

MINUTES CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 18TH
NOVEMBER 2019 AT WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL.

4447: Present: Cllrs. H. Joyce, C. Bailey, C. Mahaddie, C. Peck, S. Creed-Castle, C. Noon, A. Carey, T. Hansford, S. Johnson, K. Vaughan, A. Marks (clerk),

4448: Apologies for absence: Cllr. J. Eager

4449: Public Discussion Period: a) asbestos: Mr Farmer reported that there is not much asbestos visible any more in the piles of rubble mentioned previously, but the continuation of Prime Lane to Mutton Street is now blocked with 6 new piles of rubble. He has reported these and the Rights of Way officer (James Stagg) visited today (i.e. Monday). There may be some asbestos in the piles. Mr Farmer felt that the matter was in hand and there was nothing further for CVPC to do at this stage.

b) protected verges. Mr Farmer also talked to James Stagg about the cutting of protected verges. JS will investigate and report back.

c) Mr Farmer has talked to Cllr Christopher about flooding (rest of this conversation deferred to Item 6)

4450: Declaration of Interest: None

4451: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2019 and 14th October 2019: Motion to approve the minutes for September was proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Noon approved unanimously apart from Cllr. Bailey who abstained. A motion to approve the minutes for October was proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle, seconded by Cllr. Bailey and agreed unanimously apart from Cllr. Johnson who abstained.

4452: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:

1. The clerk attended a meeting together with other members of the communications group at Cllr. Joyce's home to discuss further issues of Char Chat and the possibility of issuing a joint newsletter with Upper Marshwood Vale parish council. Cllr. Joyce has written the minutes from the meeting.
2. The clerk contacted the Planning Dept. at Dorset Council regarding an item raised by the owners of Hideaway Campsite who attended the meeting in October. They wished to have signs erected in Whitchurch directing holidaymakers to their camp site. Dorset Council advised them that they should contact the parish council for approval, which CVPC does not believe is within its remit. The clerk has contacted Dorset Council twice but is yet to receive a reply.
3. The clerk met with Cllr. Joyce and Cllr. Creed-Castle to discuss future distribution of Char Chat. It was agreed that the resident's name should be added to the address labels instead of 'The Occupier'; it was also agreed that any issues that are hand delivered must be delivered within a week of publication otherwise they will be sent by Royal Mail.
4. The clerk received a phone call from the owner of Dodpen Farm asking if anything could be done about the contractors working for the Forestry Commission, who are felling trees in Charmouth Forest and surrounding areas. They report that their vehicles are ruining the verges and ditches. The caller had spoken to the contractors without success. The clerk contacted the Forestry Commission and has received an acknowledgement but nothing else. The clerk spoke to the farmer again this week to ask if the situation had changed and he said that it had not and if anything was worse due to the amount of rain over the last couple of weeks. The clerk emailed Cllr. Hansford asking for her assistance and she has kindly reported this to Dorset Council so hopefully the roads will be reinstated to their original condition once the felling is completed.
5. The clerk received an email from Cllr. Vaughan regarding the state of the drains from the end of Prime Lane to Cardsmill Farm. The clerk passed the information on to Stephen Lee on 6th November asking him to deal with the matter urgently. On 12th November, Cllr. Creed-Castle asked him to carry out the work. Cllr Vaughan also spoke with him about the matter. By the date of the meeting the work had still not been done.
6. Following the meeting in October the clerk has sent the annual donations to the recipients. The clerk has received 3 acknowledgements thanking the parish council.
7. The clerk has contacted Dorset Council regarding the S106 monies, asking for these to be carried forward to the next financial year. The clerk has received a reply from Andrew Galpin at Dorset Council thanking her for advising the council where the Parish Council are with the award and we will be contacted soon asking what we want to do in future. In the meantime, the clerk will claim back the amount paid out to Whitchurch pre-school.
8. As we are going to be increasing the number of newsletters we send out each year, thereby increasing our postage costs, the clerk looked into the possibility of franking our mail. The clerk contacted two companies: one quoted a monthly rental charge of £4.99 for a 12-month contract and the other £10 per month. With both companies, the postal cost of each second-class letter is reduced from 61 pence to 41 pence. The clerk will go into Bridport post office over the weekend to find out what deal they can offer.

