



CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

450th Meeting of the Parish for Char Valley Parish Council held on 12th February 2024 at 7.30pm – Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall.

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting opened: 19.32.

5361: Present: Cllrs. C Noon (Chair), J Kewley, C Stanbury, S Creed-Castle, J Busby, A Carey, S Johnson, R Cook and T Ely (Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr. S Christopher (Dorset Council) and 6 members of the public.

5362: Apologies for absence: T Hansford, N Ziebland.

5363: Public forum:

- The chair addressed the public and asked if anyone would like to speak.
- A member of the public asked about a bridge where cones are present but no work seems to be happening. The location was discussed, and it was confirmed to be outside of the parish and the resident was redirected to a neighbouring parish. The resident also mentioned another location within the parish where there is a considerable pothole, and it was confirmed that CVPC are in contact with Dorset Council and await the works to commence. The resident was encouraged to report any issues online to Dorset Council.
- Another member of the public also mentioned a road that requires attention, he informed council that Dorset Council must know about it as there are signs present. Cllr. Noon requested that Cllr. Creed-Castle let the clerk know the details and CVPC can then also put in a report in online.
Cllr. Creed-Castle to let the clerk know of the road the resident mentioned that requires attention.
- A third member of the public mentioned he would like to speak about planning application P/HOU/2024/00513, the chair confirmed he would invite him to speak when the item is reached on the agenda.

5364: Co-opt new councillor to Whitchurch Canonicorum South: No applications.

5365: Declarations of interest:

- Cllr. Johnson declared an interest in the Bridge Farm planning application that is to be discussed under any other items.

5366: Dispensation requests: None.

5367: Resolution to approve the minutes of the CVPC meeting held on 8th January 2024:

Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle. 6 in Agreement, 2 Abstained as not present.

5368: Actions following the last meeting held on 8th January 2024:

1. Cllr. Johnson to call to re-activate. **Cllr. Johnson and the clerk have arranged a date.**
2. Debit Card - CVPC now have a debit card. Action Complete.
3. Wootton Field and play area - Later on the agenda.
4. Heavy and large vehicles in the Marshwood Vale - **Cllr. Ziebland to send Cllr. Simon Christopher an email for assistance.**
5. Slow Ways National Walking Network - Cllrs. to send any questions to Cllr. Hansford. This item can be removed now.
6. CVPC had received an email from a resident regarding drain blockages etc. this is a hot topic at the moment with lots of field run off, rainfall and autumn leaves causing issues. - Cllr. Noon to compose a letter for Dorset Council following an on site visit with Cllr. Johnson. Action complete.
7. The clerk to send the January planning response. Action complete.
8. A Cllr. to send the January payments online. Action complete.
9. Sandbags - Later on the agenda.
10. Malfunctioning Signs - Later on the agenda.
11. The clerk to enquire with the PSO if the Dorset Alert is still sent out detailing local crimes and also to ask about a machine robbery from Merehaye Lane just after Christmas. Response from the police is in the papers.
12. Climate and Ecological Emergency - The clerk to ask Cllr. Busby to join - Cllr Busby declined as too busy. Later on the agenda.
13. North Whitchurch planning lead - the clerk to ask Cllr. Stanbury - email sent. Later on the agenda.
14. Grit bins. Later on the agenda.
15. The village well -
 - a. The clerk to send the agreed text in an email to Mr. and Mrs. Rose. Action complete.
 - b. Cllr. Creed-Castle to deliver the keys to Mr. and Mrs. Rose and to obtain a receipt. Action complete.
16. A35 bus stop damage – See the clerks notes. Later on the agenda.
17. Damp notice boards - Later on the agenda.
18. Whitchurch playground - Later on the agenda.

19. Duplicate action.
20. Approve wording for holiday lets etc. - Later on the agenda.
21. First aid training –
 - a. Cllr. Creed-Castle to send the clerk details for the first aid training they received. Action complete.
 - b. The clerk to contact the Red Cross to see what training they could offer. The James Hargreaves Hall have organised some training so is this still needed? No.

