



CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

428th Meeting of Char Valley Parish Council held on 11th October 2021 at 7.30pm, at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

4781: Present:

Cllrs. H Joyce (Chair), S Creed-Castle, C Bailey, C Mahaddie, C Noon, K Vaughan, T Hansford, C Peck, T Ely (Clerk). In attendance: Cllr. S Christopher (Dorset Council), Mike Zeibland invited to give views by chairman.

4782: Apologies for absence: J Jones, A Carey, J Eager, S Johnson.

4783: Public forum: No members of the public present.

4784: Declarations of interest: None

4785: Wootton Fitzpaine Noticeboard:

- Cllr. Joyce had sent an open invitation to the residents of Wootton to attend to discuss local concerns about the notice board, but Cllr Hansford reported that the invitation, agenda and September minutes had been removed. No members of the public have attended.
- There have been several exchanges of emails from Mr Steven Sampson about the notice board where he lives which is on the corner of the Wootton Fitzpaine Road that goes up to Monkton Wyld. The board was installed around 30 years ago and he objects to CVPC controlling its content as he doesn't think it is our board. He is querying the history of the board as Mr Sampson Snr. ran the post office when it was the post office notice board.
- Cllr. Joyce reports that, at that time of the installation of the board, probably 1992-3, she was the CVPC clerk. The boards throughout the CVPC area were being replaced and were all locally made and to the same design. The board also has a plaque with our name on it and we have used it for at least that time, removing old notices and others if there was not enough space for CVPC legal notices. Cllr Joyce remembers that at the time, Cllr Guy Bryan said that he had arranged with a local resident for a board to be erected and asked if the CVPC would finance an extra board for Wootton Fitzpaine. The council agreed and another board was ordered and installed as a result. Mr. Sampson claims that the board stands on his land which it may well be. CVPC has no information on this matter.
- Previous to this meeting, Cllr. Joyce had a zoom meeting with Cllr. Noon, as chair of the Transport and Communications Working Party and Cllr. Hansford to discuss options and decided to put up a notice to invite the public to tonight's meeting but this was removed. Cllr. Joyce, Cllr. Noon and Cllr. Hansford were going to reiterate that the display of our public notices, agenda and minutes are a legal requirement, but we are happy for other notices to be displayed as long as they are not political, defamatory, racist etc. or promoting local businesses as the council may then be seen to be recommending them.
- Cllr. Joyce explains the working party's recommendations in moving forward
 - We continue as we have been i.e., putting up our notices but they will probably continue to be removed
 - We replace the board with a larger one
 - We replace the board with a larger one but at another location within the village, particularly as the current position is dangerously situated
- Cllr. Joyce asks the councillors for opinions on the options given.
- Cllr. Bailey reports knowledge of when the post office closed Mr. Sampson was asked if he minded the notice board staying there to be used by the public – Cllr. Bailey would go with the third option.
- Cllr. Joyce states that we are covered legally as we are displaying the required notices on the village hall notice board, but Wootton Fitzpaine residents could do with a board in the area as the village hall is some walk away.
- Cllr. Peck asks if the objection is just to our notices being there, Cllr. Bailey confirms it was when other notices were removed.
- Cllr. Hansford reports that she only removed damaged or promoting businesses notices but those were taken to the village notice board and, if not, duplicates put up there.
- Cllr. Joyce reports Mr Sampson is claiming we have never monitored the board before but that is untrue as Cllr. Hansford currently does and for some years, Cllr. Joyce used to print the notices and display them there herself.
- Cllr. Bailey asks if we have proof of it being our board and Cllr. Joyce confirms it is the same as our other boards, who were specially designed, has our name on the plaque and she, as the clerk at the time, personally ordered it and would say so under oath.
- Most of the councillors speak to agree to get another board elsewhere.
- Cllr. Noon asks if we should put up a notice to inform all that we are getting a new board, but it may take a little time and suggests we remove our plaque as otherwise we are potentially allowing our name to be on a board with inappropriate notices.
- Cllr. Peck suggests writing to Mr Sampson to inform him we will relocate to another board elsewhere and to request our notices are left there in the meantime as a legal requirement, Cllr. Joyce responds that we do not know who is removing the notices.
- Lots of discussion over potential new locations to investigate.

