

**MINUTES CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 AT JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL.**

**4392: Present:** Cllrs. H. Joyce, J Eager., S. Johnson, C Sage, C Mahaddie, C. Peck, S Creed-Castle, C Noon, A Carey, K Vaughan A. Marks (clerk),

**4393: Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. C. Bailey, Cllr. S Christopher

**4394: Public Discussion Period:** Nothing

**4395: Declaration of Interest:** None

**4396: Co-option of additional CVPC councillor for Wootton Fitzpaine:**

- Tara Hansford from Wootton would like to be co-opted as councillor. As no one else replied to our advertisement it was agreed that Mrs Hansford should be the third councillor for Wootton Fitzpaine, this was proposed by Cllr. Sage and seconded by Cllr. Carey and the remainder agreed unanimously.

**4397: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019:** proposed by Cllr. Peck and seconded by Cllr. Creed-Castle and agreed unanimously apart from Cllrs. Eager and Vaughan who did not attend the meeting in July.

**4398: Clerk's actions following the last meeting:**

1. As agreed at July's meeting the clerk together with the chairman produced a brochure about Char Valley Parish Council, 250 copies of the brochure have been printed by Footprints at a cost of £69.00.
2. The clerk attended a meeting together with Cllrs. Peck, Mahaddie, Noon and Carey to discuss the layout of the September edition of Char Chat News, the final copy was then shown to Cllr. Joyce who asked Cllr. Carey to make a few changes. The clerk E mailed the final newsletter to Footprints and asked for 500 to be printed on recycled paper. The clerk was advised that recycled paper would cost more as one of the manufacturers has gone out of business. However due to the council's approach to climate change it was decided to print the newsletters on recyclable paper.
3. The chairman has requested that in future the monthly minutes are proofread by Cllr. Carey who will make any necessary changes. The chairman will continue to proofread the agendas before they are sent out.
4. The clerk has now received the final invoice for The White Gates totalling £1,595.00. Alex Brooks who has been doing the repairs has asked in future that the grass around the base of the gates be cut right back, as it is causing the wood to rot. We could either ask the lengthsman or Dorset Council to undertake this.
5. The clerk has been preparing a mail merge for all the residents within the Char Valley, all the addresses will be on labels making the mailing of Char Chat far less time consuming in future.
6. On August Bank holiday Monday, the clerk together with Cllrs. Johnson, Carey and Noon had a stall at the Flower and Dog Show at Whitchurch Canonorum. Char Chat and the brochure were handed out. Attempts to sign up people to email contact by CVPC were disappointing.
7. The clerk will be attending the annual clerk's seminar arranged by DAPTC on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September at Kingston Maurward House. The cost of this is £70.00.
8. The clerk cannot complete the transition of the bank account to the new signatories as she is still waiting for Chris Everidge to sign the form to remove herself as a signatory. Chris Everidge has contacted the clerk confirming that she will sign the forms in due course.

**4399: Reports**

- **PCSO** – there were no reports from the local police.
- **Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP)** group met on 31<sup>st</sup> July

