

MINUTES CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
FOUR HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 14TH
OCTOBER 2019 AT WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM VILLAGE HALL.

4422: Present: Cllrs. H. Joyce, J Eager., C. Bailey, C Sage, C Mahaddie, C. Peck, S Creed-Castle, C Noon, A Carey, T. Hansford A. Marks (clerk),

4423: Apologies for absence: Cllrs. S. Johnson, K. Vaughan

4424: Public Discussion Period: The owners of Hideaway Campsite came to the meeting to ask the parish council if they could erect a sign giving directions to their campsite as they had approached Dorset Council who told them that the parish councils undertake this type of work. Cllr. Joyce said that she was not aware of this but would contact the council for further information. Another resident came to discuss the asbestos problem between Prime Lane and Babers Farm. He had contacted the environmental health team but had received no response. The owner of the land on which the asbestos is located has advised Mr Farmer that once in the soil the asbestos becomes inert and does not pose a hazard unless it is drunk or put on the skin. The land owner is a councillor with Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council and has said he will keep Mr Farmer updated. Cllr. Peck will pursue the matter and keep Mr Farmer and the clerk updated. Cllr. Joyce will call the landowner for further information.

4425: Declaration of Interest: None

4426: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2019:

Unfortunately, the councillors had not received the final version of the September minutes and were therefore unable to propose or second them. This will be done at November's meeting

4427: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:

1. At the meeting in September Cllr. Sage pointed out that the venues for the parish council meetings in October and November 2019 were incorrect in the parish council brochure. The clerk checked with the information that she had sent to the printers Footprints and found that the printers had made a mistake. Footprints offered to reprint the leaflets free of charge to the parish council, however as a couple of additions need to be made to the leaflets it was decided that we would take up their offer at a later date.
2. Cllr. Noon, Cllr. Creed-Castle and the clerk spent time putting the newsletter into envelopes, then adding the labels and stamps to the envelopes – the cost for printing and sending out 500 newsletters is as follows

Printing costs, envelopes and stamps £505.00
3. There was an item in the newsletter to provide a link to enable the recipient to receive future newsletters electronically, unfortunately this link did not work so the clerk did not receive any requests, apart from one, to send future newsletters electronically thereby cutting down costs. The one request that she did receive was an email from a recipient advising that she unable to access the link.
4. As requested by Cllr. Sage the clerk has contacted East Devon council regarding the rubbish including asbestos that has been dumped on the lay-by on the B3165. East Devon council have replied advising that this road does not belong to them. The clerk has contacted Dorset Council.
5. The clerk has contacted the insurance company Came & Company following advising the councillors and has renewed the insurance with Inspire for the next 12 months, the cost is £863.10. During the next 12 months it is essential that we revalue all our assets, and also look at the state of repair of the benches and notice boards. The clerk has found the name of a stonemason who could provide us with an up to date valuation of the war memorials.
6. The clerk attended the clerk's seminar at Kingston Maurward House on 27th September, where there were representatives from Came & Co., planning at Dorset Council and footpaths at Dorset Council.
7. Chris Everidge has now signed the bank forms removing her as a signatory on the account, the clerk has photocopied the forms and forwarded the originals to the bank. We will continue asking Cllrs. Johnson, Creed-Castle and Joyce to sign on the account until we receive authorisation from the bank. At the finance meeting in November we shall discuss opening a savings account and transferring money from the current account to the savings account.
8. The clerk has contacted Dorset Council planning regarding planning application number WD/D/19/001808 to query why this application had a zero rating for CIL even though the application included new building space.
9. The clerk has contacted the leader of the 1st Charmouth Guides advising her that the parish council had agreed to donate the sum of £250 and that the cheque would be sent following our meeting in October. The clerk asked her to keep that parish council updated as to how the money was spent.
10. Cllr. Eager has provided the clerk with a list of members of the Hardown Society who would like to receive their copies of Char Chat electronically.
11. The clerk has contacted Dorset Council regarding the hedge cutting in Morcombelake which was done without the resident's consent, she is still waiting to receive a reply.