5369: Planning Applications:

a) Responses submitted to Dorset Council before this meeting:

Application Ref.	Location	Expired	Agreed Response	Submitted
P/HOU/2023/07315	Bullen Side Sun Lane Morcombelake Dorset DT6 6DL	18/01/2024	Support	10/01/2024

b) Responses considered at the meeting:

Application Ref.	Location	Due Date	Agreed Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public was invited to now speak with regard to their planning application P/HOU/2024/00513. They spoke for 3 minutes and described the application and invited the councillors to ask any questions they may have. 			
P/HOU/2024/00513	Purcombe Bungalow Purcombe Farm Access Road Whitchurch Canonicorum Dorset DT6 6RL	27/02/2024	Support <u>Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and Seconded by Cllr. Busby, All in Agreement.</u>
<u>2 members of the public left the meeting at 19.50.</u>			
P/HOU/2023/07388	20 Meerhay Lane Wootton Fitzpaine DT6 6NG	29/01/2024 extended to 13/02/2024	Support <u>Proposed by Cllr. Kewley and Seconded by Cllr. Carey, All in Agreement.</u>
P/FUL/2023/06324	Manor Farm Holiday Centre The Street Charmouth DT6 6QL	29/01/2024 extended to 13/02/2024	<p>Object</p> <p>Comments: CVPC agrees with Dorset Council’s Senior Landscape Architect that: “the proposed development would be likely to harm the character, special qualities and natural beauty of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Heritage Coast and the natural and built environment of Charmouth Parish and that it would have a significant adverse effect on wide views and vistas.”</p> <p>CVPC further agrees “that this would be contrary to the requirements of national, local and neighbourhood planning policy relevant to landscape and visual considerations”.</p> <p>CVPC also agrees with the Dorset National Landscape team that: “this proposal presents both individual and cumulative adverse landscape and visual impacts that are of clear relevance to the planning balance.”</p> <p>In particular, CVPC agrees that the following Dorset National Landscape Special Qualities would be susceptible to a degree of harm from the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uninterrupted panoramic views to appreciate the complex pattern and textures of the surrounding landscapes Undeveloped rural character An exceptional undeveloped coastline <p>Like Charmouth Parish Council, CVPC is concerned that the scale of the development, in both the number of caravans and their size, combined with the siting plan, would be very visible not only from the South West Coast Path but from many other places in the village. Like Charmouth Parish Council, CVPC is also concerned that the number of regular sewage discharges from Wessex Water assets into the River Char would increase as a result of this development. The discharges occur when the system is over-burdened</p>

			<p>during heavy rain and this number of additional caravans would compound the problem. Overall, CVPC feels the application shows little concern for the environmental impact of increased site usage and has made little effort to provide any screening, landscaping, or other mitigation of the visual impact of the proposed development. For all these reasons, CVPC objects to the application. <u>Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Kewley, 6 in Agreement, 2 Abstained.</u></p>
<p>P/HOU/2024/00057</p>	<p>Langdon View Shedbush Lane Morcombelake Dorset DT6 6DR</p>	<p>01/02/2024 extended to 13/02/2024</p>	<p>Object Comments: CVPC notes that there are no measures outlined in the application to mitigate light spill at night and reflectivity in the daytime. Without such measures there could be a significant impact on the “natural beauty” and “special qualities” of the Dorset National landscape, as the proposed development is fully visible from the South West Coast path and the World Heritage Coast near Golden Cap. CVPC refers to the relevant sections of the Dorset National Landscape (formerly AONB) Management Plan. CVPC believes the application would breach these objectives. The current Dorset National Landscape (DNL) Management Plan 2019-2024 sets several policies relating to new development in the DNL. Relevant objectives and policies are outlined below.</p> <p>C1 - THE AONB AND ITS SETTING IS CONSERVED AND ENHANCED BY GOOD PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Within this extensive policy, the following elements are noted as being of particular consideration: “...a. Support development that conserves and enhances the AONB, ensuring sensitive siting and design respects local character. Development that does not conserve and enhance the AONB will only be supported if it is necessary and in the public interest. c. High quality design, materials and standards of workmanship are required of developments within the AONB. Good design and material use does not have to be a cost burden, however where this requirement affects development viability, consideration will be given to the balance between the public benefits of a proposal and the significance of its landscape and visual effects. When the landscape and visual effects of a development cannot be fully addressed through primary design measures, appropriate and robust secondary mitigation measures that can be delivered, enforced and maintained will be required...”</p> <p>C2 - LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT & MONITORING IS EFFECTIVE AND SUPPORTS GOOD DECISION MAKING. Within this extensive policy, the following elements are noted as being of particular consideration: Landscape and seascape character assessment will be used to consider the effects of proposals on the character and appearance of the AONB.</p> <p>d. The key test of a proposal against the statutory purpose of the AONB will be its ability to demonstrate that the proposed change would conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty...”</p> <p>C4 - DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AONB, ITS SPECIAL QUALITIES, ECOSYSTEM FLOWS AND NATURAL</p>

