

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL.

3267: Present: D Snook (who took the Chair), C Bailey, S Creed-Castle, C Sage, C Peck, C Mahaddie, K Mansbridge, S Johnson, C Everidge and D Turner (DCC), P Burton (PCSO), Malcolm Wilson, John West and eight members of the public

3268: Apologies: Received from Cllr Gollop and WDDC Cllr Robinson.

3269: Meeting Suspended for Public Discussion: None

3270: Declarations of Interest/ Consider Grant of Dispensations: Cllr Snook declared an interest in planning application WD/D/14/002737

3271: Resolution to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 13th October 2014: Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved subject to one minor amendment concerning Rights of Way.

3272: Actions Following Last Meeting: The clerk had circulated a list of actions and outcomes which were noted.

3273. Questionnaire - results: Nick Ziebland had kindly analysed the results of the recent community survey on energy production. The key findings of the survey were:

- over 100 forms had been returned, a return rate of approximately 30%
- overall most respondents were strongly against large scale energy generation projects because of the potential adverse impact on agriculture and food production, tourism (the areas second most important economic activity) and the affect on the AONB
- the prospect of communities receiving money in exchange for energy generating projects left people very underwhelmed (“bribery”)
- fracking and large scale wind turbines were very unpopular
- small scale solar panels and even small scale domestic wind turbines received less opposition

It is now for the parish council to decide how it wishes to use the results. Cllr Everidge will mention at the forthcoming meeting of BLAP – it is understood a similar type of survey has taken place in Bridport

3274. Clerk – recruitment update: Cllr Snook reported that 10 applications had been received, 5 candidates had been interviewed and Mr John West had been offered and accepted the position. He was welcomed to the meeting and will formally begin on 1st December allowing a one month handover from Malcolm Wilson.

3275: Reports: Police: PCSO Burton reported a number of thefts and break-in attempts – high value plant and agricultural equipment is the main target. There was also one serious RTC. The major threat to resident’s safety remains internet and telephone fraud. **ROW:** A small group will look at the ROW network but there is no expectation that DCC will be paid to cut any paths **Transport:** Nothing to report **BLAP:** Nothing to report **DAPTC** Cllr Snook reported that results of resolutions for the NALC AGM could be found on the DAPTC web site; a web site provider specialising in the parish council sector had been present at the DAPTC and this might be worth exploring by the Finance Committee **Village Halls: Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall:** The AGM was on 4th November – it was noted the big events like weddings were down in number; there are two events planned for the Feast of St Candida; Christmas dinner and dance is on 6th December; bingo on 16th and farmers breakfast on 25th January 2015 **Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall:** Harvest supper on 1st November had been very good; an Artsreach event – Slim Panatella and the Mellow Virginians – was scheduled for 4th December **James Hargreaves Community Hall:** All is going well – on 29th November there is a Friends of St Gabriels pre-Christmas event **Lengthsman:** Cllr Creed-Castle reported blocked drains and overgrown hedges in Stoke Mill Lane, now a bridleway; Cllr Bailey reported the same from Purcombe to Bluntshay. The Lengthsman will be advised. **Ancient Monuments:** It is planned the exhibition will be ready by Easter 2015

Parish Councillor Reports: Cllr Creed-Castle: She reported potholes in the road from Broad Oak to Paddocks Cross by New House Farm, and between Shave Cross and Kitty’s Farm. The clerk will report via Dorsetforyou. **Cllr Peck:** She reported that it was unlikely Wessex Water would install main drainage – take up levels from residents were unlikely to make it financially viable; she reported work underway in the parish by the National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust – she thought it would be useful to be advised as to what was being done **Cllr Mansbridge:** 3 years on the drain at Champernhayes continues to

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overflow – the clerk will pursue DCC Highways **Cllr Bailey:** She reported a sky lantern landing near a barn with £70k of hay inside and wondered how such things could still be legal; she reported that DCC contractors had at last been to cut hedges – but these had already been done by farmers. She felt this was a waste of money and that DCC should have cancelled the contract. A discussion ensued over which verges and hedges (vertical verges) had or hadn't been cut and to what standard. DCC Cllr Turner had reported concerns expressed at the last meeting to officers which is why the contractors had been out – but if he is to make effective and credible representations on behalf of the parish council he must be given precise information. Historically DCC may have cut some hedges on a discretionary basis but the primary responsibility is with the landowner. Given DCC's financial position discretionary cutting is a luxury of the past. The clerk will report concerns over how contractors are managed to Jill Exton at DCC. **Cllr Snook:** She reported that West Dorset were satisfied that all planning conditions had now been met at Wootton Bakery. There is no further action that the enforcement officer can take. Neighbours have been told to report any future concerns over smells etc to Environmental Health officers **Cllr Mahaddie:** She noted the National Trust have been improving paths and the heathland on Hardown Hill **Cllr Johnson:** She asked if the Lengthsman could clear leaves from the drains in Gassons Lane and vegetation in the grips by the bridges here too **Cllr Everidge:** She repeated her request that the DWP arrange a different time from rush hour to clear bins on the A 35. **Cllr Sage:** The road from Elsdon's Farm into Monkton Wyld has not been fixed despite promises over a year ago – the drains are still higher than the carriageway following resurfacing and so are ineffective – Cllr Turner will raise with DCC.

