

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## FOUR HUNDRED AND NINTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017 AT WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL - AGM

**3839: Present:** Cllrs: D Snook, S Creed-Castle, C Everidge, H Joyce, C Peck, C Mahaddie, S Johnson, K Vaughan, C Bailey, C Sage D Turner (DCC). S Christopher (WDDC), A Marks (Clerk), Sandra Brown, Mr Brown, Una Christopher and one member of public (for part of the meeting)

**3840: Apologies:** all the councillors were present at the meeting

**3841: Sandra Brown from Dorset National Park:** Sandra started her talk with the benefits of National Parks – these are

- A National Park would add value to Dorset's economy and environment and benefit communities within and outside the National Park placing development in the right places this includes jobs, skills and local services.
- National Parks bring economic opportunities and benefits and promote thriving communities within and beyond the National Park area.
- A National Park for Dorset would conserve and enhance our environment (our greatest economic asset), support higher value tourism across the County (our largest business sector), promote affordable housing, employment, skills and local services.

Sandra put forward the following points of the advantages of a National Park for Dorset – these points have been taken from the Dorset National Park's website

- National Parks work in partnership with communities, local councils, businesses, farmers, landowners and not for-profit groups. A Dorset National Park would bring wide-ranging opportunities and benefits to Dorset's economy and communities as well as the environment.
- National Parks have a statutory duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities as well as to conserve and enhance the environment and cultural heritage. A National Park would develop and implement locally based plans that reflect local needs, and work with communities to promote appropriate development including affordable homes for local people, and keep these affordable so that young people and key workers can remain here and be attracted to Dorset. NPs promote community involvement in planning and the governing NP Authority includes members nominated from Parish and Town Councils – thus increasing local democratic involvement.
- An independent study suggests a National Park can provide important economic opportunities and benefits for rural Dorset. It would work in partnership with other local authorities, the LEP and businesses, to develop and market to international as well as UK-based tourists a Dorset National Park brand, help develop a Dorset-wide tourism strategy and look after our greatest economic asset – our environment. The National Park brand would give Dorset a marketing edge, promote higher value tourism and attract visitors to stay longer and spend more.
- National Parks attract inward business investment, encourage apprenticeships and build partnerships with the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. They work with farmers and landowners to secure agri-environment funds and project funding for schemes such as food enterprise zones. NPs are specialised local authorities funded by central government core grant; independent research suggests a Dorset NP could attract similar support to that enjoyed by the South Downs which has secured around £50m of core funding plus project funding of at least £25m over 5 years. All of this has been invested in the local economy, communities and businesses.
- The Government wants National Parks to be at the centre of successful, resilient economies and thriving communities in England's finest rural areas and has recently reaffirmed its financial commitment to maintain in real terms for several years the core grants of NPs.
- A Dorset National Park may take 5 or 6 years to come into being. That timescale would allow new Unitary arrangements and a Combined Authority to bed down. The NP would fit in and work efficiently in partnership with the new arrangements, avoiding any duplication and absorbing the AONB.

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- Dorset County Council's Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee is evaluating the National Park opportunity. North Dorset DC, West Dorset DC and Purbeck DC are also assessing the National Park proposal and its potential benefits for Dorset. Such evaluation has received cross party and cross county support, and has been welcomed by many local communities and organisations
- National Parks are planning authorities, the South Downs National Park have staff approximately 100 staff however they also buy into a lot of services thereby keeping down costs
- Tourism in areas with a National Park has improved not by an increase in numbers but by an increase in value – visitors are spending more.

**3842: Election of Chair:** It was proposed by **Cllr Bailey** and seconded by **Cllr Johnson** that **Cllr Snook** continue as Chair. All agreed.

**3843: Election of Vice-Chair:** It was proposed by **Cllr Bailey** and seconded by **Cllr Johnson** that **Cllr Everidge** continue as Vice-Chair. All agreed.

