

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Council Meeting of Char Valley Parish Council held at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall on 21st June 2021 at 7.30pm

DRAFT MINUTES

4705: Present:

Cllrs. H Joyce (Chair), C Bailey, A Carey, S Creed-Castle, J Eager, J Jones, C Mahaddie, C Peck, K Vaughan. M Stainer (Clerk). In attendance: Cllr. S Christopher (Dorset Council).

4706: Apologies for absence:

T Hansford, S Johnson, C Noon.

4707: To elect a Chair of the Council:

Cllr. Joyce was proposed as Chair. No other candidates were proposed.

Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and seconded by Cllr. Peck. Agreed unanimously.

4708: To receive the Chair's declaration of acceptance of office:

Cllr. Joyce declared her acceptance of office.

The councillors formally thanked Cllr. Joyce for acting as Chair for the previous year.

4709: To elect a Vice Chair of the Council:

Cllr. Mahaddie was proposed as Vice Chair. No other candidates were proposed.

Proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle. Agreed unanimously.

4710: To receive the Vice Chair's declaration of acceptance of office:

Cllr. Mahaddie declared her acceptance of office.

4711: To appoint councillors to the Committees:

a. Staffing Committee

Cllrs. Carey, Peck and Eager were proposed as members.

b. Finance Committee

Cllrs. Creed-Castle, Johnson, Joyce and Noon were proposed as members.

Both Committee appointments were proposed by Cllr. Vaughan and seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie. Agreed unanimously.

4712: To appoint councillors to the Working Parties:

a. Climate Change and Environmental Emergency Working Party

Cllrs. Carey, Hansford, Joyce and Vaughan were proposed as members.

b. Communications Working Party

Cllrs. Carey, Creed-Castle, Joyce, Mahaddie, Noon and Peck were proposed as members.

c. Farming Interests Working Party

Cllrs. Bailey, Creed-Castle, Johnson, Jones and Vaughan were proposed as members.

d. Local Amenities Working Party

Cllrs. Creed-Castle, Peck, Jones, Mahaddie and Eager were proposed as members.

e. Planning Working Party

Cllrs. Joyce, Mahaddie, Noon, Peck and Vaughan were proposed as members.

f. Transport Working Party

Bailey, Eager, Hansford, Joyce and Noon were proposed as members.

Working party appointments were proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Eager. Agreed unanimously.

4713: Public forum:

No members of the public present.

4714: Declarations of interest:

None.

4715: Resolution to approve the minutes of the 425th CVPC meeting held on 12th April 2021

Subject to amending 4693 "Chideok PC" to "Cllr. Joyce".

Proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Jones. Agreed unanimously.

4716: Actions following last meeting:

As mentioned in reports.

4717: Planning applications:

a. Responses submitted to Dorset Council before the meeting:

i. P/HOU/2021/00300 – Little Hill, Taylor's Lane, Morcombelake, Bridport, DT6 6ED.

ii. P/HOU/2021/00622 – Sea Breeze, Morcombelake, DT6 6ES.

iii. P/FUL/2021/00554 – Stonebarrow Manor, Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth, Dorset, DT6 6RA.

iv. 21/0932/FUL – Monkton Wyld Holiday Park, Raymonds Hill, DT6 6DB.

v. P/PABA/2021/01399 – Champernayes Bungalow, Champernayes Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6DB.

vi. P/HOU/2021/00935 – Upalong Cottage, Pitmans Lane, Morcombelake, Dorset, DT6 6EB.

b. Responses to be considered at the meeting:

- i. P/HOU/2021/01517 – Willow Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, DT6 6DF – No objection.
- ii. P/HOU/2021/01825 - Willow Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, DT6 6DF – No objection.
- iii. P/FUL/2021/01210 – Higher Abbots Farm, Abbots Wootton Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NL – No objection.
- iv. P/LBC/2021/01211 - Higher Abbots Farm, Abbots Wootton Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6NL – No objection.
- v. WD/D/20/003037 – Uplands, Loves Lane, Morcombelake, Bridport, DT6 6DZ – No objection, and to confirm support of Tree Preservation Orders.

Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and seconded by Cllr. Carey. Agreed unanimously.

Action - Cllr. Carey will liaise with the Clerk to understand whether separate correspondence with the Tree Officer is required.

c. Dorset Council Decisions:

None.

d. Enforcement:

None.

4718: Finance:

a. Payments:

The payments for June 2021, as below, were approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Eager and seconded by Cllr. Carey. Agreed unanimously.