4453: Reports

- **PCSO** – there were no reports from the local police.
- **Western Area Traffic Advisory Group (WATAG)** – No meeting in October
- **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councillors** – Nothing to report
- **War memorials** – nothing to report
- **Trees and hedges** – nothing to report
- **Verges:** these are being assessed by Dorset Council
- **BLAP:** Cllrs. Joyce and Mahaddie attended a parish liaison meeting on 23rd October. Minutes have been circulated.
- **Councillors' reports**
- **Cllr. Eager** – nothing to report
- **Cllr. Peck** – nothing to report

- **Cllr. Noon** - As agreed in response to item 4432 of October's minutes, Cllr Noon presented a draft of what a joint publication with Upper Marshwood Vale parish Council might look like.

This was based on the last release of both their newsletter and our Char Chat News. If every article was included, it would run to 12-20 pages - a substantial, and hopefully informative, read for our joint residents and their visitors, and potentially a welcome source of news from our respective PCs - but costly to produce and distribute.

He said that things for future consideration would include editorial independence, scope for independent input from local interest groups (including scouts/guides/village halls, art groups, sports, walkers, societies, etc), local businesses (farmers, holiday sites, shops, pubs, etc), notes from, say, Dorset council (and East Devon?) National Trust, the role of any adverts or sponsors to cover costs, a Community Interest group to run it independently, etc.

He added that we are not looking to overcrowd the newsletter so as to lose our PC input, nor to compete with local magazines which do generally provide more 'Advertorial' articles, but would be looking for short but factual public interest. Other councillors might, of course, have very different views.

- **Cllr. Mahaddie:** On 20th October, Cllr. Mahaddie drafted a letter asking Royal Mail to reconsider their decision not to replace the letterbox at the old Morcombelake post office and Cllr. Joyce sent it by post to the Collections manager of Royal Mail in Plymouth (with a map) shortly after. So far there has been no response.
- **Cllr. Johnson:** The road between Cardsmill Farm and Prime Lane has had a lot of floods recently and the water is washing away the banks so that soil blocks the drains. The work the Dorset Council did back in the summer to fill in the ditches between the lane and the hedge has all been washed away causing more problems further down the road. Cllr. Johnson has cleared the drains today, but they will be blocked again in a few days due to the mud, leaves, small branches and debris on the road. The clerk has reported this to the lengthsman.
- **Cllr. Hansford;** Cllr. Hansford raised problems with a location in Wootton Fitzpaine that floods. The parish council then agreed to write to Dorset Council highways to flag up for them to resolve.
 - **Action: Cllr. Hansford**
- **Cllr. Carey:** nothing to report

4454: Dorset Council Reports: -

- Cllr. Christopher advised the meeting that part of the cabinet report for the council set out the overspend of the council caused by budgeting for nearly 500 children in care, the overspend is estimated to be £8.5 million. The council has both investments and borrowings. In 2014 the council borrowed £25 million from Shell Petroleum. Cllr. Christopher attended an open day for county farm estates. Three large applications have been passed through planning – the Methodist church in Weymouth will be converted into 25 apartments, another 3 blocks of apartments will be built in Weymouth and 58 houses will be built in Broadwindsor Road in

Beamminster opposite Bugler's depot, twenty of which will be affordable housing. The Bridport Care Hub is progressing, and the Vearse Farm application has been called in for judicial review.

