

## CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL

**4251: Present:** Cllrs: S Creed-Castle, H Joyce, C Mahaddie, C Everidge, C Bailey, D Snook, J Eager, K Vaughan, C Peck, C Sage, A Marks (Clerk), Cllr. Christopher

**4252: Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. S Johnson, R Colby and D Turner

**4253: Public Discussion Period:** there was nothing to discuss

**4254: Declarations of Interest:** None

**4255: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019:** proposed by Cllr Snook, seconded Cllr Creed-Castle, agreed unanimously

**4256: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:** Since the last meeting

\* the clerk has worked on the winter 2019 edition of Char Chat and will bring a draft copy to the March parish council meeting.

\* the agreed precept was sent and to WDDC and received confirmation that it will be paid in April and September (50% in each payment) The budget breakdown for 2019-2020 is on the CVPC website.

\* new worksheets were forwarded to the lengthsman and completed January and February worksheets are expected. The clerk will email the lengthsman to say that, in future, invoices will not be paid until a detailed worksheet relating to the period of the invoice is supplied.

**Action: Clerk**

\*the clerk asked WDDC for guidance on the implications of planning permission being given to build barns in fields that are land-locked and received the following reply

*I have been forwarded your email below to respond, however I would be grateful for further details as per the question. Is there a specific case you have concerns over? Are you asking whether or not we consider access as a planning issue when determining planning applications for barns?*

This was forwarded to the councillors for further discussion.

\* The clerk contacted the WDDC enforcement team asking that they keep the parish updated on any enforcement issues occurring within Char Valley. She received the following reply from Kevin Perry on the enforcement team

*The Council does not notify Parish Councils of investigations into breaches of planning control within area as a matter of course, this is partly due to the heavy commitments of staff dealing with investigations and the restrictions placed on us by the General Data Protection Act 2018. However, where the Parish Council are the complainants to a particular breach they will of course be updated on progress.*

\* AONB was contacted regarding the proposed Morcombelake bus shelter.. The query was passed onto Dorset County Council who advised the clerk to contact WDDC.

**Action: Clerk**

\* there are changes to the way we view WDDC planning applications and the clerk has registered on the new website.

\* As our auditor wishes to resign, Ian Wiggleswade who audits the Chideock and Burton Bradstock Parish Council was contacted and he will take on our accounts. The charge is £60 and no travel costs.

\*. one item carried forward from January - the clerk received an E mail from Don Newman about the state of the CVPC notice board outside the Five Bells, Whitchurch Canonicorum. The clerk contacted Stephen Lee who estimated a repair cost of £40-50. Other CVPC notice boards will also be checked.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **4257: Reports:**

**BLAP** nothing to report

**WATAG** The 'First' bus company said that when a connecting bus fails to arrive, and a taxi is called the fare will be reimbursed as long as a receipt is provided. Cllr Everidge is trying to ascertain if there is a contingency fund for those who cannot afford to wait whilst the repayment is processed. This is particularly a problem with connecting buses between Bridport and Crewkerne and Yeovil.

Those who do not have the correct change can still take the journey if they are prepared to pay with a note and collect the change from a First collection point.

Cllr. Everidge advised the meeting that the current bus timetable is incorrect.

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**DAPTC:** nothing to report

**Verges:** Cllr. Creed-Castle advised that the verges in Blunthays Lane had been cut by local farmers

Cllr. Everidge has attended eight meetings on behalf of CVPC. If there is any feedback from the minutes or issues arising I am happy to act on these and/or take them on behalf of Councillors to the next relevant meeting..

Cllr. Mahaddie reported that there are 2 separate but inter-related issues concerning postal services in Morcombelake at present.

### Postbox

As discussed at our last meeting, Martin Legg applied to have the post box removed from his property and we have commented that we have no objection to this but only when there is another one available. We are now told that the Post Office criteria only require that there should be a box within half a mile as the crow flies from the residents it is supposed to serve. Apparently a replacement box cannot be justified because there is already one at the Green (Near the James Hargreaves hall) which is within ½ mile from the old one. If this becomes the only postbox in the village, residents at the Eastern end will be more than 1/2 a mile from it, let alone the physical difficulty of accessing the Green along Tizard's Knap from the A35 on foot. We need to make a convincing case for a new box central to the village. (Martin was told in November that a suitable location for a replacement box had been identified on the S side of the A 35 opposite Annie's, but it would take about six months to arrange.)

### Post Office services

There has been no Post Office in Morcombelake since November 2018 and, as far as we can see, no immediate prospect of getting one. At a time when banks are shutting down this is a serious matter. It is time for CVPC to get formally involved.

The owners of Annie's teashop have apparently expressed an interest in housing a Post Office, but this will require work to ensure security of the office. At present, the tea shop is closed for unrelated building work. We have so far not heard anything from either the Post Office or Annie's about their plans. (All this contradicts what Martin was told last November which was that the PO were committed to retaining an office in Morcombelake and would intend to provide an outreach service once or twice a week as a temporary arrangement until Annie's was available for a permanent facility. Cllr Everidge has been finding out more about the feasibility of such an emergency service).