**3844: Previous Chair's closing remarks:** **Cllr Snook** said that the last Char Chat was delivered to parishioners in June 2016, and received favourable comments. In July we were told that DCC Highways could no longer fund minor works. These would now be done by local volunteers, contractors employed by the parish council, or the parish could buy in the services from DCC. The residents' survey was distributed in November and interviews for the new parish clerk took place in December. Two councillors attended the farewell party for the Bopper bus in December. Annette Marks was appointed as the new parish clerk following the resignation of John West. She took up her duties in February. The annual parish precept did not increase in 2016 to 2017, however with the increased provision for the Lengthsman, fingerpost restoration and the new responsibility for village signs, an increase of 10.1% was agreed for 2017 to 2018. The precept for this year is now £20,404, an increase of £3.20 per annum for a band D property.

A second pedestrian crossing on the A35 is looking more positive. There is also a possibility of a roundabout at Eype. The unitary system proposed for Dorset is now with the Secretary of State, one unitary authority will comprise Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch and the other the rest of Dorset. There has been recent discussion about the possibility that West Dorset and East Devon may apply for National Park status and the will be a speaker about this at the May CVPC meeting. The fingerpost project is going very well. Around half of the 21 posts in the CVPC area are either works in progress or have been completed. The project has captured the imagination of some parishioners and generous donations have been given financially and also in terms of time and labour.

CVPC website contains a wealth of knowledge about our parish, as well as minutes and planning information. DCC aims to reduce the cost of verge management whilst maintaining and possibly enhancing wildlife and landscape values. The new contract has been awarded to J S Rose. There will be a significant cut on C and D roads and a follow up if necessary later on in the year. We still have two vacancies on the CVPC, one in Wootton and one in Whitchurch. There have been several expressions of interest, but alas no new councillors.

**3845: Declarations of Interest:** None

**3846: Election of members to committees and review appointments of representatives positions**

The following were proposed, seconded and agreed.

- (a) Finance Committee** Cllrs, Snook, Johnson, Creed-Castle and Bailey
- (b) Planning Committee** Cllrs, Snook, Johnson, Creed-Castle, Bailey, Joyce, Sage, Mahaddie, Everidge and Vaughan
- (c) Complaints Committee** Cllrs, Snook Joyce and Everidge (one vacancy)
- (d) Rights of Way Officers** Wootton Fitzpaine – Mr P Mills, Whitchurch Canonicorum – Mrs C Peat and Cllr Vaughan, Stanton St Gabriel – Cllr Everidge
- (e) Trees** Cllr Peck
- (f) Transport** Cllr Everidge
- (g) DAPTC** Cllr Snook
- (h) Bridport Local Area Partnership** Cllr Everidge

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- (i) **Ancient Monuments/photographer** Cllr Creed-Castle
- (j) **Planning Areas** Monkton Wyld – Cllr Sage; Wootton – Cllr Snook; Whitchurch North – Cllr Joyce and Cllr Bailey to assist; Whitchurch South – Cllr Mahaddie; Stanton St Gabriel – Cllr Everidge
- (k) **Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field** Cllr Snook
- (l) **Flood Warden** Cllr Bailey
- (m) **Char Chat liaison** Cllr Snook, Cllr Peck, Cllr Creed-Castle (distribution) Cllr Everidge
- (n) **Lengthsman liaison** Cllr Creed-Castle

### **3847: Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field Trustees**

**Cllr Snook** reported that John Bradbury, Jon Snook and Nigel Chapman were all prepared to continue as trustees. The meeting was grateful for their continued interest and agreed to re-elect them.

**3848: Public Discussion Period:** there were no questions raised

**3849: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** Draft minutes had been circulated and were approved and signed by **Cllr Snook**

**3850: Actions following last meeting:** Clerk has E mailed the enforcement officer regarding Brigs Farm querying the use of the land in the planning application that was done in 2009, she has received a reply from the enforcement officer asking for further information, this E mail has been forwarded to Councillor Snook.

Following the E mail from Graham Cox concerning cutbacks to the tree works in the area, the clerk is preparing a letter to send to Rt. Hon. Oliver Letwin and the district council querying that we will not be informed of any tree works due to be carried out despite the fact that we live in a conservation area which results in tourism being a major form of income.

The clerk is sending an E mail to the parish clerk at Chideock asking that we are kept informed of any developments relating to a bypass through the village.

Following the subject raised by Councillor Creed-Castle relating to the closure of Blunthays Lane and the lack of signage that the road was passable for access, the clerk is contacting Highways department to query that due to this some businesses in the lane lost income as visitors thought the road was impassable.