			PROCESSES IS AVOIDED. Within this extensive policy, the following elements are noted as being of particular consideration: “...c. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of views into, within and out of the AONB.” <u>Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Noon, All in Agreement.</u>
P/HOU/2024/00536	Portobello 43 Wootton Cross To Trevetts Corner Hawkchurch Dorset EX13 5UW	27/02/2024	Cllr. Kewley to have a look and to circulate her comments. If no opposing views, then to submit Cllr. Kewley’s recommendation by 27th February. <u>Proposed by Cllr. Noon and Seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle, All in Agreement.</u>

The clerk to send the February planning responses.

c) **Proposed applications to be discussed at this meeting:** None.

d) **Enforcement:**

- Cllr. Noon informed council that he had written to the enforcement officer to highlight the lack of enforcement. The response was an offer to come and see CVPC to discuss their priorities.
Cllr. Noon to set up a meeting with the enforcement officer, either with full council or the Planning working group.
Cllrs. to let Cllr. Noon know if they are aware of any local enforcements.

5370: Finance:

a) **Payments:**

- The payments for February 2024, as below, were approved.

Payee	Details	Cheque No./Online	Receipt No.	Amount
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	WF Hall Hire 25/1/24	Online	0224/01	25
Brooks Furniture	Wootton picnic bench deposit	Online	0224/02	480
Ken Hussy	Ken Hussy WC Playground Inspection	Online	0224/03	37.5
SMS PC Repairs	SMS PC Repairs - clerks laptop	Online	0224/04	156
Andrew Carey	Domain - Bluehost	Online	0224/05	6.85
NJD Building Services	Bus shelter damage deposit	Online	0224/06	189
Tamsin Ely	Clerks expenses February 2024	Online	0224/07	62.70
Tamsin Ely	Clerks wage February 2024	Online	0224/08	815.31
Total				£1,772.36

- Cllr. Carey asked about the clerks laptop repairs. The clerk explained the screen had lines, it now has a new screen and it is working perfectly.

Proposed by Cllr. Johnson and Seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle. All in Agreement.

A Cllr. to send the February payments online.

- b) **Bank Reconciliation** - The clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation and council were happy.
- c) **Risk Assessment** - The clerk had circulated the document for approval. Cllrs. were asked to have a read to approve in the March meeting.
- d) **Internal Controls** - The clerk had circulated the document for approval. Cllrs. were asked to have a read to approve in the March meeting.

The clerk to put the risk assessment and internal controls onto the March agenda.

5371: Parish External Liaison:

- a) **BLAP** - Cllr. Noon updated council that there had not been a meeting. There is one soon where the Dorset Council Flood Officer is attending and Cllr. Noon will be there.
- b) **DAPTC** - Cllr. Carey confirmed he would be attending the next meeting on Thursday.

5372: Flooding:

- a) **Warden** - CVPC are still in need of flood wardens.
- b) **Sandbags** - A resident commented that the ones in Wootton were unsightly. Cllr. Busby to seek an alternative spot for the sandbags or something to store them in so they don’t look unsightly. Cllr. Busby awaits her car to be fixed to transport some pallets to put them on and will find a suitable corner of the car park to neatly store them. The store at Felicity’s and Paddocks had been restocked.
Cllr. Busby to organise moving the Wootton sandbags.
Cllr. Busby to investigate storage boxes for the next meeting.
- c) **Malfunctioning Signs** - The EA had confirmed they will remove the malfunctioning signs. Cllr. Johnson mentioned the equipment associated with the signs may also need removing. The clerk to ask the removal is done promptly or they be covered or a sign to say out of order. Response from the EA in the papers. A sign has now been added to the malfunctioning signs to warn the sign is not in use. The equipment is still used for monitoring/statistics but can be removed if the land owners want it removed. Cllr. Johnson confirmed the equipment is fine where it is.