(See also **4769**)

Cllr. Sage

Devon highways have fenced their gravel storage area on the CVPC boundary with the B3165 to prevent further fly tipping. This is one of the major tourist routes to the Jurassic coast. CVPC voted unanimously to write to East Devon District council and copy in Devon Highways. CVPC is pleased to see the gravel storage area has been fenced so it can be kept tidy and properly managed and now serves the purpose for which it was intended but also underlines the necessity of removing the asbestos.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Snook

**Progress on the White Gates.** Alex Brooks is making steady progress on the White Gates. No definite date for completion yet, but sometime in the spring. All wood will be sourced locally. Some donations have already been received by CVPC, and those who have promised donations are being contacted.

**Action: Clerk/ Cllr Snook**

Cllr. Christopher - there was a budget meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February to go before the shadow council later in the month for their approval. Council tax is expected to rise in keeping with other parts of Dorset. There will be efficiency savings as there will be one chief executive instead of six. The new council will spend approximately £600 million – half of this will come from grant funding and the remainder from council tax. Staff are transferring from 6 councils into 1 which is going forward very smoothly. The usual planning meeting will take place in April. Cllr. Christopher will be standing as Conservative candidate for Marshwood ward.

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There are no further councillor reports

### 4258: Planning Applications

- **Responses submitted to WDDC before February's meeting – full details can be found on the website**
- WD/D/19/000114 HOGCHESTER FARM, CHARMOUTH BYPASS, CHARMOUTH, BRIDPORT DT6 6BY Erection of agricultural building, Polytunnels & Compost toilet.(application for prior approval) On balance we have no objection to this proposal, and we do not feel that prior approval is required
- WD/D/18/002874 EDGEHILL COTTAGE, TIZARD'S KNAP, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6EE Replacement of single storey kitchen extension & erection of new car port with new vehicular access to site. CVPC has no objection to construction of the house extension which will be virtually invisible from the surrounding area but there are concerns about the safety implications of the proposed new access.
- **Responses considered at February's meeting:** WD/D/18/002899 COBBLESTONES, BERNE LANE, CHARMOUTH, BRIDPORT, DT6 6RD Raise height of existing extension walls and change flat roof to mono-pitch roof, erect buttresses, formation of steps and installation PV panels to new roof. Provisionally there are no objections, but Councillors are visiting soon for a final check. **Action: Clerk**

iii) West Dorset District Council Decisions (to note): Approvals / Refusals - None

iv) Appeal Decision – None

### 4260: Finance

#### PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500236	0219/1	£358.00
HMRC	PAYE for February	500237	0219/2	£85.00
S Lee	Lengthman's services for January	500238	0219/3	£472.80
Wootton Fitzpaine village hall	Hire of hall for January meeting	500239	2019/4	£23.50
Dr Susan Beckers	PA system and curtains for Wootton Fitzpaine village hall (CIL payment)	500240	2019/5	£1,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£2339.30</b>

The councillors discussed detailed costs and request from Kevin Payne the leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group for a donation towards the scout group and it was agreed that the sum of £250.00 should be granted. This was proposed by Cllr. Sage and seconded by Cllr. Vaughan. All agreed apart from one abstention.  
**Action: Clerk**

### 4261: Char Chat update:

The next edition of Char Chat is due for publication soon, the clerk is still waiting for two further articles to be added to Char Chat

**Action: Clerk**

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**4262: Public access to information about planning applications** : these came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January, the clerk has registered on the new internet system and will be add councillors' comments to any planning applications.

### **4263: Report from Countryside Working Party:**

CVPC voted unanimously to adopt the draft Proposed Countryside Action Programme as follows

#### **Aims**

1 To address concerns previously raised regarding the perceived gap between farmers and non-farmers (residents and visitors) in understanding farming and other uses of the land.

2 To address specific problems experienced by farmers and members of the public.

3 To address specific land issues which concern non-farming residents.

4 To support diversification

#### **Proposed actions**

**1 To address concerns previously raised regarding the perceived gap between farmers and non-farmers (residents and visitors) in understanding farming and other uses of the land.**

##### **ACTION:**

- a) All councillors to visit at least one farm. This to form part of new councillor induction.
- b) Publicity re any local farmer taking part in LEAF open farms.
- c) letter to farmers encouraging them to invite local residents to see farm activities eg lambing
- d) CVPC to instigate and update list of farmers willing to receive councillors/members of the public (mention in letter to farmers)
- e) publicity - Char Chat, website (g i) )
- f) CVPC clerk to undertake organisation a)-f) **Action: Clerk**
  
- g) Distribution of Countryside Code
  - i) tourist offices ; Bridport already approached and stocking ; Lyme Regis **Action: Cllr Joyce**
  - ii) draw up list of local B&Bs/hotels/ camp sites/ information points **Action: All Councillors/ Clerk**
  - iii) deliver CCs to address in ii)
- h) Publicity
  - i) article in Char Chat/website/ Marshwood Vale Magazine - church and free paper April editions (Feb/March submission) **Action: Cllr Joyce**
  - ii) press release to Bridport News (Easter) **Action: Cllr Joyce**
- i) Cllr Joyce to undertake organisation g)-h) **Action: Cllr Joyce**