4428: Reports

- **PCSO** – there were no reports from the local police.
- **Western Area Traffic Advisory Group (WATAG)** Cllr. Joyce and Cllr. Noon attended the WATAG meeting held on 26th Sept 2019 in Bridport.
- This meeting was surprisingly well attended – probably the result of the Extinction Rebellion meeting focused on the bus services which was held in Bridport the previous Saturday morning and was addressed by Bob Driscoll Chair of WATAG.
- There was no representation from Dorset Travel, the Dorset Authority organisation for running public transport services. However, a brief written update had been submitted which suggested that Dorset Travel would be unable to take any actions on current services as they are waiting for the “Executive Advisory Panel for Public Transport” to be put in place. Apparently, this will probably take many months.
- No change on the Bridport – Yeovil corridor services.
- Bus Operator news: Major disruptions caused by the new winter timetable for X51/X53. Several people reported that they are now at risk of losing their jobs because the bus service no longer connects with train services that enable travel from Bridport to either Exeter or Weymouth in time to start work at 9am or finish work after 5pm.
- The X51/X53 winter timetable has no service on Sundays but a private sponsor has paid £20,000 for a partial service to run on Sundays until Dec 22nd.
- On all bus routes, it is possible to pay to travel on the school buses run by the commercial operators.
- Community bus services run by Beaminster (the CB3 Saturday service) and Bridport (the ‘7’ service in and around Bridport) have proved successful
- **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councillors** – Nothing to report
- **War memorials** – nothing to report
- **Trees and hedges** – nothing to report
- **Verges:** see comments under item 4437
- **Councillors’ reports**
- **Cllr. Eager**
 - 1. Cutting of the hedge at the back of Random Lodge in Morcombelake. - As discussed briefly in our last meeting, the owners of the property had been monitoring and controlling the formation of the hedge/verge themselves cultivating attractive new growth. In August the hedge was drastically cut, without any warning to the owners, resulting in an ugly hedgerow. The two issues here that we need to be aware of are that the owners were not given any warning of the cutting and that it was very unsympathetically done. The owners have followed it up with Dorset council and are currently in correspondence with them. Is there anything more that we can do?
 - 2. Bank excavation on Ship Knapp - In May we were informed by local residents about the excavation of the road bank near the top of Ship Knapp, Cllr. Mahaddie informed the enforcement officer and he attended to speak to the owner of the house involved. The resident who first brought the issue to our attention has since been aggressively verbally abused by the house owner.
- **Cllr. Peck**
 - Cllr. Peck met Chris Peat, the Council’s Footpaths’ Officer. She is of the opinion that landowners are not always fully aware of their responsibilities and Dorset Council does not always fulfil theirs in regard to the maintenance of footpaths and rights of way. She suggested a sort of audit of DC’s performance. She has particular concerns about the poor signage where paths lead off roads. She considers these essential not just as waymarkers but also as a means to alert drivers to the possible presence of pedestrians or riders. She has asked repeatedly for a copy of the current definitive map of rights of way but has yet to receive it. Cllr. Peck asked her to let me know if her latest request led to nothing and suggested that CVPC might be able to help.
 - 2 Cllr. Peck spoke concerning the Countryside Working Party and CVPC feel that it should continue to meet. Cllr. Peck believes Cllr. Vaughan has collated a list of outstanding / on-going concerns (ref last month’s minutes, item 4495).