- **Verges** – Cllr. Mahaddie had talked to Russell Goff at Dorset Council and established that the policy on cutting verges is, in practice, as it has been for the last three years. The Council has recently introduced a 'cut and collect' verge-cutting regime in other parts of Dorset but has no 'cut and collect' machines suitable for our narrow lanes. However, they have used smaller machines in the narrowest lanes this year, with better results. Cllr. Peck said that some of the verges have been cut twice this year
- **Western Area Traffic Advisory Group (WATAG)** – The Bridport to Yeovil corridor is still a major concern with no solution in sight. [No commuter service, links often missed, no weekend service, poor student services, declining daytime usage because unreliable service leading to declining service etc etc]. Operators say services are not viable and changes to coordinate timetables won't work. WATAG will produce proposals showing basic, medium, and preferred service levels. First Wessex bus services schedules etc should now be available through the First App.
- First Wessex & Stagecoach South West will try to coordinate their timetables at Lyme Regis.
- Dorset Community Transport have reviewed their services and all 18 will continue but with cutbacks. There will be a pilot scheme for patients attending particular clinics in Beaminster and Maiden Newton. If successful, this may be extended. The Bride Valley Dial-a-bus service is being withdrawn.
- South Western Railway reported that through Bus-Rail tickets to Lyme & Bridport via Axminster and Dorchester should now work on SWR website. Plans for an overbridge with lifts at Dorchester station have failed and taxis may be considered for transporting passengers who are unable to use the existing bridge between platforms. Toilet facilities at Weymouth suffer badly from vandalism (in particular from drug users) and are often closed. SWR says passengers can board trains to use toilets on stationary trains if necessary. Wi-Fi on trains has been upgraded.
- The Beaminster CB3 service running on Saturdays, provided by Beaminster Town Council with help from Dorset CC, has been successful and will continue, linking Beaminster and Crewkerne with Bridport.
- The path/cycleway between Bridport and West Bay is open but various signals etc will not be finished until after August
- **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councillors** – The DAPTC Chief Executive, Hilary Trevorah, is currently in negotiations with the new Dorset Council regarding how to create a mutually beneficial working relationship between the new unitary authority and the parish/town tier of government. Hilary has been liaising on customer care and practical day to day support. This includes providing parish and town clerks with a list of direct phone numbers and email addresses for Dorset Council staff. There are workshops to support this aim of 'working together' scheduled for the following dates: 16, 22, 29 October starting at 7pm with the likely locations being Wareham, Blandford and Bridport (exact date/locations are yet to be circulated). The leader of Dorset Council, Cllr. Spencer Flowers, will be a speaker at the DAPTC AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- At the DAPTC meeting on Thursday there was a lot of discussion around Climate Change with a majority of councils adopting a pro-active approach to the issue. There was an agreement that we should collaborate and share advice. The DAPTC Secretary will liaise and disseminate further information to councils.
- One of the issues brought up in the meeting was the problem with the double decker school buses driving around the rural lanes which appears to be an issue for a number of councils
- The representative from Chideock discussed the new Highways England trial reducing the speed limit to 30mph up Chideock Hill. This did not start on the date advised due to technical issues but it will commence soon and will run for 12 months.
- **War memorials** – nothing to report

- **Trees and hedges** – a neighbour of Cllr. Peck has taken down a larch tree suffering from phytophthora Cllr. Eager advised the meeting that someone living in Ship Knapp had had their hedge cut by the council and the hedge is now ruined. Apparently, the council can cut back overhanging hedges although they should advise the resident beforehand – the clerk will look into this. **Action: the clerk**

- REPORT ON MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND 21.8.19  
(incorporating HE amendments 4.9.19)

- On 21 August, Councillors Peck, Noon and Mahaddie met with Andy Roberts and Emma Bazeley of Highways England (HE) to talk about future improvements to the A35 in Morcombelake.
- The main points that emerged were:
  - Construction of a new light-controlled pedestrian crossing at the west end of Morcombelake is in the HE 2019/20 programme. The crossing is currently at detailed design stage, but it is not yet decided (within a few metres) precisely where it will be. Construction was expected in Autumn 2019, but detailed design issues mean it will be delayed until later in the current financial year.
    - **This is quite separate from the Community Severance report discussed at the meeting.**
  - HE has traditionally focused on road safety and traffic flow, reflecting the nationally important function of the All-Purpose Trunk Road. However, new funding sources and revised corporate priorities have enabled HE to be more proactive in managing the impacts of traffic on communities.
    - The Community Severance report was commissioned by HE from consultants. The report contains recommendations on potential improvement options for HE to further consider if they might be progressed to the next stage of assessment. HE does not have funding for any more work on this project during the current financial year but intends to pick it up again in spring 2020.
  - There are separate Community Severance reports for Morcombelake, Chideock and Winterbourne Abbas.
  - A speed limit reduction trial is expected to start in Chideock this autumn. The speed trial has been triggered by separate concerns about the air pollution in Chideock as it is a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). There is not a designated AQMA in Morcombelake. Dorset Council are responsible for monitoring air quality and where thresholds are exceeded, for designating AQMA's.
  - Work on the Community Severance aspects of the A35 is at an early stage and, although the consultant's report has been finalised, there may still be an opportunity to influence what actually happens. HE is willing to consider co-ordinated responses from parish councils.
  - All three CVPC attendees feel that the most effective action would be to reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph through the village and that this should be done in addition to works recommended in the report.
    - However, you will see from the study report (previously circulated) that a reduction in speed limit was rejected at the outset, apparently because the character of the road was inappropriate for a 30 mph limit. HE has provided links to the relevant national policies which Cllr Noon intends to check to see if there could be grounds for making Morcombelake an exception.
    - After the meeting, HE sent the following links which were forwarded to Councillor Noon.
      - Gov'ts Road Investment Strategy 2015-2020:
      - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/408514/ris-for-2015-16-road-period-web-version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408514/ris-for-2015-16-road-period-web-version.pdf)