### **3851: Reports:**

**Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils** **Cllr Snook** advised the meeting that DAPTC are working to create a share point page

**Bridport Local Area Partnership:** **Cllr Everidge** reported that BLAP are trying to access homelessness in Bridport, they are also looking at mental health issues in the area and are focussing on intervention

**Transport:** **Cllr Everidge** advised that meetings relating to the A35 are currently postponed until after the general election

**Trees and hedges:** **Cllr Peck** reported that the owners of a property that had a diseased oak tree in their garden had received approval for the tree to be taken down however they have taken down a tree that stood in the middle of the garden and obstructed their views. Cllr Vaughan reported the increased fungal attack on both ash and oak trees in Char Valley. CVPC needs to contact the tree official regarding being more proactive in putting preservation orders on trees.

### **3852: Councillor Reports:**

**Cllr Snook:** Mrs Tidy had contacted Cllr Snook as she was worried by the mounds of earth left by highways. We will need to E mail highways and ask them to contact Mrs Tidy. Political leaflets have been placed on the parish council notice boards – they need to be removed as they are breaking the law. Top dressing has been done at Wootton Fitzpaine.

**Cllr Everidge:** she had looked on the electoral roll which shows a bungalow in her patch that doesn't exist. She was pleased to advise the meeting the pot holes have been filled and asked the clerk to thank DCC. Tara Hansford in charge of improving and developing rights of way would like to come and talk to us, the clerk will E Mail her and invite her to the meeting in July.

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**Cllr Creed-Castle:** mentioned that the top dressing in Bluntshay Lane had been done again – it was only done two years ago and wondered why it had been done again so soon. She also mentioned that the scrapings had been left at the side of the road.

**Cllr Peck:** advised the meeting that there are enormous patches of knotweed on the south side of the A35, Cllr Everidge said that she would take a look. She wished to clarify one of the points mentioned in April's minutes regarding the roundels – the existing roundels will be refurbished and replaced if they are missing.

**Cllr Joyce:** raised the point raised by Russell Goff relating to rights of way and the wooden finger posts that indicate where the footpaths are located.

**Cllr Johnson:** advised the meeting that she had been advised that a gully near her land has still not been cleared, Cllr Vaughan has reported it on the Dorset4You website.

**Cllr Mahaddie:** spoke of a noise in Morcombelake between 10.00 and 6.00. Cllr Everidge had reported it to the police but had not heard anything. It could be clay pigeon shooting but it was definitely shooting. The vegetation at the side of the road that has been scrapped has been dumped. She had received an E mail from Phil Sterling regarding the knotweed which is popping up in the area. The verges marked with blue posts will be done in house.

**Cllr Sage:** said that the roads the needed resurfacing have been completed.

**Cllr Vaughan:** had reported the pot holes were very bad and asked that we report this to highways.

**Cllr Bailey:** nothing to report

**3853: County Councillors Report : Cllr D Turner** reported on the unitary policy – the report from the Secretary of State will be delayed until September.

**3854: District Councillors Report : Cllr S Christopher** had nothing to report.

### **3855: Planning :**

**i) To Consider :** WD/D/17/000912 – SPRING BANK, VERRIOTTS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6DX – proposed alterations, extensions and replacement garage - CVPC objects to this application for the following reasons:

1)The proposal is for a very extensive remodelling and extension, leaving little of the existing property intact. We believe it is an extreme example of a type of alteration that the Local Plan (H 5.7.2.) seeks to control. It would lead to a much more valuable property, affordable to fewer people and therefore less likely to contribute to a balanced community. 2) We are concerned that the remodelled house and new double garage will together present a very bulky urban appearance out of character with the surrounding area. It is highly visible from the land S of the A35 as well as from Verriotts Lane. 3) We also believe that the enlargement of the footprint, together with the increased height on the south side will have a damaging impact on "Stoneham", the adjoining property

WD/D/000937 – WEST BULLEN, VERRIOTTS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6DU – conversion of storage building (formerly Quarryman's Cottage) to no. 1 unit of holiday accommodation – Char Valley parish council objects to this application on the following grounds

a) the application as it stands is for one residential unit described as a self-contained dwelling to be let for holiday accommodation within a separate curtilage from the existing house. It is within the AONB and outside any permitted development boundary and therefore not in accordance with the approved Local Plan. None of the exceptions apply in this case in that the proposal is not for affordable housing or an agricultural worker and neither is it particularly sustainable. We believe that the fact that it would utilise the shell of an old building is immaterial. b) The addition of vehicular access and 2 new parking spaces so high on the hill would detract from the unspoilt character of Hardown Hill unless there is an approved landscaping plan to mitigate the effect.