4455: Planning applications

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before November's meeting –**
- WD/D/19/001952 BRACKEN, FISHPOND BOTTOM ROAD, FISHPOND, BRIDPORT DT6 6NN Demolish garage and shed and erect 1 no. dwelling – CVPC have no objection to this planning application
- **Responses considered at November's meeting**
- WD/D/19/002265 2 BRADPOLES, SHEDBUSH LANE, MORCOMBELAKE DT6 6DR Replace flat roof with pitched roof to include enclosed balcony
- **Enforcement:** none to consider

4456: Finance:

- The following were approved for payment - proposed by Cllr. Peck and seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle passed unanimously.

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- **Payments for October**

| Payee | Details | Cheque no. | Receipt no. | Amount |
|-----------------------|---|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Annette Marks | Clerk's salary | 500299 | 1119/1 | £384.59 |
| HMRC | PAYE October | 500300 | 1119/2 | £88.00 |
| S Lee Garden Services | Lengthman's services for October | 500301 | 1119/3 | £1,185.60 |
| Came & Co. | Annual insurance | 500301 | 1119/4 | £863.60 |
| Dorset Council | Use of Whitchurch village hall for 2016 council elections | 500302 | 1119/5 | £341.37 |
| Dorset Council | Use of James Hargreaves village hall for 2016 council elections | 500303 | 1119/6 | £246.85 |
| | | | | £3,109.51 |

- The clerk will contact the members of the Finance committee to arrange a meeting in December/January to set the precept for the financial year 2020/2021

Action: the clerk

4457: Rental of franking machine

- The clerk has been looking into the possibility of hiring a franking machine as the 2nd class postage costs are 20 pence cheaper than buying stamps. The cost of hiring a machine is between £5.00 and £10.00 a month. It was decided that the clerk would discuss this further when she attends the finance training session at the end of November.

Action: The clerk

4458: CVPC communications / mailing list

- The councillors are interested in using another firm to set up our website and should send any feedback to Cllr. Noon (please see his comments under item 4453). The Communications working party for Char Valley will be made up of Cllrs. Peck, Carey, Mahaddie, Noon, Creed-Castle and the clerk. Cllr. Bailey argued that only factual information from objective sources should be reported in the newsletter and that items should not be taken from the media. A motion that the Working Party should set out possible costs, format and contents for the website and newsletter to be presented to CVPC at its January meeting was proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Noon and agreed unanimously.

4459: Morcombelake post box

- Cllr. Mahaddie has drafted a letter which has been sent out by Cllr. Joyce. The clerk is to chase if no reply is received by early January

Action: The clerk

4460: Whitchurch telephone kiosk

- The clerk has advised Dorset Council that Char Valley Parish Council do not want the telephone kiosk outside Whitchurch village hall to be removed.

4461: S106 progress

- As the bus shelter in Morcombelake has fallen by the wayside, it was suggested that we could use these monies to erect a substantial shutter between the hall and kitchen area at the James Hargreaves community hall. The cost will be about £1,000. They also require a fridge freezer. The acoustic panels for the ceiling for Whitchurch village hall were ordered in October. We need to approach David Saltmarsh in Wootton Fitzpaine or Nick Shannon in Chideock to obtain a quote for making a bench.

Action: Cllrs. Peck and the clerk

4462: DAPTC advice on contents of noticeboards

- Following an item of a political nature being displayed on one of our noticeboards, the clerk contacted DAPTC for advice on what items can be displayed on our noticeboards. The advice that she received was that if CVPC own the noticeboards then we decide what can be displayed on the notice boards. It was agreed by the councillors that no items of a political or sensitive nature will be displayed.
- Some of our noticeboards are in a poor state of repair. The chairman and the clerk are going to visit all the noticeboards in the new year to check their condition. In the meantime, the clerk will look at the cost to replace the noticeboards.

Action: the clerk

4463: Dorset Council Workshop meeting

- Cllr. Joyce attended this workshop at Bridport Town Hall. The talk was about how Dorset Council could work with the parish and town councils, and what improvements could be made. There was a facilitator for each discussion group. It was agreed that there was a lack of communication between Dorset Council and the parishes and towns and also there is insufficient consultation.

4464: Dorset Council's plan

Councillors were generally unimpressed by the plan. They felt that it was a list of obvious aspirations rather than a plan for action.