5373: Police Report

- The clerk reported that the PCO had called to say she was having trouble with her email to the clerk bouncing and therefore there is no report for the meeting. The clerk mentioned Cllr. Carey had also had some trouble sending the CVPC email account and she would investigate.

5377: Communications Working Party:

- a) **New member** - There were no volunteers.
- b) **Volunteers for next Char Chat - April 24** - There were no volunteers.

5378: Farming Interests Working Party:

- Cllr. Stanbury had circulated a report and ran through a few of the topics.

5379: Local Amenities Working Party: A report had been circulated to councillors.

- There was discussion about grit bins. The clerk had put all of the CVPC grit bins into an excel document. There is a need to cross check this against the DC map to check they have them all on there so they will be filled with grit. Also CVPC need to see which are strategic and which are community bins. Cllr. Carey confirmed he had plotted them onto the Parish Online map. The clerk can now use that visually to check this against the DC map.
The clerk to cross check the Parish Online plotted grit bins against the Dorset Council map.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle queried where all of the new shovels are as she only has 6 and knows more than 6 bins do not have shovels, the clerk confirmed CVPC bought enough to have 1 shovel per bin. Cllr. Carey confirmed some of his had already gone missing (stolen?) so CVPC will put out the ones they have but not purchase any more.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle mentioned that a comment had been made on WhatsApp about the Wootton Bench having the disabled access in the wrong place and that the people sat on the bench would have their backs to the field. It was discussed and council are happy it has been built as per the design and positioned by Wootton so not a CVPC concern.

a) **Asset Refurbishment/Repair Quotes**

- Cllr. Creed-Castle had been working hard to find a company/craftsman who can value a repair if needed on the war memorials for insurance purposes but had been struggling to find anyone. Cllr. Busby reported she has a contact who had done a similar job in Winsham and will investigate. Cllr. Kewley asked if perhaps the churches insurance covered them.

Cllr. Busby to investigate her contact for the war memorials.

Cllr. Creed-Castle to send photographs to Cllr. Busby of the war memorials.

Cllr. Kewley to contact the churches to find out if they are insuring the war memorials.

b) **A35 Bus Stop Damage**

- The clerk now has the quote for £378.
- The insurance company have agreed this quote.
- CVPC to action the work and pay the invoice, the insurance company will pay CVPC £253 in the next few days (around the meeting date) this is £378-£125 excess.

d) **Damp Notice Boards**

- The clerk had sent an email to the company the boards were purchased from to report them as not fit for purpose and awaits a response. The clerk's notes show a damp solution but it was decided that the pods/pouches would be costly and need regular attention. It was decided to wait for a reply from the company and discuss again in the March meeting. The clerk mentioned that CVPC do own a laminator although it is unknown if/how it works.

The clerk to investigate the laminator.

5380: Playground/Playfield Working Party:

a) **Whitchurch Playground**

- Cllr. Creed-Castle mentioned the invoice from S. Lee for the playground fence. The invoice was for both the works instructed by CVPC to add a gate into the fence to satisfy the inspectors report as it was required to deter bullying and for the damage caused by a fallen tree. The clerk confirmed that the village hall had offered to pay for the damage caused by the fallen tree. Cllr. Creed-Castle had resent the invoice to the clerk but too late to be incorporated into the payments for this meeting. The other works invoice should be sent to the village hall. The amount had been previously agreed so it was proposed that the clerk also sets up the payment of this invoice straight away. The clerk hand wrote it on the payments sheet which 2 of the cheque signatory Cllrs. signed.
Proposed by Cllr. Noon and Seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle. All in Agreement.
- The clerk reported having visited Mrs. Joyce earlier that day and had been shown the catalogue online. The clerk will contact the company as there are no prices online and it is very hard to find the items.

The clerk to contact PlayQuest about the equipment order.

- b) **Wootton Field and Play Area** - Cllr. Joyce to write up some notes for CVPC so the details are known in the future. The clerk met with Mrs. Joyce before the meeting and has seen the notes, await **Mrs. Joyce to send them to the clerk.**

Cllr. Simon Christopher and 1 member of the public joined the meeting at 20.28

5381: Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party/River Char Community Project (RCCP):

- Cllr. Carey had circulated a report and ran through a few of the topics and talked through some upcoming events.
- Flooding, Farms and Wildlife event - 22nd February at 7pm at the Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall - 4 talks; natural flood management on the Char, Nick Gray talking about landscape recovery, 2 talks about the river.
- Film showing, Six Inches of Soil - 8th March at 6.45pm at the Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall.