**2 To address specific problems experienced by farmers and members of the public.**

- a) Use of footpaths  
'Vet' notices on footpaths

##### **ACTION: Councillors/Clerk**

- I) make list of landowners/occupiers
- II) letter/email to above
- III) obtain footpath notices
- iv) obtain and distribute notices
- v) poster on all CVPC noticeboards with CC copies
- vi) Cllr Peck to organise this

**Action: Cllr Peck**

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- b) Distribution of Countryside Code (see above)
  - tourist offices
  - local B&Bs/hotels/ camp sites/ information points
- c) Publicity (see above)
- d) General safety issues

### **ACTION:**

- i) Improved CVPC liaison the Police. Police liaison officer already contacted.
  - i) Re-establishment of Neighbourhood Watch Whitchurch Canonorum and Wootton Fitzpaine **Action: until May election: Cllr Joyce**

### **3 To address specific land issues which concern non-farming residents.**

- a) Pollution of River Char
  - CVPC liaison with Environment Agency
  - local publicity**Action: H Joyce**
- b) Obstruction of footpaths
  - CVPC briefing of footpath officers
  - CVPC action/ liaison with DCC footpath officer
  - local publicity**Action: Cllr Peck**
- c) General safety issues  
See 2d) above

**4264: S106 update** – there could be problems with the siting of the CVPC bus shelter in Mor-combelake as it is not permitted for a bus shelter to overhang a pavement There is a possibility of re-siting the bus stop and shelter by Felicity's Farmshop as the pavement ends there.

**Action: Clerk**

**4265: A35 volunteer group update:** with regard to the A35 Diversion Volunteers Group- Sir Oliver called for a meeting between Highways England, Dorset Highways, the relevant Police Officers and representatives of the A35DVG. Chris Everidge has been asked to co-ordinate and all are awaiting a response from Martin Underhill as to whether it is to be he or Sir Oliver to convene.

**Action: Cllr Everidge**

**4266: 2019 Parish Council Elections:** Cllr. Snook has decided not to stand for re-election, having been a councillor for Char Valley since 2007. DAPTC have prepared a parish election time table as follows:

### **Parish Election Time Table Calculator Timetable of Proceedings for Thursday 2 May 2019**

Publication of Notice of Election Friday 15 March 2019

Receipt of Nominations 4:00 pm Wednesday 3 April 2019

Withdrawal of Candidate 4:00 pm Wednesday 3 April 2019

Appointment of Election Agents 4:00 pm Wednesday 3 April 2019

Publication of Notice of Election Agents 4:00 pm Wednesday 3 April 2019

Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated 4:00 pm Thursday 4 April 2019

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Last Date for Registration Friday 12 April 2019

Amendments to existing Absent Vote applications 5:00 pm Monday 15 April 2019

Receipt of Postal Vote Applications 5:00 pm Monday 15 April 2019

Publication of Notice of Poll Wednesday 24 April 2019

Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications 5:00 pm Wednesday 24 April 2019

Appointment of Poll and Count Agents Thursday 25 April 2019

First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers Friday 26 April 2019

Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers 5:00 pm Thursday 2 May 2019

Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications 5:00 pm Thursday 2 May 2019

Day of Poll 7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 2 May 2019

Declaration of Candidates Expenses Thursday 30 May 201

**4267: National Park updates:** there have been no further updates.

**4268: Severe winter weather provisions:** Councillors were pleased to note that, following its request, Berne Lane had been gritted during the recent bad weather..

**4269: Post office/box in Morcombelake:** (See also 4257) Cllrs. Everidge and Mahaddie will write to the post office putting forward the CVPC's case for another post box. If a new post office were to be opened it must comply with post office security requirements. However, it is now three months since the Post Office closed with few comments from local residents. It was agreed to put an article in Char Chat to assess local opinion.

**Action: Cllr Mahaddie and Everidge**

**4270: Date of next meeting –** 11th March 2019 at Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall

**4271: Any other business** - A short discussion ensued about recent anti-social behaviour in the Whitchurch area. Cllr. Peck asked the following 'Can I ask the parish council to support me in reminding people that the cull is legal; that peaceful protest is legal; that intimidation, harassment, anti-social and potentially dangerous behaviour of any kind is not acceptable and may be illegal. It has a damaging effect on what is a relatively small and close-knit community where people, generally, get on well together and I think the parish council has a responsibility to the residents it represents. I would ask the parish council also to support a request that those behind the latest incidences respect that and desist forthwith. Councillors agreed with her unanimously and to publicise this view where appropriate.

**Action: Clerk/Cllr Joyce**

**4272: Items for next meeting,** A35, National Park proposal, Countryside Working Party report, report from S106 working party, council elections 2019,

**4273: Close of meeting:** the meeting closed at 9.40pm