WD/D/17/001005 LAND AT JUNCTION WITH B3165, SCOTTS LANE, MONKTON WYLD non illuminated sign – Char Valley parish council approve this application providing (a) The background colour for the sign is too bright (yellow). We think it should be pale green or pale brown in colour.

(b) If the business ceases trading, the sign must be removed

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**ii) To Note:** WD/D/16/002881 – VALLEY VIEW, CARTERS LANW. MORCOMBELAKE, DT6 6SF - Erect ancillary building – pending as have asked for more information on drainage and sewerage  
 WD/D/17/00823 PADDOCKS FARM, , PADDOCKS LANE, BROADOAK, BRIDPORT DT6 5NR - Use of the land for siting of camping pods and toilet/shower block – require further information on the erection of hedging to provide privacy on the north side. Specific dates to be given for the removal of the pods for the winter and reinstatement for the following season. The sewerage arrangements will be checked.  
 WD/D/17/000521 1 SUNNYSIDE, GASSONS LANE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RQ. Change double garage door from metal up and over to a single pair of wooden doors and infill remaining opening and render – application approved.

**iii) West Dorset District Council Decisions (to note):**

**Approvals / Refusals (to note)** WD/D/000744 BEFFERLANDS FARM, BERNE LANE, CHARMOUTH, BRIDPORT DT6 6RD. Erect extension to kitchen and create new access and driveway – this has been approved

WD/D/17/000592 HOBBY FARM, BLUNTHAYS LANE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT DT6 6RJ erection of a hay store – this has been approved.

**iv) Appeal Decision – None**

**v) Enforcement: Cllr Everidge** is not happy that it has been decided that any enforcements put forward by the parish council have to be backed up with photographs.

Brigs Farm, Champerhayes Lane – application was submitted for a house and permission was granted provided a sustainable living was made from farming, however evidence shows that this was not the case. The enforcement officer has visited the site and E mailed the following - [Before I can exercise any powers of investigation I will need a little more information. Are you able to say exactly what non-agricultural activities are taking place at Brigs Farm, and also give details of what the alleged current activities and uses](#) Cllr Snook will take a look at the site and we will then report back to Mr Perry.

WD/D/16/00045 BYWAYS, WOOTTON FITZPAINE, DT6 6NJ. Replacement dwelling and conversion of residential annexe to ancillary garage and removal of outbuildings – this application was approved last year however the building that has been erected is very large and we need to check that it falls within the original plans. The clerk will contact the enforcement officer.

**3856: Clerks Report:**

**(i) Payments –** The following payments were approved :

### PAYMENTS MAY 2017

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no,	Amount
Debby Snook	Stamps for flyers for parish meetings	500095	0517/1	£156.00
Annette Marks	Clerks pay - May 2017	500096	0517/2	£441.36
HMRC	PAYE - May 2017	500097	0517/3	£27.80
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hire of hall for June meeting	500098	0517/4	£22.00
C Hawkins	Materials for finger post at Five Bells Inn	500099	0517/5	£213.27
S Lee Garden Services	Lengthsman	500100	0517/6	£187.20
Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	Hire of hall for 2017 meetings	500101	0517/7	£60.00
Ken Hussey	Repair and replace swing seats at Whitchurch play area	500102	0517/8	£910.38
John Day	Materials for finger post at Ryall	500103	0517/9	£74.56
Creeds	Envelopes	500104	0517/10	£10.80

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Normtec	Work on finger posts at Gassons Lane, Wootton Cross and Crooked Lane	500105	0517/11	£1,992.88
<b>TOTAL FOR MAY</b>		500106	0517/12	£4,096.25