- **3** Cllr. Peck has received an enquiry from a resident about the possibility of signing up to Char Chat via the website. Currently this is not possible.
- **4** Regarding the recent enquiry about what is allowed to be posted on the CVPC's notice boards, Cllr. Peck agrees we should not allow the displaying of party-political literature. The notice to which Mr Maskell refers does not quite fall into this category. Cllr. Peck identified three choices:
 - Do nothing: it is one complaint, by one resident about one notice.
 - Decide, formally, that only notices relating specifically to CVPC business may be posted and remove everything else as and when it appears: this means we risk losing all the ads / info for local events, services, meetings and activities and that might have a negative impact on the community.
 - Decide, next time we have some CIL / S106 monies, to pay for some notice boards for the general use of residents and communities.
- **5** The clerk passed Cllr. Peck a query relating to the inspection by tree officers of trees with TPOs on them. Cllr. Peck has left a voicemail message with the man who made the initial enquiry but at the time of writing we have not spoken. As far as Cllr. Peck is aware there have to be some very specific threats to trees before anyone from DC will take a look. Cllr. Peck does not believe there are the resources for any routine checks to be carried out.
- **Cllr. Noon**
 - Cllr. Noon met with members of the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council to look at the possibility of producing a joint magazine – eight councillors agreed and two abstained to this proposal.
 - Cllr. Noon would like to set up a working party to look at the website, it was agreed that the working party would consist of the Char Chat Working Party together with Cllr. Joyce and the clerk.

4429: Dorset County Reports: -

- Cllr. Christopher advised the meeting that 450 children in Dorset are looked after by the council, this is a very expensive service. Sarah Parker has been appointed as the new director of children's services, a lot of children are looked after in other counties, this needs to be stopped. The staff team must keep very accurate records. In November, prior to the next planning meeting, Cllr. Christopher is meeting with a barrister; the new planning committee is very focused on environmental matters. Cllr. Christopher asked CVPC to email him regarding the problem with signs (see article 4424) and Cllr Christopher will refer it to Dorset Council's Legal Services department.

4430: Planning applications

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before October's meeting –**
- WD/D/19/000315 HAZYVIEW, RYALL ROAD, RYALL, BRIDPORT, DT6 6EG demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling – CVPC has no objection to this application
- **Responses considered at October's meeting**
- WD/D/19/001972 LAND NORTH EAST OF STUBBS BRIDGE, MONKTON WYLD LANE, MONKTON WYLD, change of use of land for the stationing of 2 no. shepherd's huts to provide holiday accommodation. CVPC have no objections but can the applicant submit details of sewage treatment
- **Enforcement:** none to consider

4431: Finance:

- The following were approved for payment - proposed by Cllr. Peck and seconded by Cllr. Eager passed unanimously.
- **Payments for October**

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500279	1019/1	£435.10
HMRC	PAYE October	500280	1019/2	£88.00
S Lee Garden Services	Lengthman's services for July & August replacement cheque	500281	1019/3	£218.40

S Lee Garden Services	Lengthman's services for September	500282	1019/4	£234.00
DAPTC	Councillor training – A Carey	500283	1019/5	£40.00
Les Kitcher	Grass cutting at Wootton Fitzpaine playing field	500284	1019/6	£525.00

1 st Charmouth Guides	Donation to the guides	500285	1019/7	£250.00
Whitchurch Canonorum PCC	Burial ground donation	500286	1019/8	£315.00
Wootton Fitzpaine PCC	Burial ground donation	500287	1019/9	£315.00
Monkton Wyld PCC	Burial ground donation	500288	1019/10	£305.00
Fishpond PCC	Burial ground donation	500289	1019/11	£70.00
Stanton St Gabriel PCC	Burial ground donation	500290	1019/12	£60.00
James Hargreaves (URC)	Burial ground donation	500291	1019/13	£60.00
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	Annual donation	500292	1019/14	£110.00
Citizens Advice Bureau	Annual donation	500293	1019/15	£110.00
Whitchurch Canonorum playgroup	Annual donation	500294	1019/16	£500.00
Whitchurch Canonorum village hall	Annual donation	500295	1019/17	£385.00
James Hargreaves community hall	Annual donation	500296	1019/18	£355.00
Wootton Fitzpaine village hall	Annual donation	500297	1019/19	£385.00
S Creed-Castle	Stamps and envelopes for Char Chat	500298	1019/20	£242.51
TOTAL				£4,940.01

