



# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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**421<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Char Valley Parish Council held remotely on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020**

## DRAFT MINUTES

**4600: Present:** Cllrs. H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Noon, S Johnson, J Eager, A Carey, J Jones, S Creed-Castle, K. Vaughan, T Hansford, A Marks (Clerk). In attendance: S. Christopher, Ian Rees, Nick Gray, John & Amanda Snook, Alice Martin, Luke Philips.

**4601: Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Bailey

**4602: The River Char Project - Ian Rees, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Nick Gray, Dorset Wildlife Trust explained the first stages of the joint River Char Project, which was initiated by CVPC.**

A year ago, CVPC was concerned about the condition of the River Char and obtained a grant to look into this. Nick Gray and Ian Rees are now co-managing the project. They propose to interview local landowners, farmers, residents and businesses using as a model the River Asker project which they have also been managing. The Environment Agency monitors the condition of the River Char and it is rated 'Moderate' which means that it fails to meet certain key water quality criteria. They will look at the biology, physio-chemical pollutants and chemicals within the river. Fish levels are already known to be lower than they should be. Other facts that will be considered are the geology and soil – wet deep clay – and the local landscape – 60% of the area is 'improved grassland'. They numbers of aquatic invertebrates, the work condition and state of the river will also be examined. The level of oxygen in the water has varied between 4.5 and 6 over the last 20 years. More details at [www.charvalley.org/river-char](http://www.charvalley.org/river-char)

**4603: Declaration of interest:** None.

**4604: Resolution to approve the minutes of the CVPC meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**  
Proposed Cllr. Creed-Castle and seconded by Cllr. Noon and agreed unanimously.

**4605: Actions following last meeting:** as circulated by the Clerk to the councillors.

**4606: Reports:**

- WATAG – no meetings since lockdown.
- PCSO – no report.
- Dorset Assn. of Parish & Town Councils – no report.
- Bridport Local Area Partnership - no report
- Verges – Cllr. Mahaddie said that there was nothing to report.
- War memorials – nothing to report.
- Cllr. Simon Christopher's report was received on the afternoon of the meeting and forwarded to all councillors

**CVPC**

Char Valley Parish Council

[www.charvalley.org](http://www.charvalley.org)

Whitchurch Canonicorum (North & South), Wootton Fitzpaine, Stanton St Gabriel

**Chair:** Hilary Joyce

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**4607: Planning applications**

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before the meeting:** none submitted.
- **Responses to be considered at November's meeting:**  
WD/D/20/002034 – Birds Cottage, Ryall Road, Ryall, DT6 6EG – Erect single storey extension – this is a very small extension. No objections.
- **Dorset Council Decisions** – none.
- **Appeal Decision** – none.
- **Enforcement** – none.

**4608: Finance:****PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020**

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Stamps for Char Chat	500375	1120/1(a)	£378.40
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500376	1120/1	£546.80
HMRC	PAYE for November	500377	1120/2	£90.40
Footprints	Char Chat printing for November 2020	500378	1120/3	£299.00
Andrew Carey	Recharging cost of new email addresses for councillors	500379	1120/4	£191.70
Hilary Joyce	Cost of Gotomeeting	500380	1120/5	£16.00
Les Kitcher	Grass cutting at Wootton playing field	500381	1120/6	£525.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£2,047.30</b>

**4609: Report from Simon Christopher**

- With regard to Cllr Christopher's update on Broadband Cllr Vaughan will pass his connection queries to Cllr Christopher who will raise them with Rachel Baker – the senior communications officer at Dorset Council. Cllr Creed-Castle and Cllr. Joyce will also inform Cllr Christopher of their Broadband issues.

**4610: Report from Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group:**

- The Working Group will draft a collective response to the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and submit to the January meeting.
- Developments on the River Char Project were covered earlier in the meeting.

**4611: Report from Communications Working Group:**

- Cllr. Joyce said that the latest edition of Char Chat had been well received by the council and general public. The new website is up and running – charvalley.org. The Working Group has arranged for the councillors to have new email addresses – these will be their names followed by @charvalley.org. It will also circulate a proposed new document layout and format for all CVPC documents for councillors' approval.

**4612: Report from Farming Interests Working Group:**

- Two episodes of dog worrying have occurred in the last fortnight. Cllr. Mahaddie showed some pictures of injured sheep. Cllr. Christopher suggested writing to Dorset Wildlife Trust who display these notices and Cllr. Carey (National Trust liaison councillor) will speak to the The National Trust and to tenant farmers on their land. Cllr. Jones thought that dog worrying had increased in the last



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couple of years. Cllr. Hansford said that all instances should be reported so that accurate records can be kept.

**4613: Report from Local Amenities Working Group (Wootton Fitzpaine bench, lengthsman liaison)**

- Nothing to report.

**4614: Report from Planning Working Group (housing surveys, planning applications):**

- The Working Group has responded to the UK government's planning white paper. Cllr. Mahaddie had also spoken to Simon Parker at Dorset Council regarding affordable housing and found him to be very helpful

**4616: Report from Staffing Committee (clerk appointment, temporary third member):**

- The working party is short of a third member and Cllr. Joyce offered to take over for the new clerk interviews. 26 replies have been received and the committee will choose six applicants to interview remotely.

**4617: Report from Transport Working Group (A35, severe weather plans)**

- The A35 meeting with Chris Loder was cancelled and no further date has been arranged. The railings between Moore's Bakery and Felicity's farm shop are to be mended. The working party is canvassing for a 30mph speed limit for Morcombelake. Buses are now running in time to meet the first train service between Axminster and Exeter in the morning. Cllr. Hansford is working with Highways England regarding the road crossing issues at Morcombelake involving cyclists and horse riders.

**4618: Report from Whitchurch Playground Working Group (lockdown decisions):**

- Councillors decided to keep the original risk assessment and Dale Wright will take over the ground maintenance.

**4619: Date of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

**Meeting closed at 21.15.**



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