



CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

448th Meeting of the Parish for Char Valley Parish Council held on 27th November 2023 at 7.30pm – James Hargreaves Community Hall.

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting opened: 19.31.

5333: Present: Cllrs. C Noon (Chair), J Kewley, S Creed-Castle, H Joyce, A Carey, C Stanbury, S Johnson, T Hansford, J Busby, R Cook, N Ziebland and T Ely (Clerk). In attendance: Cllr. S Christopher (Dorset Council) and 20 members of the public.

5334: Apologies for absence: None.

5335: Public forum:

- The chair addressed the public and asked if anyone would like to speak.
- Several members of the public addressed the council with presentations regarding the pheasant shoots currently happening in Fishponds and spoke for the allotted 3 minutes each.
- The residents' presentations were connected to an item that appears later on the agenda, so this was then moved up the agenda to enable discussion.
- After some discussion, council concluded that following PC investigations the shoot is legal, therefore the solution offered was for councillors to mediate a meeting with both parties involved (residents and shoot managers). The chair invited representatives to organise a meeting and invite councillors to attend to mediate if interested.
- The chair addressed the public to ask if anyone would like to speak about any other topics. A resident enquired about a piece of land (a verge with a bench and sign etc.) that doesn't seem to currently be looked after and wanted to volunteer to take on the task of keeping the verge. Cllr. Joyce confirmed another resident had also previously offered but if it wasn't happening it would be good to check with the resident if this could be taken over which the resident confirmed she would.

17 members of the public left the meeting at 20.06.

5336: Co-opt new councillor to Whitchurch Canonorum South: No applications.

5337: Declarations of interest: Cllr. Johnson declared an interest on planning application P/FUL/2023/06272, it was agreed she could stay in the room but not contribute as terrible weather to have to go outside.

5338: Dispensation requests: None.

5339: Resolution to approve the minutes of the CVPC meeting held on

- 9th October 2023 Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Joyce, 7 in Agreement, 4 Abstained as not present.
- 13th November 2023 Proposed by Cllr. Johnson and Seconded by Cllr. Ziebland, 4 in Agreement, 7 Abstained as not present.

5340: Actions following

a) The last meeting held on 9th October 2023:

- Fishponds Pheasants - The clerk to use the links provided by Dorset Council to report the issues to Planning and Noise and Nuisance and to send the links to the residents in attendance - Action complete.
- Co-opt new councillor to Whitchurch Canonorum South - The clerk to put together a poster/words that can be posted on the WhatsApp groups - Action complete, groups posted on: Whitchurch, Wootton, Morcombelake.
- The clerk to join the local WhatsApp groups - Action complete, groups joined: Whitchurch, Wootton, Morcombelake. – **Cllrs. to let the clerk know if there any more groups she should join.**
- Power Cuts and the 'Priority Services Register' A councillor to put a message out on the WhatsApp groups - Action complete, groups posted on: Whitchurch, Wootton, Morcombelake.
- **Cllr. Creed-Castle to bring the place names to the next meeting.**
- The clerk to organise to meet with Cllrs. Johnson and Joyce to reactivate their bank on-line log ins. Cllr. Joyce now activated. Cllr. **Johnson to call to re-activate but doesn't need the clerk.**
- **Cllrs. to send any suggestions to Cllr. Carey of local people who may be appropriate to provide a talk at an information day.**
- The clerk to enquire if the Whitchurch and JH halls can provide Wi-Fi – Action complete. The clerk to follow up with Philip Page at the Whitchurch Village Hall after their meeting on 21st September. JH Hall has confirmed no plans for Wi-Fi, Whitchurch - An email has been sent, Philip is investigating.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle confirmed her neighbours are in need of some bags which they can store on their land. Cllr. Creed-Castle to find out how many they require. Cllr. Creed-Castle to let her neighbours know where the bags are for collection. Action complete.
- Cllr. Joyce to cancel her Zoom subscription. Action complete.