- Cllr. Joyce suggests we leave the board alone until Cllr. Hansford finds a new location. We will order another board and it will always be used elsewhere if not here.
- Cllr. Joyce suggests a big board with a lock, Cllr. Mahaddie personally doesn't like lockable boards as it stops others using it and more importantly if our minutes are several pages, they take up a lot of space whereas on an open board they can be pinned and flicked through.
- Cllr. Joyce suggests we discuss board specifics later as it will come up again later in the meeting and concludes if in agreement, we won't respond to Mr. Sampson any further and Cllr. Hansford will look for an alternative location for the board.
- Cllr. Noon suggests we no longer use the board as the notices will be removed anyway and we have them up at the village hall but does suggest we remove the plaque. Cllr. Joyce confirms to leave the board alone and just not put up our notices anymore.

4786: Resolution to approve the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of CVPC held on 13th September 2021

- Cllr. Mahaddie - 4768 11th bullet point, line 1 should be Charmouth, not Char Valley. Agreed and change made by the clerk. **Clerk to print July and September minutes to be signed and filed.**

Proposed by Cllr. Vaughan and Seconded by Cllr. Noon. All in Agreement bar 1 Abstention Cllr. Bailey as unseen.

4787: Actions following last meeting:

The following were in addition to those mentioned in reports:

- Grit Bins – These have been delivered and are currently being stored in Cllr. Joyce's barn.
- Cllr. Joyce attended the BLAP meeting where there were discussions about local campsites being extended. The bell tent on Bluntshay Lane was not raised by Cllr. Joyce but other councils are experiencing similar things.

Cllr. Joyce to write a letter to Dorset Council.

- Internal auditor still required as the two people Cllr. Joyce had in mind are not available. Cllr. Joyce asks the councillors if they may know of anyone, or we may need to employ someone from an accountancy firm.
- Some bank statements are missing from last year's accounts, and we are struggling to talk to our bank as we don't know the correct security information. Cllr. Joyce has written to the bank to request the statements and the information so we can talk to them in the future. These have now been received but not the security information yet.
- Cllr. Joyce has sent items Cllr. Christopher requested.
- Bank Account – will discuss under finance.
- **Cllr. Joyce asks Cllr. Hansford about the two required farm names from the September meeting, Cllr. Hansford will find out.**
- Cllr. Noon confirms he has sent Cllr. Creed-Castle an email re lengthsman jobs.

4788: Planning applications:

a. Responses submitted to Dorset Council before the meeting:

P/HOU/2021/02616	7 Fernhill Heights Fernhill Charmouth Bridport DT6 6AU - Meeting - No objection	expired	19/09/2021	Submitted	18/09/2021
P/HOU/2021/02654	Bevis Cottage Sandy Lane Fishpond DT6 6NP - No objection as long as the legal requirement for adequate sewage adhered to	expired	19/09/2021	Submitted	18/09/2021
P/FUL/2021/01671	Spence Farm Spence Lane Wootton Fitzpaine Dorset DT6 6DF - Objection - We have great reservations about the size and nature of what amounts to a tourist development in the middle of AONB agricultural land but none of us can access the plans online so cannot comment specifically. We ask for an extension until we can access them.	expired	23/09/2021	Submitted	23/09/2021
P/FUL/2021/02090	Befferlands Farm Berne Lane Charmouth Dorset DT6 6RD - The site plans show the building by the road but it was said that it would be moved? we would like more information regarding the size of the building.	expired	23/09/2021	Submitted	23/09/2021
P/PABA/2021/03273	Prime Coppice Glebeland Lane Whitchurch Canonorum DT6 6RP - No objection.	expired	27/09/2021	Submitted	23/09/2021

b. Responses to be considered at the meeting:

P/HOU/2021/02835	Tir A Mor Sun Lane Morcombelake DT6 6DL - No objection.			expires	15/10/2021
P/MPO/2021/03556	Stonebarrow Manor Stonebarrow Lane Charmouth Dorset DT6 6RA - No objection although Cllr. Joyce would like to query if it is a listed building. Cllr. Noon mentions S106 restrictions and Cllr. Joyce confirms the background of the S106.			expires	14/10/2021
P/LBC/2021/02087	Morcombe Cottage Main Road Morcombelake DT6 6DY - No objection.			expires	01/11/2021

c. Dorset Council Decisions: None.

d. Enforcement:

- Cllr. Mahaddie informs council that Dorset Council have hired an agency to take care of enforcement. Following a call made by Cllr. Mahaddie regarding Spence Farm the new enforcement officer called Cllr. Mahaddie to discuss concerns.
- Discussions followed about Spence Farm, Cllr. Mahaddie believes the whole estate's planning applications should be considered together and not in isolation as each application may be ok on its own but as a whole could change the use of the land and we need more information regarding the route of the path.
- Cllr. Vaughan expresses concerns about the size of the walkway and the need for an economic and ecological report.
- Cllr. Noon agrees and agrees with Cllr. Mahaddie about looking at the whole package. Cllr. Noon suggests talking to the owners. Cllr. Joyce and Cllr. Hansford confirm that Cllr. Hansford has arranged to meet them.