- I have prepared the draft accounts for the financial year 2016/2017 and these have been E mailed to all the councillors, as you can see from these our expenditure was £2,731.49 more than our income. I have contacted Sue Mullins regarding the audited accounts and expect to hear from her this week with a date - I will begin preparing the accounts for her this week.
- I have contacted Alaric Little regarding the road signage for Taylors Lane and he replied that the estimator will contact us with a price for this.
- We received £390 in donations towards the finger post at Ryall – this was from a total of 15 donors, we also received a donation of £200 from Dr Beckers towards the finger post at Baker's Cross.
- The work on the swings at the play area in Whitchurch has been completed
- DAPTC have asked the following question by a North Dorset Clerk - [Does any Clerk have a rope swing on their patch or have one included in registered play equipment? The Clerk is co-ordinating information for the Parish Council concerning some 'ad hoc' arrangements for rope swings installed by local residents on land owned by the Parish Council. Needless to say the PC insurer's and registered play inspector are not thrilled at these recent installations for play over water! Is there a Parish Council out there that may have experience of this and advice for the council when dealing with this type of arrangement.](#) If you have any advice or guidance that you can give to this clerk, please can you email the DAPTC office and we will forward it on straight away. Also, please let us know if you are happy to be directly contacted by the Clerk?
- The first half of the precept was credited to our account on 28<sup>th</sup> April – the amount was £10,257.50 made up as follows approved precept of £10,202.00 and LCTS grant of £55.50
- I have E mailed Highways Dept with regard to the closure of Blunthays Lane and the signage stating that the road was impassable, I am awaiting his reply.
- Booking the three halls for the meetings in 2018 is well under way. Wootton Fitzpaine is booked, I have asked Cllr Peck to make the arrangements at Whitchurch Canonicorum and have written to Mrs Godfrey regarding James Hargreaves hall in Morcombelake

**3857: Report from Parish Council Meetings** – the three annual parish council meetings were held in Whitchurch Canonicorum on 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm with 12 members of the public and 4 councillors Hilary Joyce, Carolyn Peck, Sylvia Creed-Castle and Sue Johnson, at Wootton Fitzpaine on 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm with 18 members of public and 2 councillors Debby Snook and Kit Vaughan and at Stanton St Gabriel on 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

### Minutes from the meeting at Whitchurch Canonicorum

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Kit Vaughan, Cllr Chris Bailey, Una Christopher, Sue Barrance, Nicholas Dyson.
2. Hilary Joyce was elected as Chairman
3. Carolyn Peck was elected as Secretary.
4. Last year's minutes were accepted: proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Creed Castle.
5. Nothing was raised during the public discussion period.
6. Matters arising:
  - It was reported that the layout of the chamber had been altered but it had not resulted in any material increase in attendance by members of the public.
7. SFB: Cllr Joyce reported that the green box promised for a site near the Church in Whitchurch had been promised for December 2016 but had yet to appear. CVPC TO CHASE. There are still no plans to extend the service further into the Vale. The advice is to use 4G.
8. Cllr Joyce reported on the situation regarding the Church Path in Whitchurch. New plans are being drawn up by a local resident. A grant of £3000 has been received. Any work will require planning permission as it is in a conservation area.

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9. Cllr Peck read out the Clerk's report on the results of the recent residents' survey and confirmed that this report and the full results are available via the CVPC website. There was a question about the 5 year land bank, the County's shortfall and the review on the County's Local Plan that ensued. Mr Christopher clarified the situation. Mr Ziebland said that he did not feel a neighbourhood development plan was appropriate for the parish. Mr Christopher said that not having enough land set aside (4.9 years instead of 5) can encourage speculative planning applications that are difficult to refuse. Cllr Joyce read an overview of the neighbourhood planning process and its implications. Mr Smith sought clarification on some points of planning in relation to neighbourhood plans. CVPC TO RESEARCH AND ADVISE. Mr Christopher explained that there would be a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
10. Cllr Peck explained the necessity for the large rise in the precept.
11. It was explained that it seems a group of residents in Chideock have again raised the issue of a bypass for the village which would have a serious impact on Char Valley parish residents. There has been no consultation but a representative has been asked to come and talk to the Council. It appears that the initiative does not have the support of Chideock Parish Council. Mr Christopher confirmed that Oliver Letwin has declined to get involved unless a consensus emerges.
12. A group of interested individuals are promoting the idea of a National Park for Dorset. A speaker has been invited to address the parish council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May.
13. Dorset is moving towards becoming a unitary authority. The Secretary of State is due to rule imminently.
14. Cllr Peck spoke briefly about the finger post restoration project and expressed her thanks both for the work of volunteers and the generous donations received to date.