- DfT Guidance on Setting Local Speed Limits:
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf)
- There are plans for further studies to examine the A35 as a whole in Dorset and in East Devon. The councillors think these are essential to address the road traffic safety issues between the villages and to connect up the three separate Community Safety and Severance studies.
- The A35 studies are ongoing, it is classed as the most dangerous 'A' road in Dorset.
- There are no further councillor reports

#### **4400: Dorset County Reports: -**

- Although Cllr. Christopher was unable the meeting he sent in the following report –
- Broadband - Dorset Council Cabinet has agreed to invest additional funds for super fast broadband improvement. These funds will include grants from DEFRA.
- Planning- The planning committee met in July, August and September. Among notable planning permissions passed by the committee were:
  - Former Mountjoy School, Flood Lane, Bridport. Erection of 38 retirement living apartments.
  - Land South of Warmwell Road, Crossways. 99 dwellings have received full planning permission, including a new doctor's surgery and village hall. There is also outline permission for a further 401 houses 35% affordable in each instance. This impacts on the five year land supply in Dorset.
- I have been appointed to the Dorset Council Economic Development Advisory Panel and also to the Assessment of Councillors Committee. I am also advising other Councillors in their work re the county farms estate, ie farms owned by Dorset Council.
- During the summer I have received reports of speeding motorists throughout the Marshwood Vale. I have dealt with numerous residents' concerns whether by letter or email and meetings.
- I attended The Dorset County Show on Saturday and met with Minette Batters, the NFU president, which was very informative

#### **4401: Planning applications**

- **Responses submitted to Dorset Council before September's meeting –**
- WD/D/19/001508 GIPSIES END, COMBE DRAIN, FISHPOND, BRIDPORT, DT6 6NR. Erect single storey extension. – CVPC has no objection
- WD/D/19/001591 LAND KNOWN AS PAMS MEADOW SOUTH OF, STONEBARROW LANE, CHARMOUTH Erection of store – CVPC submitted objections to this building as it would be seen from many points in the AONB and Jurassic Coast areas and is contrary to several local plan environmental policies.
- VILLAGE HALL, WESTOVER HILL, WOOTTON FITZPAINE, BRIDPORT, DT6 6ND WD/D/19/001706 WOOTTON FITZPAINE Demolition of existing extension and replace with single storey extension.- CVPC has no objection to this
- WD/D/19/001518 YE OLDE ENGLISH RESTAURANT, MAIN ROAD, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT, DT6 6DJ Display of wall painted sign – CVPC has no objection to this
- WD/D/19/001658 BECKLANDS FARM, BECKLANDS LANE, WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, BRIDPORT, DT6 6RG Internal and external alterations to include replacement roof purlins and roof tiles to the existing rear extension and replacement ceiling. CVPC has no objection to this application

