondence: The clerk had circulated the correspondence list – noted.

3263: Items for the next Agenda: To include the village Questionnaire, recruitment of new clerk, planning enforcement, verge/footpath cutting, Wessex Water water main works, Local Plan (which Cllr Everidge will review on publication), A35 Connect

3264: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.30pm at the James Hargreaves Memorial Hall.

3265: Matters of Urgency: Following the recent play inspection the equipment has been made unusable and a warning notice affixed. Cllrs Joyce/Gollop will let the clerk know the manufacturer so a repair/replacement can be organised. It was agreed the clerk should send £25 garden vouchers to Trevor Chambers and Liz Davros following their long and successful stint editing Char Chat. There will be a card to sign and collection from councillors for Kat Johnston-Hyde at the next parish council meeting. Cllr Creed-Castle received permission from councillors for photos of themselves at planning meetings to be shown on her website newsletter

3266: Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.

Char Valley PC Payments for approval 13th October 2014

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1314	Whitchurch Canonicorum PCC	Grant	280.00
1315	Wootton Fitzpaine PCC	Grant	280.00
1316	Monkton Wyld PCC	Grant	245.00
1317	Fishponds PCC	Grant	60.00
1318	Stanton St Gabriel PCC	Grant	60.00
1319	James Hargreaves URC	Grant	60.00
1320	Whitchurch Canonicorum village hall	Grant	350.00
1321	Wootton Fitzpaine village hall	Grant	350.00
1322	James Hargreaves hall	Grant	350.00
1323	Dorset and Somerset Air ambulance	Grant	100.00
1324	Citizens Advice Bureau	Grant	75.00
1325	WATAG	Grant	10.00
1326	Whitchurch Canonicorum play group	Grant	250.00
1327	DAPTC	Course fee	16.00
1328	BDO	External audit	120.00
1329	HMRC	PAYE	76.40
1330	M Wilson	Pay	306.45
1331	M Wilson	Mileage and post	147.86
1332	S Creed-Castle	CharChat postage	74.20
Total			3210.91