4465: DC draft local plan

- Cllr. Joyce has read through the plan but cannot find much difference from the plan drawn up in 2003. The meeting again discussed the merits of having a Neighbourhood plan, which must allow for development and must be initiated by the community. There had previously been a lack of interest from the residents of Char Valley. Cllr. Vaughan would like to get the opinion of a parish with a neighbourhood plan to give us their feedback and whether it is effective. Cllr. Joyce will write to Charmouth and Uplyme parish councils to ask if they will talk to CVPC about their experience of having a Local Plan.

4466: Dorset Council owned farms

- Cllr. Hansford said that the Council Farms Estate is an invaluable asset that should be retained and developed. Dorset has a strong farming/agricultural community and county farms should provide an opportunity for people of all ages to establish and maintain their farming career. they should provide "starter farms" and an educational/training resource for student farmers - develop links with agricultural colleges eg kingston maurwood. They should demonstrate the breadth of farming methods, for example latest technologies, organic, specialist etc, show case best practice with regards to social/environmental and economic benefits eg food production, diversification, visitor accommodation, management of public rights of way, green infrastructure and habitat value, school visits and open days etc Collectively the asset should be considered for its potential "wilderness" farming value - ecological value - connectivity as provision of green corridors. Accommodation on the farms of other businesses with or without links to agriculture should be explored eg local food companies, artist/craft people, any businesses - to generate other income for the farm but also "build" local community/economy/employment/sustainability opportunities. This applies to small holdings as well as larger farms. Cllr. Hansford offered to write a response for the clerk to send to Dorset Council.

Action: Cllr. Hansford

4467: Meeting with AONB and Dorset Wildlife re River Char environment / water quality

The River Char Working Party presented a report on a meeting with Ian Rees from Dorset AONB and Nick Gray from Dorset Wildlife Trust to discuss a scheme to consider how we might improve the water quality of the River Char and address quality concerns along the whole length of the river. It also outlined the initial Terms of Reference for a short snapshot study to understand the health and wellbeing of the River Char and to assess the key opportunities and constraints for its future management.

A proposal was made for Cllr Vaughan (with support from Cllr Hansford) to apply for funding from Dorset AONB's Sustainable Development Fund to conduct a snapshot study of the River Char and prepare a short report on its status. Since SDF only funds up to 75% of costs, it was further proposed that CVPC agree to supply up to £450 of the costs of any scheme that the SDF agreed to fund. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the councillors.

4468: Tree planting

- Cllr. Hansford said that care should be taken to avoid a reactive response with regards to addressing climate change by tree planting. Whilst she endorses this activity it is only one of many environmental enhancements that should be taken, warning that it is important to ensure that any tree planting is the right quantity, the right species and in the right place. Cllr Hansford highlighted that - characteristic of the vale - that isolated tree planting in fields, future proofing and planting trees that will become veteran trees in the future and management, repair and establishment of hedgerows are equally as important as establishing new woodlands. Cllr Hansford also highlighted the importance of maintaining and expanding our other habitats and ensuring a variety of good habitat that can be equally good carbon sinks and essential for supporting a diverse flora and fauna. Cllr. Noon had spoken to Ian Rees from AONB who said that Dorset has adequate tree coverage but what is required are meadows – new guidance is being prepared on what to plant and where to plant it. Chris Gibbard of the AONB can tell us about the various schemes available. It was proposed that CVPC postpone until 2020 its plan to plant trees in the parish and it was further proposed to write an article in Char Chat inviting residents to for their views on tree planting, and to come forward with offers of land where trees could be planted

4443: Date of next meeting: 13th January 2020 at James Hargreaves community hall

4444: Any other business: Cllr. Joyce will write to Clive Sage thanking him for his hard work over the years.

4445: Items for next agenda

- Climate committee, A35 update, Countryside working party, budget and precept for 2020/21, S106 monies

4446: Close of meeting – meeting closed at 9.50pm