PAYMENTS FOR JUNE 2021

Payee	Details	Receipt no.	Amount
H Joyce	GoToMeeting 03 & 04.21	0421/1	£ 36.00
A Carey	Leaflets for River Char project	0421/2	£ 87.00
A Carey	Flyers and leaflets	0421/3	£ 31.39
M H Stainer	Clerk's net pay for 04.21	0421/4	£ 468.07
HMRC	PAYE for 04.21	0421/5	£ 112.40
S Lee	Signpost repair	0421/6	£ 52.80
M H Stainer	Clerk's net pay for 05.21	0621/1	£ 468.07
HMRC	PAYE for 05.21	0621/2	£ 112.40
DAPTC	Planning Concept Training video Cllr. Eager	0621/3	£ 20.00
DAPTC	Advanced social media training Cllrs. Joyce and Noon	0621/4	£ 70.00
G D Wright	Leaf clearing, grass cutting and replacing gate hinge	0621/5	£ 167.00
M H Stainer	Clerk's net pay for 06.21	0621/6	£ 468.07
HMRC	PAYE for 06.21	0621/7	£ 112.40
DAPTC	Annual subscription	0621/8	£ 406.56
H Joyce	GoToMeeting 05 & 06.21	0621/9	£ 36.00
TOTAL			£2,648.16

b. Lloyds bank account:

The Clerk submitted a proposal to open a Lloyds Bank plc account with an electronic banking facility.

Proposed by Cllr. Eager and seconded by Cllr. Jones. Agreed unanimously with one abstention.

4719: Boundary changes:

- Cllr. Joyce reported that she and Cllr. Mahaddie will shortly be attending a BLAP meeting where those leading the Local Governance Review will be speaking. Cllrs. Joyce and Mahaddie will report back to CVPC.
- Cllr. Joyce reported that CVPC will be required to give comment on boundary changes.

- Cllr. Mahaddie reported that as well as looking at potential boundary changes there may also be discussion on whether CVPC wishes to stop being a group parish.

4720: Parish meetings:

- Cllr. Mahaddie reported that there were a couple of requests from parishioners. One matter was considered outside of the Council's jurisdiction, the other, concerned a potential festival at Thorncombe Farm.
- Councillors considered that the transport infrastructure for a potential festival was not sufficient.
- A proposal was made to write to the National Trust expressing the Council's concern about the traffic and transport arrangements and the ecological aspects of holding a festival at Thorncombe Farm if they were thinking of doing so.

Proposed by Cllr. Mahaddie and seconded by Cllr. Vaughan. Agreed unanimously.

4721: Future meetings:

- Cllr. Joyce reported on the number of meetings that the Council undertakes and whether there was an opportunity to reduce them.
- Cllr. Vaughan asked if councillors were comfortable meeting in person and pointed out that current guidance is quite confusing.
- Cllr. Peck commented on the received advice for decisions to be 'ultra vires' at virtual meetings and the rising coronavirus cases in the area are rising.
- Cllr. Vaughan commented that the health and safety of individuals should take precedence.
- Cllr. Joyce agreed to poll councillors in advance of the next meeting to determine whether the meeting should take place physically or virtually.

4722: West Dorset National Park:

- Cllr. Joyce asked if councillors considered that they had sufficient information to respond to Chris Loder's comments on the National Park.
- Councillors discussed some of the pros and cons of a National Park.
- Cllr. Carey suggested that the council should reply saying that we do wish to respond but we don't yet have enough information to make an informed decision.

Proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Vaughan. Agreed unanimously.

Action - *Cllr. Joyce will prepare a draft response asking for further information.*

4723: Fox hunting:

- Cllr. Joyce reported that the letter to the hunt had not yet been sent and asked whether a letter timed for October might be more appropriate.
- Cllr. Vaughan was keen for the letter to be sent at the earliest as had been agreed at the last meeting.

Action - *Cllr. Vaughan will prepare a draft response and circulate to all councillors.*

4724: Report from Climate Change and Environmental Emergency Working Party / River Char:

- Cllr. Carey reported that there is an Action Plan of approximately two months ago that has been recirculated. It is a reduced / shortened version of the was agreed 18 months ago to Dorset Council.
- Cllr. Carey reported that the latest version reflects comments from Cllr. Noon.
- Cllr. Carey noted that the Action Plan commits the Council to do various things e.g. (i) press Dorset Council to remove that part of its pension policy that allows it to invest in fossil fuels; and (ii) also to write to Dorset Council and urge them not to sell more of the County Estate. Cllr. Carey was keen to therefore ensure that councillors were fully informed.
- Cllr. Carey noted that Cllr. Noon (not present) wishes to include comments on sustainable growth.
- Several councillors wished to commit to the Action Plan as it is (without amendment) and requested a vote.

Proposed by Cllr. Mahaddie and seconded by Cllr. Vaughan. Agreed unanimously with one abstention.

- Cllr. Joyce updated councillors on the River Char Community Project.

4725: Report from Communications Working Party:

- Cllr. Joyce reported that Char Chat was planned for 30 August so that it could be given out for the Whitchurch Show.
- Cllr. Joyce asked if anyone wishes to propose articles, please could they do so in good time for production.

