

**CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON**  
**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 AT WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**4522: Present:** Cllrs. H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Peck, C Noon, S Johnson, J Eager, A Marks (Clerk) Cllr. Simon Christopher (Dorset Council)

**4523: Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Creed-Castle, Vaughan, Hansford, Bailey, Carey

**4524: Talk from Owen & Suki Day from the Lifelines project:**

Dr & Mrs Day live at Beerland Farm in Ryall where they have planted 1700 trees and made a wildlife pond.

They are developing the Lifelines Project with a group of Char Valley residents, the Lifelines Group (LLG) using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software for the mapping.

Insect life is central to the survival of animals and plants. The primary aim of the project is to stop the decline in insect numbers locally and find ways for them to revive and flourish again. The group proposes to identify fields, allotments, gardens and other outside areas where no chemical pesticides are used and record these together with their field /place names on an interactive map. As residents report more land that they are managing without pesticides, their fields or gardens turn gold on the map of the valley.

The aim is to encourage everyone to be aware of the damage caused by chemical pesticides, and to show how much is already being done to limit their use in the Char Valley area.

LLG asked the parish council for their support and hoped that the idea could grow. It will be promoted by word of mouth and flyers about the project.

In answer to questions, Dr Day confirmed that the project was intended to cover herbicides and chemical fertilisers as well as pesticides. He also recognised that occasional spot treatment of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed was not the same as routine spraying over large areas. The project might have to consider making some distinction between the two. There was also a question about use of Soil Association standards which might be too rigorous for the present purpose.

After Dr and Mrs Day had left, there was further discussion. Most Councillors were supportive of the project although there were concerns about how it would work in detail. Farmers, in particular, would need to know more about what unsprayed areas within their land could be included on the map. Woods and hedges might be eligible even within farms where spraying was done routinely on arable fields.

Cllr Noon raised concerns about the risk of extremist environmental activists targeting owners whose land was not on the map. It was agreed that this concern should be passed on to LLG in the official response to their presentation.

Cllr. Joyce had been advised by DAPTC that parish councils were only allowed to support projects initiated by others if they judged that they would be supported by the majority of parishioners.

In general terms, and subject to further detail, Councillors wished to be supportive, and agreed that Cllr. Joyce should write to LLG in encouraging terms but asking for a response to Cllr Noon's concerns before formally endorsing the project.

**Action Cllr Joyce**

**4525: Co-opting of new councillor for Wootton Fitzpaine:**

Joanna Kewley, the second candidate for the vacant post at Wootton Fitzpaine had decided to stand down. Joanne Jones was co-opted as the new councillor. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Peck and agreed unanimously.

**4526: Public Discussion Period:** None.

**4527: Declaration of interest:** None.

**4528: Resolution to approve the minutes of the CVPC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020:** this was proposed by Cllr. Peck, seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie and agreed unanimously.

**4529: Actions following last meeting:** as circulated by the Clerk to the councillors.

**4530: Reports:**

- WATAG – no meeting was held.
- PCSO – no report.
- Dorset Assn. of Parish & Town Councils – Cllr. Eager advised the meeting that DAPTC had praised CVPC for their article on climate change.
- Bridport Local Area Partnership: Minutes from the January meeting had previously been circulated. Cllr. Joyce said that at the March meeting there had been very favourable comments from other parishes, and from the chair, about CVPC's climate and ecological emergency action plan.
- Verges – nothing to report.
- War memorials – nothing to report.
- The councillors' reports have been distributed to all councillors. However, the following comments were made at the meeting:  
Cllr. Noon requested that the clerk should circulate CVPC responses to planning applications to all Councillors at the same time they were submitted to Dorset Council.

**Action the clerk**

Cllr. Simon Christopher – advised that

- the DORSET Council planning committee had met and refused an application in Weymouth for 150 affordable houses to be built on Weymouth football club.
- A closed shop in Weymouth was to be divided into residential properties with a request to change the dwelling at the rear into three properties, this was refused on the grounds of over-development.
- Chris Martin, the new rector at Whitchurch, is doing well at keeping the community together.
- The council tax bill will be increased by the maximum permitted. This is due to the cost of caring for vulnerable members of society.
- Our new MP made a speech in the House of Commons.
- Work on the new pedestrian crossing has been started in Morcombelaque.
- Sadly, Alan Thacker who has been chairman of DAPTC passed away on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- Between April 2019 and February 2020 Dorset Council received 2,800 planning applications and only 80 went before the committee, with 42 in South and West Dorset – 3% of the applications received.

**4531: Planning applications**

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before March's meeting**
- WD/D/003005 COTHAYES, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RH. Erection of garden room – CVPC has no objection.
- WD/D/19/002896 GRANDVIEW BUNGALOW, SHIP KNAPP, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6EW Erection of single storey extension, porch and installation of 2 No balconies. Formation of parking area and retaining walls (part retrospective) – CVPC objects to this planning application (full comments on website)
- WD/D/19/003061 UPLANDS, LOVES LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6DZ Demolition of ground floor extension and construction of part two storey and part single storey rear extension – CVPC has no objection.
- WD/D/19/003015 CHURCH OF ST CANDIDA AND THE HOLY CROSS, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM. Erect greenhouse – CVPC has no objection.
- WD/D/19/003161 STUBBS COTTAGE, BLUNTHAYS LANE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RJ – Erection of garage – CVPC has no objection.
- WD/D/20/000050 SHAVE CROSS INN, SHAVE CROSS TO JUNCTION DODGRS ORCHARD, SHAVE CROSS, BRID Full comments on website.
- WD/D/20/000142 SEAWARD, VERRIOTTS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6DX Erection of detached dwelling – This application is contrary to the approved Local Plan. However, in this particular case,

there could be grounds for approval, provided appropriate conditions were imposed (full response on website).