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

Action: the clerk

4432: Char Chat – costing and future editions

- The recent edition of Char Chat cost £505.00 to produce – this covered envelopes, printing and postage. It is hoped that the next edition will be ready to go to print in the New Year. In order that we send out more copies of Char Chat electronically, Cllr. Eager said she would contact James Hargreaves Community Hall to see if they can provide us with some Email addresses. It was agreed that a working party be established to look at CVPC's communication requirements in terms of the website, social media and the newsletter, and make recommendations to the full council. Cllr. Noon offered to put together a dummy issue of a combined Char Chat and UMVPC newsletter.
- It was agreed that we should put in place an email system to ensure that we don't duplicate posted and emailed copies in future.

Action: Cllrs. Noon, Carey, Peck, Mahaddie and the clerk

4433: Report from climate change and Environmental Emergency Working Party

- The working party have decided to delay the public meeting scheduled for November until January, but this is also dependant on the outcome of the meeting taking place on 19th November, which is being attended by Cllrs. Vaughan and Carey. The date will be decided by email.

4434: River Char update

- Septic tank clearance – representatives from the AONB and the environment agency are meeting with Cllrs. Vaughan and Joyce to look at it.

4435: Report from Countryside Working Party

- Cllrs. Peck and Vaughan have written a paper on their findings at the request of Cllr. Joyce, however there will be no further meeting to discuss this until we know what is happening with Brexit, this was proposed by Cllr. Mahaddie and seconded by Cllr. Sage and agreed unanimously.

4436: Appraisal arrangements

- Cllr. Eager is meeting with Cllr. Peck on Wednesday to arrange the annual appraisal for the clerk

4437: Verges – timing of first cut

- The subject of the timing of the one and only annual verge cut was raised and it was noted that Dorset Council's current programme is for the cut to take place between late June and early July. Councillor Mahaddie said that this seemed to be a reasonable compromise between conservation and road safety requirements. Mr Farmer would like the cut to take place later in the year and spoke of the site between Court House Farm and Bridge House Farm which is a designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) He said that yellowhammers which nest at the base of hedges had virtually disappeared. It was agreed that the flora and fauna of local road verges had become impoverished in recent years and Cllr Hansford said that Dorset Council were undertaking a thorough audit of road verges and she would be involved in a meeting shortly to discuss the matter. She would keep CVPC informed of progress.

4438: Prime Farm / Babers Farm asbestos problem

- This topic was answered under item 4424

4439: Telephone box removal problems

- The only public phone box in the Char Valley is located outside Whitchurch Canonicorum village hall. The parish council wished that it should remain as there is a defibrillator located outside the village hall and frequently mobile phone reception in the area is poor, although the phone has only been used 4 times in the last 12 months. Cllr. Joyce will write a letter.

4440: S106 projects progress

- We need to use the S106 monies that we have been allocated. The clerk will write to Dorset Council to request that the money is held over to 2020 – so far, we have only spent £343.45 of the £5,684.35 that was awarded. In the meantime, it was agreed that Cllrs. Johnson and Peck should start spending the allocation. We also need to think how the monies are to be spent in Morcombelake as our original request for a bus shelter proved to be too expensive.

Action: Cllrs. Johnson, Peck and the clerk

4441: Valuation of parish's assets

- Cllr. Joyce and the clerk will visit all the parish's assets in the new year and check their state of repair and also obtain up-to-date valuations.

Action: Cllr. Joyce and the clerk

4442: Lists of local residents

- Cllr. Joyce wishes the names of all the residents to be added to the mailing list for Char Chat.

Action: the clerk

4443: Date of next meeting: 18th November 2019 at Wootton Fitzpaine village hall

4444: Any other business:

4445: Items for next agenda

- Climate committee, A35 update, Countryside working party, arrange meeting of finance committee to set budget for 2020/21

4446: Close of meeting – meeting closed at 9.30pm