4726: Report from Cllr. Christopher (Dorset Council): (reported after 4730 below)

- Cllr. Christopher commented on the government's £3 billion fund for "Bussing Back Better", including the timetable requiring the publishing of their proposals by the end of October 2021.
- Cllr. Joyce asked Cllr. Christopher about the lack of extended arrangements for virtual meetings and its implications for the safety of our councillors, particularly with the recent rise in cases and she sought his advice on how the council was to continue to function as a council.
- Cllr. Christopher stated that he had received advice from Jonathan Mair, the legal officer for Dorset Council, is that it would not be unreasonable for CVPC to have a virtual meeting. This would take the form of an informal Parish Council Meeting at which councillors would not take any decisions, but comment instead, in the form of "The Parish Council is minded to" and delegate the authority to carry out actions to the Clerk. Cllr. Christopher agreed, at Cllr. Joyce's request, to forward the e-mail containing the advice, to the Clerk.
- **Action** – *Cllr. Christopher will forward the advice from Jonathan Mair, by e-mail, to the Clerk.*

- Cllr. Carey queried the delegation to the Clerk process. Cllr. Christopher responded by stating that it is a legal technicality where councillors are recommending to the Clerk (who is an officer of the council), this extends to councillors taking an informal vote.
- Cllr. Joyce commented that councillors do not appreciate having to put themselves at risk because of an administrative oversight.

4727: Report from Farming Interests Working Party:

- Nothing additional to report.

4728: Report from Local Amenities Working Party:

- Cllr. Creed-Castle proposed the purchase of five, large grit bins up to the value of £800 inc. delivery (excluding installation).
- Proposed by Cllr. Peck and seconded by Cllr. Vaughan. Agreed unanimously.
- **Action** - *The Clerk to organise the purchase of five, large grit bins.*
- Cllr. Creed-Castle suggested that markers were placed by bins to avoid damage when grass and hedges were being cut.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle asked that reports include the name of those preparing reports.
- Cllr. Joyce thanked Cllrs. Creed-Castle, Carey and Jones for their work.
- Cllr. Eager reported on the latest playground inspection report and reported four recommendations: (i) hinge on the gate; (ii) fixing benches down; (iii) signage (identification of site operator and UK emergency number); and (iv) preservatives on the wooden equipment. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed with items (i), (ii) and (iv) for good reason and they were all considered as "low risk" in the report. With regard to (iii) Cllr. Eager was asked to seek further information on the signage requirements.
- **Action** – *Cllr. Eager to seek further information on the signage requirements.*

4729: Report from Planning Working Party:

a. Broadband – how to increase DC ambition for neglected areas:

- Cllr. Christopher reported that this was at the very top of the Council's (Dorset Council) agenda and he was pressing, on a daily basis, to improve broadband across the ward.
- Cllr. Christopher reported that Dorset Council had some issues with one farmer who was being difficult with BT and Openreach with poles on his land.
- Cllr. Vaughan reported that his response from the responsible broadband person at Dorset Council stated that they were on track which did not seem to recognise the game changing nature of COVID for access to broadband.
- Cllr. Vaughan asked if there was a way of cutting through the process. Cllr. Christopher requested that Cllr. Vaughan e-mail his concerns to him.
- Cllr. Christopher reported that the deputy Leader of Dorset council has stated the worst served areas should be served first, with the assistance of government funding.

Action - *Cllr. Joyce agreed to send a letter off to Dorset council with regard to broadband.*

4730: Report from Staffing Committee:

- Cllr. Peck reported that the Committee are interviewing four candidates for the Clerk's replacement on Thursday.

4731: Report from Transport Working Party:

- Cllr. Joyce asked questions of Cllr. Christopher at the request of Cllr. Noon (apologies given), the first of which was "What is Dorset council doing to involve local residents in West Dorset in the 'Bus Back Better' strategy development required by HMG?". Cllr. Christopher responded to this point above (4726).
- Cllr. Joyce asked the second question at the request of Cllr. Noon. "How is Dorset spending the £100,000 grant for facilitation of this work?". Cllr. Christopher responded by saying that it was being using to spend on officer time and, because of commercial sensitivities, it will be more appropriate to talk about this in October.
- Cllr. Joyce asked the third question "There is a £3 billion fund to made available by HMG for bus improvement in rural areas if councils act by the deadline. This is particularly appropriate here in West Dorset where our residents have to use cars through a lack of reliable and appropriate public transport. Does Dorset Council plan to consult with local parish councils?". Cllr. Christopher responded by saying yes it will do but at the moment the initial preparatory work is still taking place.
- Cllr. Joyce asked the fourth question "The first deadline in the process is 30th June. Is Dorset council going to be ready by then?". Cllr. Christopher responded "Yes".

4732: Councillor training:

- Cllr. Joyce reported that councillors should have seen an e-mail from the DAPTC (11th June 2021) requiring councillors to sign up to a code of conduct and attend a virtual session.
- **Action** – *Cllrs. To sign up to a virtual session with DAPTC about codes of conduct and practice.*
- Cllr. Joyce is proposing to bring the Finance Committee meeting forward to October.

4733: Date of the next meeting:

- 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall or 'GoToMeeting'. To be decided in advance of the agenda being issued.

4734: Meeting closed at 21.45.