- **Responses to be considered at March's meeting**
- WD/D/20/000061 BIRDS COTTAGE, RYALL ROAD, RYALL BRIDPORT DT6 6EG Internal and external works to facilitate the erection of a single storey ground floor extension, remove single window and wall to create doorway and realign retaining wall – property still to be visited.
- WD/D/20/000095 CHAMPERNHAYES FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE, CHAMPERNHAYES CORNER, CHAMPERNHAYES LANE, WOOTTON FITZPAINE DT6 6DF. Erection of a processing building/workshop and the siting of two polytunnels – CVPC support the expansion of this business enterprise but are concerned about the scale of the processing building in relation to the three acre site.
- WD/D/20/000264 CASTLE VIEW, RYALL ROAD, RYALL, BRIDPORT DT6 6EN Extension and alterations to double garage to form single garage with studio above with balcony to provide annexe accommodation – property still to be visited.
- **Dorset Council Decisions (to note):**
- **Appeal decision** – none to consider
- **Enforcement:**

**4532: Finance:**

**PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2020**

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Whitchurch Village Hall	S106 monies for acoustic panels	500321	0320/1	£2,458.42
Chris Hawkins	S106 monies for cycle racks	500322	0320/2	£202.52
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500323	0320/3	£369.37
HMRC	PAYE for March	500324	0320/4	£88.00
DAPTC	Clerk's seminar	500325	0320/5	£70.00
DAPTC	Finance for Councillors	500326	0320/6	£60.00
DAPTC	Budget & precept course	500327	0320/7	£60.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hall hire for March's meeting	500328	0320/8	£23.50
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£3,331.81</b>

- A motion to approve the payments was proposed by Cllr. Peck, seconded by Cllr. Eager and passed unanimously.
- Cllr. Joyce attended a finance course which she found useful and will discuss this further with the clerk.
- **4533: Char Chat and CVPC website:** it is hoped that the next edition of Char Chat will be ready by the end of March. In order to reduce the postage costs Cllr. Joyce has asked that each councillor talks to five neighbours to ask whether they can receive Char Chat electronically. There will also be an article on the first page of the next issue reminding residents to give the clerk their email address.
- **4534: Whitchurch telephone kiosk:** there has not been any further correspondence regarding this.
- **4535: S106 progress:** Cllr. Johnson will contact the village hall in Whitchurch regarding using the Morcombelake S106 monies for a log cabin in the grounds of the village hal. CVPC would like to get this application to the S106 committee before the end of the tax year. **Action: Cllr. Johnson**
- **4536: Noticeboards – replacements:** the clerk has ordered the noticeboards and they are due to be delivered by the end of March. CVPC needs to contact Monkton Wyld PCC for permission to replace their damaged notice board. **Action: the clerk**
- **4537: Report from the River Char Valley working party:** Cllr. Vaughan has approached 4 consultants to do the work on the River Char. **Action: Cllr. Vaughan**

- **4538: Climate Change public meeting:** Due to coronavirus, it has reluctantly been agreed to postpone the meeting due to take place on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Postponement proposed by Cllr. Noon and seconded by Cllr. Johnson.
- **4539: Climate change working party action plan recommendations:** it was proposed to adopt the action plan dated 26<sup>th</sup> January. Proposed by Cllr. Noon and seconded by Cllr. Eager.
- **4540: Neighbourhood watch audit:** Cllr. Johnson liaises with the Neighbourhood Watch group in Whitchurch. However the group has fallen into abeyance recently. They asked for two volunteers at the last two meetings but no-one came forward. Should Cllr. Johnson try and start it up again? Cllr. Joyce will mention at WOW (women of Whitchurch) and Cllr. Johnson will find out what is involved.

**Action: Cllrs. Johnson and Joyce**

- **4541: Registration of Rights of Way:** Cllr. Mahaddie together with Chris Peat, the footpaths officer for Whitchurch, visited Dorchester County Hall to discuss some routes used as Rights of Way but not registered as such. They were advised that there is currently a five year backlog of applications for Definiive Map Modification Orders to be dealt with and that it could be 10 years before any decision is reached on new applications. The deadline to submit applications is 2026. Cllr. Mahaddie will email Simon Christopher who will then take the matter up with the relevant department.

**Action Cllr Mahaddie**

- **4542: A35 Diversion Group/ Chideock PC request/ MP working party:**  
Cllr. Noon offered the services of an email alert for unforeseen road blockages of the A35 between Axminster and Bridport. This has been set up by Highways England and a local volunteer group. Initially, the clerk will receive the alert email and the Council will decide how to proceed and who to alert.

Chideock parish council has invited councillors from parish councils along the route from Bridport to Honiton to a meeting. CVPC Clerk will enquire about purpose etc because CVPC already attend an A35 forum run by our local MP. The next meeting of that forum is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> March to be attended by Cllrs Joyce and Noon.

**Action the clerk**

- **4543: Parish meetings:** the annual parish meetings are due to take place in April prior to the AGM which is held in May. Councillors from each village are to arrange their meeting.
- **4544: Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> April at James Hargreaves community hall.**
- **4545: Any other business** –a speaker from the Community Land Trust to be invited to the June meeting to talk about affordable housing. A speaker to be invited to talk about the section 106 and CIL payment system at a future meeting.