

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RESPONSE FROM CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Char Valley is a grouped parish in West Dorset comprising the historic parishes of Whitchurch Canonorum, (WC), Wootton Fitzpaine (WF) and Stanton St Gabriel (S St G).

Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) proposes the following in relation to the boundaries of the parish:

Boundaries with other parishes

Chideock

The current parish boundaries are such that 'Hazy View' (formerly 'Hit and Miss') Ryall Rd, DT6 6EG is the only property in the road which is included in Chideock parish, although all other nearby properties are in Char Valley. We believe it makes sense to remove the anomaly by transferring 'Hazy View' into Char Valley, as suggested by Chideock PC.

Charmouth

We do not object to Charmouth PC's proposal to move Newlands Holiday Park and Stonebarrow Manor into Charmouth Parish. This accords with the owners' wishes to relate more closely to the various activities and initiatives for holidaymakers in Charmouth.

Catherston Leweston

We have very recently suggested to the councillors of Catherston Leweston, (C-L), that they might like to become part of Char Valley parish. C-L is currently a Parish Meeting, not a Parish Council, and has no paid clerk. Up to now it has operated successfully as an independent entity run by volunteers. However, it is likely to become more difficult to attract people prepared to run the organisation on a voluntary basis.

If C-L became part of Char Valley Parish, it would benefit from the greater resources available within CVPC which has a paid clerk and is currently a very active PC.

Moreover, if, within Char Valley it was possible for C-L to join with S St G (rather than with either WC or W F), S St G would become a more viable entity and the residents of C-L would be better represented.

C-L councillors have not responded to the suggestion to date but are due to consider the possibility at their meeting in early November 2021.

Boundaries between parishes within the grouped parish of Char Valley

Stanton St Gabriel

The boundaries of S St G are currently confusing. One side of Ship Knap (DT6 6EW) is in S St G and the other side is in WC. Similarly, in Morcombelake, some of the properties on the south side of the A 35 are in S St G and some in WC, probably for historical reasons which no longer apply. We therefore propose that, apart from moving Newlands Holiday Park and Stonebarrow Manor into Charmouth Parish (see above), the northern boundary of S St G should be simplified to run along the A 35 for its whole length.

This has the virtue of simplicity, and also gives a few additional properties to S St G which is a very small parish, on the brink of being unviable.