- Cllr. Creed-Castle mentioned having reported the hedges on Buntshay Lane not being cut. **Cllr. Creed-Castle to send the details to the clerk to chase.**
- Donations - The clerk to liaise with Cllr. Joyce to direct the church donations to the right people. Action complete.
- The clerk to liaise with Cllr. Creed-Castle to send the October payments online. Action complete.
- Cllr. Busby to continue to organise a central sandbag store. Action complete.
- Police Report - Cllr. Creed-Castle mentioned a local crime that had not been included. Cllr. Creed-Castle to send the details to the clerk to enquire with the CVPC PSO. Action complete.
- The clerk to pay £320 to Alex Brooks in the November payments. Action complete.
- Valuing Assets - The clerk updated council that she had gained a quote for the valuation of the assets for £840. The clerk to add to the finance meeting agenda for discussion. Action complete.
- The Well - Cllr. Joyce to draft a letter to Mr. Rose for the next meeting. See the clerks notes. Later on the agenda.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle reported that the last grit bin CVPC replaced was done incorrectly by the lengthsman and he had replaced the wrong one. This means the one that was supposed to be replaced (Hillside Cottage, Ryall, Grid Ref: 40679 94634) now needs replacing. Shovels were discussed. The clerk to calculate how many shovels are needed and to source further prices. Action complete. The clerk to purchase a yellow grit bin as per the quote in the clerks notes. Action complete.
- Wootton Field and play area - Cllr. Joyce to organise a meeting with Cllr. Noon, John Snook and an appropriate village hall representative. Later on the agenda.
- Hedgehogs - Later on the agenda.
- Dorset Council Pilot Scheme - Research in Tree Management - Cllr. Carey to complete the questionnaire. Action Complete.
- List of 'special' trees in our parishes - The clerk to continue with Dorset Council and to include Cllr. Simon Christopher. Action complete.
- Approve wording for holiday lets etc. - Later on the agenda.
- Heavy and large vehicles in the Marshwood Vale - Later on the agenda.

b) The last finance meeting held on 13th November 2023:

- Asset Valuations -
**The clerk to investigate how much it would cost to replace most items.
Cllr. Creed-Castle to contact local stone masons to see if they could provide a quote for reinstatement to the war memorials and village pound. In progress.**
- CIL - The clerk to update the document - Action complete.
- The Whitchurch playground was discussed as council had previously agreed an amount to spend from the CIL money. The clerk to check past minutes for the amounts previously agreed and let the playground working party know so they can discuss in their next meeting - Action complete.
- The clerk to make requested changes to the budget spreadsheet - Action complete.
- Shovels for grit bins - Cllr. Ziebland to complete the purchase of 29 shovels up to £150 with authorisation from the chair and clerk so they can be purchased and given out at the next meeting - Action complete.
- Slow Ways National Walking Network - Later on the agenda.

5341: Planning Applications:

a) Responses submitted to Dorset Council before this meeting:

Application Ref.	Location	Expired	Agreed Response	Submitted
P/HOU/2023/01602	8 Goodens Hill Whitchurch Cross To Cockwell Cross Whitchurch Canonicorum DT6 6RF	24/10/2023	Support. Comment: CVPC have no objection to this application.	13/10/2023
P/FUL/2023/05475	Filcombe Farm Muddyford Lane Morcombelake DT6 6EP	10/11/2023	Support. Comment: CVPC supports this application.	30/10/2023

b) Responses considered at the meeting:

Application Ref.	Location	Due Date	Agreed Response
P/VOC/2023/06530	Little Beerland Access To Beerland Farm Ryall Dorset DT6 6EJ	04/12/2023	Comment: CVPC would like to request DC convert the original condition (agricultural tie) to a Section 106 Agreement (where a house can only be occupied by a person with a local connection). <u>Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Joyce, 8 in Agreement, 2 Abstained.</u>
<u>3 residents left the meeting at 20.25.</u>			

P/FUL/2023/06272	Summer Dairy Land And Buildings North Of Rough Down Lane Catherston Leweston	11/12/2023	It was decided to put some words together to reflect the discussion had and circulate for agreement to send in before the expiry date. <u>Proposed by Cllr. Noon and Seconded by Cllr. Kewley, 10 in Agreement, 1 Abstained.</u>
<u>2 residents left the meeting at 20.35.</u>			
P/FUL/2023/05725	High Bullen Sun Lane Morcombelake DT6 6DL	16/11/2023 extended to 28/11/2023	Objection Comment: CVPC object on the grounds that the reason the original restrictions were imposed have not changed. <u>Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Joyce, 9 in Agreement, 1 Abstained.</u>
P/VOC/2023/06331	Berehayes Farm Whitchurch Canonicorum Dorset DT6 6RQ	28/11/2023	Support <u>Proposed by Cllr. Joyce and Seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle, All in Agreement.</u>

The meeting was interrupted when a local home owner knocked to request a car was moved.