5382: Planning Working Party:

- Approve Wording for Holiday Lets** - The proposed wording was circulated in the clerks notes. It was agreed to amend the wording to add something to call on Dorset Council to form a policy for growth of this sort and how much should be allowed.
*Planning WP to adjust the wording for the March meeting.
Clerk to move to the March agenda.*
- New planning lead for North Whitchurch** - The clerk had sent Cllr. Stanbury an email following the last meeting to ask if he would take on the role. Cllr. Stanbury accepted.

5383: Transport Working Party:

- Gritting** - Having previously asked the residents of any known roads that were not being gritted when required, the clerk has an email correspondence going with Jack Wiltshire (head of highways at DC) and having had a response stating which roads should be gritted now needs to cross check that against the resident's feedback before sending another reply. The clerk updated council that she had met with Mrs. Joyce just before the meeting and she showed her the roads that Dorset Council agreed would be added to the route a few years ago. This can now be cross checked against the residents feedback and a reply can now be sent to Mr. Wiltshire.
- Local road damage - Potholes/Flooding/Large transport damage** - Cllr. Noon updated council that lots of potholes/ flooding and large transport damages have been reported by CVPC and residents and works are being instructed.
- 30 mph through Morcombelake** - Cllr. Noon informed council that National Highways have a scheme they are putting in place along the A35 and it doesn't include the requested 30mph speed limit through Morcombelake. Cllr. Noon has written to them to express disappointment and requested it be reviewed.
- Active Travel**
 - BLINK** was not discussed as Cllr. Hansford was not present.
 - Chideock footpath** - this has now been agreed.
 - Footpaths in CVPC** - no action at the moment as everyone had been on holiday.
- Dorset Council Transport Survey** - the link to the survey had been circulated, Cllrs. were encouraged to fill it in.
- New member** - There were no volunteers.

5384: Staffing Committee: No update.

5385: Cllr. Christopher, Dorset Council:

- Cllr. Christopher had circulated a report and ran through a few of the topics.
- Cllr. Christopher invited any questions and there was some discussions on various topics.

5385: 2024 Elections

- Cllr. Noon reminded council of the dates for nomination packs to be delivered. These dates are in the meeting papers and the clerks notes. It was proposed for councillors to complete their nomination papers and bring them to the March meeting to pass on to the clerk who will then deliver them all together.

5385: Morcombelake Community Pub

- Cllr. Noon informed council that this is no longer a consideration due to lack of funds.

5386: Other issues that have been circulated for discussion:

- DAPTC Councillors' Networking Event 7 March - The clerk had circulated an email from DAPTC to see if any Cllrs. would like to be booked in. It is very expensive so no.
- Engage Everyone in Your Community Themed Summit - The clerk had circulated an email from SLCC to see if Cllrs. would like the clerk to attend. It is very expensive so no.

5387: Public and other matters - To consider any matters that Cllrs. wish to raise that has not already been circulated:

- Cllr. Creed-Castle asked what was happening with the Pheasant mediation meeting as Mrs. Swan had asked. Cllr. Noon updated council that the clerk had spoken to Mr. and Mrs. Penniston-Bird and gave a debrief of the conversation had and confirmed he is happy to meet but has reservations about how productive it would be.
Cllr. Kewley to send Cllr. Noon contact details for Mr. Legg who owns the land.
- Draft Community Safety Plan consultation - Cllr. Noon asked the clerk to circulate this to Cllrs.
- Bridge Farm planning for an extension to 104 pitches - Cllr. Noon talked of an application where CVPC had not been consulted although it is on the CVPC boundary. Planning have confirmed they would not be including CVPC. Cllrs. are welcome to place their own comments online.

5388: Councillor training: The clerk had circulated links to available training, councillors were encouraged to have a look and let the clerk know what training they would like to complete.

5389: Date of next meeting: 11th March 2024 - James Hargreaves Community Hall.

5390: Meeting Closed: 21.50.