

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2019 AT WOOTTON FITZPANE VILLAGE HALL.

4297: Present: Cllrs. H.Joyce, C.Everidge, C.Bailey, D.Snook, C.Peck, S.Johnson, J.Eager, S Creed-Castle, A.Marks (clerk), Cllr, S.Christopher,

4298: Apologies for absence: Cllr. K Vaughan, R Colby, C Sage, C Mahaddie

4299: Public Discussion Period: Nothing

4300: Declaration of Interest: None

4301: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2019: proposed by Cllr. Bailey and seconded by Cllr. Snook and agreed unanimously.

4302: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:

- a. This month the clerk has been very involved in sending out the nomination forms to the councillors – the instructions and weblink sent by WDDC were almost useless and the original link was to the nomination forms for the town councillors. The clerk finally found the correct forms and these were passed onto the 10 councillors who were standing again. The clerk then took the forms to Dorset Council on 2nd April eight of which were approved and two rejected – these two forms were corrected and taken back the following day. The results are that Wootton Fitzpaine and Whitchurch Canonorum North are uncontested, whereas there will have to be elections in Stanton St Gabriel and Whitchurch Canonorum South. Two extra candidates have put their names forward to stand giving a total of 12 for Char Valley our required number. To save the expense of elections the clerk contacted the electoral office at Dorchester to find out whether two could be co-opted and added to the number of councillors for Wootton Fitzpaine where there is a shortage but was advised that an election needs to take place.
- b. The clerk attending the annual DAPTC conference at Kingston Maurward House on 26th March together with Cllr. Snook who has written a report on the conference.
- c. The clerk attended a meeting of BLAP with Cllr.Everidge on 28th March, the main topic was the problems that all the parishes are experiencing with the completion of the nomination forms.
- d. At the request of Cllr. Snook the clerk contacted the council regarding whose responsibility it is to keep the road signs, village signs and finger posts clean. She was advised that this is the responsibility of the parishes as the council did not have funding for this. It was suggested that this could be undertaken by the lengthsman and the council would provide the necessary safety equipment. The clerk has contacted Stephen Lee to find out whether he can take this on and is still waiting to hear from him.
- e. Cllr. Snook asked the clerk to find whose responsibility it is to clean the bus shelters along A35, this road belongs to Highways England. The clerk contacted Highways and was advised that the local bus companies should clean the bus shelters.
- f. The clerk together with Cllr. Snook and Cllr. Creed-Castle put the Char Chats and Countryside Codes into envelopes ready for posting.
- g. The clerk contacted Highways England to ask them to remove the graffiti from the A35 near the Lyme Regis turning, she has been contacted by Balfour Beatty confirming that the lettering will be removed as soon as possible

4303: Reports

West Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group – Cllr Everidge is to ask at the next WATAG meeting whose responsibility it is for cleaning the bus shelters

Bridport Local Area Partnership – see clerk's comment above

Dorset Association of Parish and Town Clerks; - On 26 March, the clerk and Cllr Snook attended the annual DAPTC Conference at Kingston Maurward. Matt Prosser, the CEO designate of the Dorset Council was the first speaker. About 2/3rds of the council budget is spent on the 442 children in the care system and 4700 adults with social care needs. The controllable budget is £295 million, made up of council tax and retained business rates. Budgets where extra money has been given this year are:- care of children, foster carers, rubbish and cleaning services, vulnerable adults, and the homeless. Local plans have been transferred to Dorset Council and a new local plan should be forthcoming over a 4 to 5 year period. Planning is split into 3 areas. Material planning consideration is needed for an application to go to committee.

The 2 next speakers were from the NHS who spoke about current changes that were in progress.

The fourth speaker was Cllr Jon Cousins from Glastonbury Town Council. He held the audience in the palm of his hand whilst entertaining us with stories of how Glastonbury funded its own PCSO, tried to put a stop to the last bank closing, and inspired the Nationwide Building Society to create a community liaison officer in Glastonbury which has been so successful that it will be copied in other locations. If you Google "Last Bank Standing Glastonbury" you will see how very hard the community worked to stop the last bank closing (in a very unusual way) with a hilarious video called "Crazy Horse".

The final speaker was no less inspiring. Martin Horton, an expert on managing change, gave us intriguing insights into the concept of "thinking outside the box". "It is amazing what you can achieve if you don't mind who gets the praise". "Set out not to fail" is not the same as "Set out to succeed". "The time for collaboration and partnership is now". His analysis of the relationship between our former 3 councils was summed up as that of "Master and servant". This is a relationship model doomed to failure and should be replaced by one of equality in that we are all doing the same job, ie serving the public.

His final advice on how we should begin our relationship with the new Dorset Council was enlightening. We (Town and Parish Councils) should all love the new council to bits! We should go out of our way to be helpful and useful, co-operative and welcoming.

Perhaps we should try it and see what happens.

Verges: - Cllr. Peck advised the meeting that the wild flowers were being dug up on the verge by Eype Down.

Cllr. K Vaughan

1. I have tried several methods to contact the EA but have had a very poor response so will keep trying and get somebody responsive to support the data needed to review the wellbeing of the Char.
2. I have received some data on the water quality of the Char and from a very basic analysis there are some large peaks in fecal matter (shit in shorthand) and sediment and nutrients especially around peak flooding and rainfall- unsurprisingly but without a proper baseline and analysis its hard to draw any conclusions so we need more input from the EA.
3. I have also been in touch with Nick Gray and Ian Rees of DWT and AONB respectively - they are keen to support but have limited capacity at this stage - but they did say they could attend a meeting and share inputs and experiences from their management of the Askers project where they are working with landowners and homeowners to improve the river quality

4. SO I suggest I report at the meeting in May and provide a short summary before then.

Cllr. C Peck

Cllr Peck referred to the graffiti on the A35 which it is assumed appeared in response our MP's efforts in Parliament to break the deadlock in the Brexit negotiations. Cllr Peck did not wish to be associated such sentiments and reminded the meeting that 49% (not 46%) of those who voted in West Dorset in the 2016 referendum voted to remain in the EU. Cllr Peck wished to express her support for Mr Letwin for his interventions

She requested that the meeting agendas can be sent out to the councillors at least 10 days before the meetings take place.