The meeting closed at 20.10

### Minutes from the meeting at Wootton Fitzpaine

1. **Apologies:** received from Ken and Faye Mansbridge and Peter and Anne Sharp
2. **Election of Chairman:** John Bradbury was willing to stand again and was unanimously elected. Nominated by Debby Snook and seconded by Frances King. He said that he felt that it was time for a change as he has been chairman for a number of years.
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** the minutes of the last meeting were agreed, proposed by Marion Brooks and seconded by Jackie Collis.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** none
5. **Report of the Activities of Char Valley Council 2016/2017:** Debby Snook, chair of Char Valley Parish Council gave the report. The report is attached to these minutes, but a brief summary is as follows: The CVPC is gradually becoming responsible for more maintenance in the parish, specifically for fingerposts and village signs, now that DCC no longer has the budget to carry out these works. A residents' survey took place in November 2016 to ascertain the parishioners' views on all aspects of the parish and in particular their views on development. This was to help CVPC to decide whether to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Development Plan. John West, our parish clerk, resigned in February due to other commitments, and Annette Marks was appointed, taking up duties in February 2017. The fingerpost project is going well; around half of the 21 posts in the CVPC area are either works in progress or have been completed. Verges will be cut once a year and a second cut will take place as necessary. Unitary status for the county will probably go ahead in 2019. There is concern that planning permission granted to small holdings will be detrimental to the AONB in our parish.
6. **Report of the Residents' Survey:** Debby Snook continued with the report on the residents' survey. A copy of this is attached to the minutes, but a brief summary is as follows: The difference between a neighbourhood plan and a parish plan was explained. The former is included in the WDDC local plan and has legal status. The latter is aspirational in content, covers wider issues, not just development, and has no legal status. John West, then Parish Clerk, wrote a summary of the answers received by the 20% of parishioners who replied to the residents' survey. Generally parishioners are satisfied or very satisfied with the area. Caution was expressed over any overload to present infrastructure which could be caused by development. 77% of respondents supported the WDDC local plan which limits new housing in the CVPC area to replacement buildings, sub division, rural (agricultural) workers housing, and affordable housing schemes on exception sites. This suggests that creating a NDP would be unlikely to have the support of the local community. Other opinions expressed concerned verges, road maintenance, drain clearance, pot holes and road safety. Ideas regarding a directory of local food and drink suppliers, farmers' markets in local village halls, an exhibition about farming, and a local walking map were expressed. Renewable energy

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information in the form of an exhibition at a local village hall was also considered as a possibility for the future. A second report was read out, written by Councillor Hilary Joyce, which further explained neighbourhood development plans, what they entailed and how the community is involved. These reports provoked discussion about the size of the large eco house being built at the bottom of Long Lane, which will be brought up at the next Parish Council meeting on 8 May. With regard to a neighbourhood development plan, the general feeling of the meeting was to leave things as they are, and therefore not to start preparing for a neighbourhood development plan.