Cllr. Creed-Castle left the meeting at 20.55.

5342: Cllr. Christopher, Dorset Council:

- Cllr. Christopher requested he speak at this point as he had another meeting to go to, so this item was moved up the agenda.
- Cllr. Christopher had circulated a report and ran through a few of the topics.

Cllr. Creed-Castle rejoined the meeting at 21.04.

- Cllr. Christopher invited any questions and there was some discussions on various topics.

Cllr. Simon Christopher left the meeting at 21.16.

P/VOC/2023/06493	Hill Farm The Green Morcombelake DT6 6EA	01/12/2023	Support <u>Proposed by Cllr. Noon and Seconded by Cllr. Busby, 10 in Agreement, 1 Abstained.</u>
P/FUL/2023/06389	Spence Farm Spence Lane Wootton Fitzpaine Dorset DT6 6DF	07/12/2023	Object. Comment: CVPC object to this application as the building is large and inappropriate for the environment in its current position or proposed position. <u>Proposed by Cllr. Joyce and Seconded by Cllr. Kewley, All in Agreement.</u>

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

5343: Finance:

a) **Payments:**

- The payments for November 2023, as below, were approved.

Payee	Details	Cheque No./Online	Receipt No.	Amount
Whitchurch Canonicorum VH	Various Hire 2023	Online	1123/11	125.00
James Hargreaves CH	Various Hire 2023	Online	1123/12	75.00
Tamsin Ely	Clerks expenses November 2023	Online	1123/13	275.02
Tamsin Ely	Clerks wage December 2023	Online	1123/14	862.12
Land Registry	Deeds to Candida House for the Well	500662	1123/15	7.00
S. Lee	Replace grit bin Ryall	Online	1123/16	144.00
Total				£1,488.14

Proposed by Cllr. Joyce and Seconded by Cllr. Ziebland. All in Agreement.

A Cllr. to send the November payments online.

- b) **CIL** - The clerk had updated and circulated the document and council were happy.
- c) **Bank Reconciliation** - The clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation and council were happy.
- d) **VAT** - The clerk updated council that the claim had been submitted for £1021.99. The clerk also talked about how CVPC make purchases and reclaim VAT. Best practice moving forward is for either the clerk to make purchases (as the employee) or for CVPC to have a credit/debit card.
The clerk to contact the bank about a debit card.
- e) **Donations 2024/25** - The Finance Committee proposed to stop hall donations as CVPC reserves are running low and there had been grants available for halls.

Proposed by Cllr. Ziebland and Seconded by Cllr. Noon. All in Agreement.

- f) **Budget** - The clerk had updated and circulated the document and council were happy.
- g) **Spending Considerations** - Whitchurch playground fence - proposal from the Finance Committee was to accept the quote for £432 from S. Lee.

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

- h) **Precept 2024-2025** - Figures were discussed at the finance meeting and it was proposed to increase the precept by 6% being an £1199.11 increase. This brings the total to £21184.20.

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

5344: Parish External Liaison:

- a) **BLAP** - It was agreed to continue to support.
Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Noon. All in Agreement.
- b) **DAPTC** - No update.
- c) **AONB Presentation** - Cllr. Noon updated council on some possible new funding and their new name of National Landscapes.

5345: Flooding:

- a) **Warden** - CVPC are still in need of flood wardens.
- b) **Sandbags** - Cllr. Busby updated council that the sandbags are now in place in all villages. A resident had commented that the ones in Wootton were unsightly so Cllr. Busby was seeking an alternative location.
- c) **Malfunctioning Signs** - The signs on Gassons Lane have been reported. The clerk confirmed she had conversed with Dorset Council and The EA and it looked like the EA put them in so she awaits contact from them.
- d) **Purchase of warning signs** - The consideration is where to store them and who would put them out when needed. With a lack of volunteers forthcoming so far this was not deemed viable so no signs would be purchased at this time.