Cllr. D Snook

Cllr. Snook advised the meeting that she had spoken to Alex Brooks who said that he hoped to have The White Gates completed by the week beginning 22 April, he also advised that three finger posts should be finished at roughly the same time.

Cllr. Snook told the meeting that the owners of Hogchester Farm are applying for a lottery heritage grant for a nature reserve and would like a letter from the local parish council supporting his application. As a parish council we are unable to support his application and he would need to make an application for change of use from agriculture to a nature reserve. He could approach the countryside steward scheme.

Cllr. S Johnson

Cllr. Johnson advised the meeting that she had spoken to the Environment Agency who had checked everything on her farm and had confirmed that everything was fine. They said that there is one problem affecting the village but apart from this everything is fine and in fact had improved.

Cllr. Everidge

Following the query raised by Sal Robinson regarding the problems a dog walker had getting herself and her dog over the stile, this is the answer that was received. Apparently, as a courtesy gesture, the stile was installed 'by request' so that walkers could access Felicity's'. The stile has been in place for over a year and this is the first feedback. Due to the cost already incurred there are no plans to either modify or provide a new stile.

4304: County and District Council Reports: - None

4305: Planning applications

- **Responses submitted to WDDC before April's meeting –**
- WD/D/19/000167 QUARRY GATE, LOVES LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT,DT6 6DZ Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and various out-buildings and erect new dwelling and garage (with storage/studio above) - CVPC object to the height and visual bulk of the house and garage and the encroachment on the local environment
- WD/D/19/000315 HAZYVIEW, RYALL ROAD, RYALL, BRIDPORT, DT6 6EG Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling – this has also been sent to Chideock parish council - As the plans in their current form do not adequately substantiate the aspirations voiced by the owners CVPC recommends refusal
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- **Responses to be considered at April's meeting:**
- WD/D/19/000519 5 CARTERS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, DT6 6SF. Demolish existing flat roofed sun room and erect single storey pitched roof extension. Carry out alterations including installation of flue for new wood burner
- WD/D/19/000625 LITTLE OAK FARM, CHAMPERNHAYES LANE, WOOTTON FITZPAINE, BRIDPORT, DT6 6DF: Erect extensions to barn (part retrospective) – No comment
- WD/D/19/000482 BELLAIR HOUSE, BERNE LANE, CHARMOUTH Request for confirmation of compliance with Condition Nos. 3, 4 and 5 of Listed Building Consent No. WD/D/18/001691
- WD/D/19/000488 BELLAIR HOUSE, BERNE LANE, CHARMOUTH Request for confirmation of compliance with Condition Nos. 3, 4 and 5 of planning Permission No. WD/D/18/001453
The two planning applications relating to Bellair House are just to advise the council that the items originally approved have only been partially complied with to date
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- **West Dorset District Council Decisions (to note):** none
- **Appeal decision:** waiting to hear the result of the Champernhayes appeal which took place on 3rd April
- **Enforcement:** none to consider

4306: Finance:

PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2019

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500246	0419/1	£453.83
HMRC	PAYE for April	500247	0419/2	£88.00
S Lee	Lengthman's services for March	500248	0419/3	£592.80
Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	Hall hire for 4 meetings	500249	0419/4	£80.00
Creeds	Printing Char Chat	500250	0419/5	£525.00
Dorset Council	Signage for Taylors Lane	500251	0419/6	£548.40
Annette Marks	Stamps for Char Chat	500252	0419/7	£167.75
Total				£2,455.78

4307: Report from Countryside Working Party

- Cllr Joyce reported that copies of the Countryside Code are being sent out with Char Chat, this includes an article on dogs mauling sheep

4308: S106 update

- Cllr Mahaddie is in contact with Highways England's Strategic Network Manager and will give an update on the proposed bus shelter for Morcombelake at May's meeting.

Action: Cllr. Mahaddie

4309: A35 volunteer group update

- The diversion group have gone straight to Sir Oliver Letwin, they are due to meet on Friday

4310: 2019 Parish Council elections

- Following the lack of information received from the electoral department at Dorset Council, CVPC propose to write a letter of complaint after our meeting in May.
- Both Cllr. Colby and Cllr. Snook are standing down as councillors

4311: National Park updates

- A public meeting was held at Lyme Regis –we will try to obtain information on the outcome of the National Park meeting we will try to obtain information on the outcome.

Action – the clerk

4312: Cleaning of village signposts

- Dorset Council have advised that cleaning the village signs and fingerposts is now the responsibility of the parish councils. Dorset Council are able to provide the necessary clothing if we approach the lengthsman to undertake this role.

- **Action: the clerk**

4313: Repairs to notice boards

- The clerk will contact the lengthsman regarding repairing the notice boards owned by CVPC as some are in a poor state of repair

- **Action – the clerk**

4314: Date of next meeting: 13th May 2019 at James Hargreaves Community Hall (AGM)

4315: Any other business:

- Cllr. Joyce thanked Cllr. Snook for all her hard work over the years and wished her good luck for the future

4316: Close of meeting – meeting closed at 9.00