3276: District / County Reports: Cllr Robinson: His report had been circulated **Cllr Turner:** He reported that DCC needs to save a further £53m by 2020 so more cuts in services are inevitable;; grit bins have been filled – no more “strategic” bins will be installed; yet again he urged parish councillors to report potholes, overgrown hedges etc direct via dorsetfor you rather than wait for parish council meetings; election costs will not be passed down to parish councils until 2019; the high level merger of West and North Dorset and Weymouth/Portland District Councils has been approved and will save £6m; it is likely that tourist information offices will be cut – in North Dorset they are run successfully by volunteers **Tree Officer** Nothing to report

3277: Planning Applicants presentation: The background to the planning application at Manor Gardens (see below) was explained. Key points were the sudden Grade 2 listed status imposed in 1984, the application for “enabling development” as the only way to preserve the structures, the benefit of such a scheme to the community must outweigh the disadvantages, the new dwelling would be the least invasive possible and the Section 106 agreement to ensure full compliance

3278: Planning Applications:

i) Late Planning: None

ii)To Consider: WD/D/14/002737/002738 – Manor Gardens, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NH – construction of dwelling, conversion of bothy into holiday accommodation and garden repair and landscaping – it was decided that a site visit by parish councillors with the usual delegated powers was necessary before a decision could be made

iii) To note: WD/D/14/002600 – Bridles Farm House, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NN– alterations and extensions to provide new bedroom with lounge over and garage space – it was agreed to recommend refusal at this stage as it was unclear whether a garage was to be built (as shown on the Plans) or merely a space provided (as per the narrative in the application)

iv) Planning Approvals/Refusals (to note): The clerk reported that the application for Well Cottage had been approved at Committee; The Veiw, Muddyford Lane – details of enforcement proceedings have been provided and will be closely monitored

v) Planning Related Correspondence: The clerk had been advised by a local resident of apparent breaches to planning conditions attached to the approval of application 1/D/10/000031. Details had been circulated to councillors and it was agreed to report these to the WDDC Enforcement team.

vi) Enforcement issues: Cllr Everidge has drafted letters regarding the huge barn near the A35 west of Morcombelake and the Veiw, where incredibly DCC Highways had stationed maintenance vehicles on the site apparently with the illegal occupiers approval (not the owner's) and had then tarmacked the site entrance by way of a “thank you”

vii) Local Plan: This is not thought to yet be in the public domain

3279: Noticeboards and fingerposts: In the absence of a suitable alternative site it was agreed to ask the Lengthsman to replace the Fishponds notice board in its original position. Cllr Peck has had discussions with the AONB team about fingerpost repairs. She suggests using the Crooked Lane/Lower Street sign (which only has one arm remaining) as a trial to see if public support can be generated for repair work. She is to approach a Roger Bond for repair quotes and will also find out the costs of replacement lettering if a local

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repair could be made. It was noted that the Lengthsman budget was likely to be underspent by a significant sum this year which could be used to fund repairs.

3280: Verges and hedges: Already discussed

3281: Superfast broadband: Nothing positive to report

3282: Speed limits: The clerk has approached DCC Highways as instructed about a possible 20 mph limit in Whitchurch – response awaited

3283: Finance

i) Clerks report: The Clerk had prepared and circulated an updated summary of expenditure to date against budget predictions for the full financial year and a revised initial draft budget for 2015/16. This will be considered at a Finance Committee meeting which will be held on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7.30 pm in Wootton Fitzpaine village hall.

ii) Payment approvals: The following payments were approved:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1333	HMRC	PayeNov	76.40
1334	HMRC	PayeDec	76.40
1335	MWilson	pay and expenses	1276.68
1336	Les Kitcher	grass and hedge cutting	590.00
1337	S Lee	lengthsman	390.00
1338	Logomotion	spam/virus protection	30.00
1339	Devon, Somerset and Dorset newspaper	clerk advert - View From	214.50
1340	Whitchurch Canonicorum Hall	playground lease	25.00

3284: Resilience plan: The clerk had found nothing of use in the files or the web site

3285: Water main replacements: Cllr Everidge felt that, despite what may have been said at the public meeting hosted by Wessex Water on 29th October, local communication and management of access had not been good. Given Wessex Water is to undertake further work at Fishponds it was agreed to make this point and ask for improvements in a formal letter which Cllr Everidge had kindly drafted. It was also agreed to ask Wessex Water how much asbestos pipework remained in the parish.

3286: Correspondence: The clerk had circulated the correspondence list – noted.

3287: Items for the next Agenda: To include the budget and precept for 2015/16, verge/footpath cutting, fingerposts, Whitchurch speed limit, Char Chat, resilience plan and WDDC Local Plan

3288: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall.

3289: Matters of Urgency: Councillor contact detail documents will be updated to reflect the new clerk and other changes; Cllr Snook will consider sending an e mail to Sir George Summers twinning counterparts in Bermuda currently experiencing difficult weather conditions

3290: Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.