7. **Report from the Trustees of the Playing Field Committee:** Jon Snook gave the report. The accounts stand at £462.92 and £1,995.94. A discussion took place regarding the insurance liability when the playing field is used by, for example, wedding parties who have booked the hall. Bill Taylor will pursue this with the Village Hall insurers, and Debby Snook will clarify the position with the Parish Council Insurance.
8. **Election of the Playing Field Trustees (as a sub committee of the Parish Council):** Jon Snook and John Bradbury are both willing to stand again. Elected en bloc, proposed by James Watson and seconded by Margaret Taylor.
9. **Report from Best Kept Village Committee:** Marion Brooks suggested that the 'Village Clear Up', in preparation for the judging of the Best Kept Village Competition, should take place on Sunday 30 April at 10.30. Helpers are to meet in the car park at the village hall. Debby Snook will arrange a poster for the notice board. The account now stands at £4,041.21.
10. **Village Hall Committee:** the report was read by John Bradbury in the absence of Peter Sharp, chairman of the village hall committee. There is to be no village fete this year and more helpers are needed if we decide to continue in future years.
11. **Wootton 2000 Group:** John Bradbury gave the report. He reported that there had not been much activity since the death of Guy Bryan and the Wootton 2000 Group needs someone to drive it. Holding another exhibition was debated, possibly February 2018. A meeting was proposed to be held during the summer, John and Sue Bradbury, Jon Snook, Katie Sawyer, Marion Brooks and John Tucker all expressed an interest in attending this. A date will be arranged. Debby Snook will contact Neil Mattingly, a local historian, to see if he could attend the meeting. Amy Ralph said that Thorncombe village had a similar group, and it would be worth checking out the website, Thorncombe Village Trust.
12. **Friends of St Paul's:** Sue Bradbury said that the church is not in the centre of the village and is virtually invisible, support is gradually diminishing which means it could be shut at some point in the future. The idea of Friends of St Paul's is to ask if donations can be given for the maintenance of the church as an historic building, of importance to the village. A small gift could be given on a yearly basis. There will be a joint lunch with Catherston Leweston as last year, to be held at the Manor in June at a cost of £15, proceeds of which will be split between Wootton and Catherston. A generous donation was made to kick start the fund but if a serious maintenance problem occurs, this could be disastrous for the future of the church.
13. **Village website:** after some discussion it was decided that a village Facebook page would be more appropriate and easier to manage than a website. Kate Sawyer will have a word with George, her son, about opening it.
14. **Residents' discussion:** the playing field insurance position was raised again. Bill Taylor will discuss with the village hall insurers and Debby Snook to discuss with the parish council insurers. Steve Sampson asked about a possibility of a defibrillator for the village. Debby Snook had checked with the British Heart Foundation regarding funding, but all funds had been spent at present.

### Minutes from Stanton St. Gabriel

The Stanton St Gabriel Morcombelake Parish Meeting  
James Hargreaves Community Hall 7.30pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
Chairperson - David Everidge elected unopposed  
Secretary - Chris Everidge elected unopposed

Minutes of 2016 meeting agreed; Cllr Mahaddie and 14 residents were welcomed to participate in the 2017 agenda

#### **1. Highways England / DCC Highways - A35 / Road Calming**

Update on Vearse Farm; roundabout preferred over traffic lights; aiming to complete in 2019; CVPC to be informed of access arrangements for construction vehicles

In the event of A35 closure Contingency Arrangements including Resilience Plan with alternative routes are being formalized involving Connect Balfour Devon and Dorset Police, Connect and HE

Highways England's 5 Year Collisions Investigation, Honiton to Bere Regis, ended in 2015; speed was not an identified issue; 30 areas of 'further interest' include Charmouth Roundabout, Chideock and Miles Cross.



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A Community Severance Grant is available for HE to make a study of hot spots related to pedestrian safety. The landslip to the east below Felicity's is shored up and monitored on a monthly basis; Designs were drawn up for another pedestrian crossing at Morcombelake; HE would assist with a car park for Morcombelake if a site were found

## 2. Planning

Concerns were logged over the increase in and type of building applications agreed; decisions are governed by the Local Plan; cited was good practice in 2001 when smaller houses were preferred to forestall imbalance – larger, more expensive properties would force locals out; rebuilds should not exceed the footprint they replace; for the current situation recommend use of dorsetforyou –

<http://webapps.westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk/PlanningApps/Pages/Search.aspx>;

Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site (Heritage Coast) (DCC) do not respond as a consultee - 'apparently' their responsibility is from the edge of the cliff out to sea; CVPC to clarify on the current relevance of 'viewed from Golden Cap' in planning; reports of breaches of Enforcement Orders now require photographic evidence, seen as an unreasonable request on PCs and public

## 3. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Hard copies of the Clerk's report on the results of the Residents' Survey and Councillor Joyce's overview were available for all attendees with access to the full compilation of the Residents' Survey 2016 and details of where the same could be found on CVPC's website. Cerne Abbas, Uploders, Uplyme were named as good examples for reference. No interest in a CVPC / Stanton/Morcombelake NDP was expressed nor were potential participants identified. Should the National Trust, with considerable presence in the area be expected to partake?

CVPC would remain open in the event of a group willing to initiate a NDP coming forward.

Strong support was voiced to preventing further development in Stanton / Morcombelake along with lack of confidence reiterated in the decisions being made by the planning department.