5346: Police Report

- The clerk had circulated the report from Lyme Regis Police.
The clerk to enquire with the PSO for any details relating to the incidents reported in Fishponds pheasants on the report.

5347: Community Pub:

- Some residents are proposing to turn Art Wave West into a Community Pub. There is a meeting being held 30th November in the James Hargreaves Hall to discuss.

5348: Communications Working Party: A report had been circulated to councillors.

- Cllr. Noon updated council with the proposal to rotate the task of producing the Char Chat with 3 councillors taking on each edition. These will be electronic. Also, about 50 copies will be printed to put on notice boards, send upon request to residents and to put in the churches etc. and in addition: one full printed edition each year.

5349: Farming Interests Working Party: Cllr. Johnson had circulated a report.

5350: Local Amenities Working Party: A report had been circulated to councillors.

a) **The Well:**

- Cllr. Joyce had suggested the clerk contact Land Registry to see if they had any documents that would show ownership. The clerk confirmed she had and they had hinted they did have something of use and had sent the clerk an application form to gain the documents. The clerk had filled in the form and raised a cheque for £7 in the November payments for this.
- If CVPC can't be sure from the documents provided, then the clerk has a letter drafted by Cllr. Joyce that can then be agreed and sent.

b) **A35 bus stop damage**

- The glass had been broken on the A35 bus shelter that CVPC own.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle is gaining quotes. The clerk had checked and the excess on the insurance is £250.

5351: Playground/Playfield Working Party:

- a) **Whitchurch playground** - Cllr. Joyce confirmed the Community Fund grant did not cover this area but there may be another available soon as mentioned by Cllr. Christopher.
- b) **Wootton Field and play area** - Determining ownership had become very complicated. Best action is to leave things as they are.

Cllr. Joyce to write up some notes for CVPC so the details are known in the future.

5352: Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party/River Char Community Project (RCCP): A report had been circulated to councillors.

- a) **Hedgehogs** - Cllr. Joyce talked of a local Hedgehog group that had asked CVPC to finance 4 hedgehog boxes for use by local residents. Reserves are low so not at this time.
- b) **River Char Project** - No further update.
- c) **TPO The Orchards** - Cllr. Carey had distributed a letter for agreement.
Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Joyce. All in Agreement.

The clerk to send the letter to the resident.

5353: Planning Working Party:

a) **Approve wording for holiday lets etc.** - The Planning WP will meet soon and discuss this.
Clerk to move to the January agenda.

b) **Pheasants in Fishponds** - Discussed above.

5354: Transport Working Party:

a) **Heavy and large vehicles in the Marshwood Vale - Gassons Lane** - Cllr. Ziebland described the issue on Gassons Lane. Council discussed the problem and that a lot of work had been done in previous years and a solution had not been found. There is currently a works order raised for some resurfacing on the road and the clerk has been in contact with Blair Turner but council feel it is a much bigger issue where the road actually needs structurally changing.

Cllr. Ziebland to send Cllr. Simon Christopher an email for assistance.

b) **Slow Ways National Walking Network** - Cllrs. to send any questions to Cllr. Hansford.

5355: Staffing Committee: A report had been circulated.

- Cllr. Carey confirmed that the clerk's appraisal had now happened and council were happy with her contribution to CVPC.
- It was proposed to adopt the National updated pay agreement which meant a £1 an hour pay increase for the clerk.
Proposed by Cllr. Carey and Seconded by Cllr. Noon. All in Agreement.

5356: Other issues that have been circulated for discussion:

- 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.

5357: Public and other matters - To consider any matters that Cllrs. wish to raise that has not already been circulated.

[no resolutions can be made]:

- The clerk had brought 28 shovels for the grit bins to the meeting for councillors to take and distribute appropriately.
- Cllr. Joyce communicated her resignation from CVPC due to medical reasons. Cllr. Joyce was thanked sincerely for her many years on the council and was assured she would be greatly missed.

5358: Councillor training:

- The clerk had sent an email with links to available training, councillors were encouraged to have a look and let the clerk know what training they would like to complete.

5359: Date of next meeting: 8th January 2024 - Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall

5360: Meeting closed: 22.20.