- WD/D/19/001356 EAGLE COTTAGE, TAYLORS LANE, MORCOMBELAKE, BRIDPORT DT6 6ED BRIDPORT, DT6 6ED Replace existing septic tank/soakaway with a small sewage treatment plant with discharge to surface water. CVPC has no objection to this application.
- WD/D/19/001783 HIGHCLIFFE COTTAGE, FISHPOND BOTTOM ROAD, FISHPOND, BRIDPORT DT6 6NN Demolish existing building and ancillary accommodation and replace with new single storey dwelling house. Variation of condition no. 1 of planning approval WD/D/18/000069 – CVPC has no objection to the variation of condition no.1 of planning approval WD/D/18/000069
- WD/D/19/001808 BEERLAND FARM, RYALL, BRIDPORT, DT6 6EJ Alterations to facilitate the conversion of outbuildings to 2no. units of holiday accommodation ancillary to the main house, the reinstatement of the original proportions of the workshop/garage & reinstatement of former connection between the house and outbuildings CVPC has no objection to this application however there was an agreed action that the Clerk would contact the CIL person in the Planning office to ask for an explanation of why the planning application had a zero rating for CIL, even though the application included new building space.
- **Responses considered at September'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
- **Enforcement:** none to consider

**4402: Finance:**

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

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500265	0819/1	£420.39
HMRC	PAYE for July & August	500266	0819/2	£156.40
Total				£676.79

- **Payments for September**

Payee	Details	Cheque no.	Receipt no.	Amount
Annette Marks	Clerk's salary	500267	0919/1	£601.86
HMRC	PAYE for September	500268	0919/2	£128.60
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	Hire of hall for July meeting	500269	0919/3	£23.50
Alex Brooks	Work on 3 fingerposts	500270	0919/4	£1,687.00
DAPTC	Councillor training – C Noon	500271	0919/5	£40.00
Whitchurch Pre-School	Play equipment – use of S106 money	500272	0919/6	£343.45
Alex Brooks	Remaking The White Gates	500273	0919/7	£1,595.00
Footprints	Printing 500 copies of Char Chat	500274	0919/8	£245.00
Footprints	Printing 250 copies of CVPC brochure	500275	0919/9	£69.00
S Lee Garden Services	Lengthman's services for July and August	500276	0919/10	£218.40
Sylvia Creed-Castle	Lunch at twinning event in Lyme Regis	500277	0919/11	£22.00
Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	Extra meeting	500278	0919/12	£20.00
TOTAL				£4,993.81

- We received a letter from the leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Guides advising how they would spend a donation from the parish council. They would like to spend the money to aid the girls' mental wellbeing. The parish council agreed to make a donation of £250.00

**Action: the clerk**

#### **4403: Report from climate change and environmental emergency working party / septic tanks**

- No meeting of the working party has been held since the meeting in July, however it is hoped to have a meeting with Cllr. Daryl Turner later in the year or early 2020. Councillors discussed ideas for this public meeting and Cllr. Joyce invited Cllrs. Carey and Vaughan to propose a format, topics and possible speakers. Their proposal will be discussed at the next CVPC meeting.

**Action: Cllrs. Carey and Vaughan**

- Cllr. Hansford will Email her team at Dorset Council to see what suggestions they can come up with. We will also find out what other parishes are doing and work together. **Action: Cllr. Hansford**
- Septic tanks - it is necessary to look at the condition of the septic tanks when buying or selling a house. By January 2020 if a septic tank discharges into surface water then it needs to be replaced – Whitchurch Canonorum was pinpointed as a pollution hot spot by the Environment Agency. All septic tanks should be cleaned annually. It was agreed to put information on septic tanks on the CVPC website and in Char Chat. **Action: Cllr. Noon and the clerk**

#### **4404: Social media**

- Cllr. Johnson's daughter runs a facebook page for events taking place in Char Valley and has advised that we can add information to the website. A motion that CVPC should put information on this page was proposed by Cllr. Sage and seconded by Cllr. Carey, it was agreed unanimously, with one abstainee.
- CVPC website – after discussion of the role of the website, it was agreed that Cllr. Noon would write a proposal for the CVPC website, with a working party to discuss the proposal after the October CVPC meeting.