## 4. Chideock Bypass 'proposal'

Disappointment and frustration that this contentious topic had been disinterred. No-one in Morcombelake (or Symondsburry) were given the courtesy of either being pre-warned or involved in the move. CVPC as adjoining Parish would ask to be kept abreast of developments

## 5. The Case for the Dorset and East Devon National Park

Insight to the maps and proposals were given, more to follow with a talk from Sandra Brown on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com>

## 6. Superfast Broadband

Some improvement was acknowledged; many households and businesses remain disadvantaged, considerable upgrading was still required to ensure that a reasonable speed was available across the board

## 7. Char Valley Parish Council - vacancies, effective communication

Interest was expressed alongside acute awareness of increasing delegations being metered out by County and District in response to significant cuts in funding. Trepidation of new roles and responsibilities.

## 8. Any other topics raised by attendees

Bonfires, times, direction, types of smoke continue as problems. Is there a byelaw that could be instrumental in curbing contributory factors adversely affecting health and hygiene?

The meeting closed at 8.28

**3858: Neighbourhood Plan:** we do not consider pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan at this time but if circumstances change in the future then we may revisit – the decision was unanimous.

**3859: Stoke Mill Lane:** Stoke Mill Lane stretches from Paddocks Cross on the Shave Cross to Dottery road to Purcombe Farm (part of Denhay Farm), Whitchurch Canonorum. The following report was written by Cllr Creed-Castle:

As you know a letter was sent on 24 March 2017 to all 9 landowners who have hedges along Stoke Mill Lane. Five landowners have responded. George Streatfeild has requested a map showing the landownership. Anthea Bay and Cllr Creed-Castle have researched this and the findings will be duly sent to Mr Streatfeild shortly.

This report is in response to a letter sent from Anthea Bay some months ago.

In the 1930s this lane was suitable for a motor car and a thrashing machine to travel on. It has seen very little maintenance since then from the District Council.

There have been several site visits over the past few years to assess the situation, the last one being last weekend when Anthea and I walked up the lane towards Purcombe. It was obvious that the ruts seen 18 months ago have got much worse, as mentioned in paragraph 3 of the letter.

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The stream running down the left hand side of the Lane as Purcombe is approached should flow all the way down to a drain which then enables the water to then flow under the lane and eventually into the River Char. Unfortunately in at least two instances the bank on this side between the stream and the lane has been breached allowing water onto the lane and to gouge out large holes. Off roader vehicles has made the situation worst. At the point where the water should join a drain into one of the adjoining fields the bank has been breached again because the drain is blocked.

There is a stream on the other side of the lane and this has been damaged because of off roader vehicles and in some cases tractors, thus exacerbating the situation.

As mentioned in Anthea's letter Stoke Mill Lane is part of the Monarch's Way and is used frequently by visitors and walking holiday makers. It is also used regularly by local horse riders.

The only way to get the lane back into good working order is to clear the blocked drain near Stoke Mill Lane and to repair the breaches to the bank between the stream and lane, on both sides. It will then be necessary to put hard core in all the holes, with a covering of road planings.\*\*

It is also important to establish the classification of the lane and what sort of vehicle is allowed to use it. (Debby Snook is looking into this)

Who would pay for the labour? Would the WDDC supply us with hard core?

Does CVPC want to me look into pricing the labour and hire of a digger?

\*\* At a site meeting Anthea and I had with Alaric Little some time ago he stated that he would be willing to supply some road planings for the lane, if the CVPC distributed them.

In all probability two of the owners have done nothing with their hedges for some years, if at all. It has been mentioned that some clearance of one of these particular hedges has been done by a local riding stable to allow their horses safer access and travelling on the lane.

A Char Valley councillor agreed to contact someone about the Monarch's Way.

**3860: Contributions to BLAP:** this is being carried forward to the next meeting

**3861: Signs for Taylor's Lane:** this was covered in the Clerk earlier in the meeting

**3862: Conservation area / unitary council:** this is being carried forward to the next meeting

**3863: Char Chat:** the last one was in June 2016, Cllr Snook will contact Ivan and pool some ideas by E mail

**3864: Items for next agenda:** Fingerposts, verges, Char Chat, contribution to BLAP – devolution of responsibilities, National Parks

**3865: Date of next meeting:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Wootton Fitzpaine village hall

**3866: Any matters of urgency:** None were raised.

**3867: Closure of Meeting:** The meeting was closed at 10.07pm.