**Action: Cllr. Noon**

#### **4405: Report from Countryside Working Party**

- There has been no further meeting but councillors felt that there is still a lot of work to be done. Cllr. Peck will collate a list of potential topics to be presented at the October CVPC meeting. All councillors were invited to send suggestions to Cllr. Peck.

**Action: Cllr. Peck**

#### **4406: Review of Char Chat News**

- Cllr. Joyce thanked Cllr. Noon and the clerk for preparing the latest edition of Char Chat. The clerk was asked to prepare a full costing for the October CVPC meeting based on the final cost of printing and distributing the current issue.

**Action: the clerk**

#### **4407: Verges**

- This was covered under section 4399

#### **4408: By-ways**

- There have been on-going problems in talking to Russell Goff who has not been in touch with Cllr. Creed-Castle. Cllr. Hansford will help with this communication.

#### **4409: Jurassic Coast Partnership Plan**

- Cllr. Joyce contacted Sam Scriven to ask that CVPC be told about any future topics of relevance. Cllr. Hansford will encourage Mr. Scriven to send us the Partnership Plan.

**Action: Cllr. Hansford**

#### **4410: Maintenance of foot paths**

- Cllr. Peck suggested that CVPC could contact the landowner direct in the event of a footpath being planted over. Cllr. Hansford confirmed that this was the best policy but cautioned that landowners can find themselves in difficulty if they create a long-term alternative or permissive path, for example round the edge of a field. CVPC has reported the signpost from Mandeville

Farm to Wakeleys Farm and nothing has been done. Builders waste has been systemically deposited on the bridleway between Babers Farm and Prime Farm and contains some potentially hazardous material such as bonded asbestos, this needs reporting to the council.

**Action: Cllr. Peck and the clerk**

**4411: Monthly 'surgeries'**

- Cllr. Peck together with Cllr. Eager would like to hold monthly drop in 'surgeries' at the Five Bells pub in Whitchurch. Dates and times to be decided in due course.

**4412: Speeding**

- There have been two accidents in Whitchurch recently in which one car was written off and another damaged. In addition, a number of residents have expressed concerns about a group of young inexperienced drivers driving too fast through the village. Cllr. Peck has since spoken to a resident who advised her that things had quietened down for the time being. Cllr. Hansford said that a similar problem had happened in Wootton Fitzpaine. The PCSO will be contacted if these problems continue.

**4413: Bulbs, trees and benches for Goodens Hill**

- Cllr. Peck will obtain a quote from Alex Brooks for building a bench.

**Action: Cllr. Peck**

**4414: Report from Flower and Dog Show**

- On August Bank Holiday Monday Cllrs. Johnson, Noon and Carey together with the clerk looked after the CVPC stall at the Flower and Dog Show in Whitchurch Canonicorum. The main objective of appearing at the show was to get as many residents to sign up to receive communications from the parish council electronically. This was unsuccessful but at the end of the day it was felt that our presence at the show was useful. Cllr. Eager will ask the Hardown Society members for their permission to use their email addresses for CVPC communications.

**Action: Cllr. Eager**

**4415: Update of information on 2003 Action Plan together with parish map**

- The text of this document is very good but much of it is out of date, we need to update the factual information and then look at it again next year. A simplified map of Char Valley will be attached to a future edition of Char Chat News

**4416: Morcombelake bus shelter**

- Any effective roof over the existing seat would need to overhang the highway boundary. To avoid this, the seat would need to be moved back and installed on a new section of stone wall. A quote for this preliminary work has already been circulated. Cllr. Mahaddie has contacted Axminster Iron Works Ltd who could produce a structure. In all, the cost of providing shelter for bus passengers was likely to be approximately £6,000. It was agreed that this cost is too high and the S106 money should be spent elsewhere.

**4417: Appraisal committee**

- It was agreed that Cllr. Eager would join Cllr. Peck on the appraisal committee

**4418: Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Whitchurch Canonicorum village hall

**4419: Any other business:**

**4420: Items for next agenda**

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

**4421: Close of meeting** – meeting closed at 10.10