- Cllr. Joyce invites Nick Zeibland to give his views, Mr. Zeibland mentions the ponds being more of a lake in size and overall that it is a big development. The company developing is of a large scale.
- Council discusses the size of pond allowed before needing planning permission.

Clerk to ask planning for more information regarding the paths and also about the general development size.
Cllr. Vaughan to go with Cllr. Hansford to see the owners.

4789: Finance:

- Clerk reports both Lloyds and Barclays have a 4-week delay and are difficult to get on the telephone. Cllr. Joyce reports that the current bank (Co-Op) now has an online facility so offers the option to stay as we are but to activate online capabilities.
- Cllr. Joyce asks council for opinions; general preference is to stay with the Co-Op for ethical values.

Cllr Joyce and clerk to discuss next action to try to get online banking with the Co-Op.

a. **Payments**

The payments for October 2021, as below, were approved.

Clerk to travel to Cllr. Joyce and Cllr. Johnson on Wednesday 15th September to sign the cheques.

PAYMENTS FOR October 2021

Payee	Details	Cheque No.	Receipt No.	Amount
Bill Taylor	September hall hire	200506	1021/1	23.50
Bill Taylor	October hall hire	200506	1021/2	23.50
Andrew Carey	Domain Name Registration	200507	1021/3	16.59
Roadware	5 Grit bins+shovels	200508	1021/4	587.70
DATPC	Training - Register of interest	200509	1021/5	50.00
Tamsin Ely	Consumables+fuel	200510	1021/6	33.31
Tamsin Ely	Clerks wage Oct 21	200510	1021/7	530.35
HMRC	Clerks wage tax Oct 21	200511	1021/8	128.00
Total				1392.95

b. **Internal Accounts Auditor**

- Cllr. Joyce mentions the need for an auditor and asks if councillors know anyone appropriate.
- The clerk offers to ask a colleague for a recommendation.
- Cllr Joyce. reports our accounts being overdue and that our income this year was over the threshold meaning we need a different type of accounts audit. The clerk has picked up the task that should have been done in April/May; the previous clerk had said he was doing it but did not. Documents are missing, a lot of work has been needed and deadlines extended.

Clerk to find an internal auditor.

- Cllr. Joyce asked about the insurance which can either be renewed for a 3-year price freeze or a year while other providers are investigated.

Councillors to vote via email to take 1 year or to fix for 3 when the quotes are received by the clerk and payment to be added to this month's payments.

If council take only 1 year, Clerk to gain quotes next year for the renewal.

Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and Seconded by Cllr. Peck. All in Agreement.

4790: Future meetings:

- Cllr. Joyce reports that we are currently required by law, as informed by the DATPC, to have in person meetings, even hybrid is not allowed. Having said that if we get a huge Covid spike we may need to reconsider, due to the risk to councillors.

4791: Finance requests from working parties for 2022 precept

- Cllr. Joyce confirms that the Planning Working Party are no longer requesting £1,000 as the survey will be funded by the survey department of Dorset Council.

Cllr. Hansford has a home emergency and left the meeting.

• **Local Amenities Working Party – Cllr. Creed-Castle**

Cllr. Joyce asks Cllr. Creed-Castle for an update on needs and figures. Cllr. Creed-Castle mentions needing 4 notice boards but no figures yet. Cllr. Joyce asks if needing doubles or singles and Cllr. Creed-Castle confirms she thinks doubles. We should go ahead and place an order and let council know the cost via email for approval.

All in Agreement.

4792: Governance Review

- Cllr. Mahaddie detailed 3 possible changes.
- 1. Charmouth have decided to ask for Newlands Caravan Park and Stonebarrow Manor to be included within their parish. Having previously spoken with Newlands we know they will be happy to be with Charmouth, but we haven't spoken with Stonebarrow Manor. Cllr. Joyce has heard that Stonebarrow Manor will be happy also to move.
- 2. adjustments to the boundaries of Stanton St Gabriel within Char Valley to make it more consistent with the other land around the A35.
- 3. de-grouping the Char Valley PC. It was agreed not to pursue this option,
- Informally, Cllr Mahaddie has approached Bob Hatch of Catherston Leweston Parish meeting about joining CVPC.
- It has been left open for consideration.

- Cllr. Joyce asks for a vote on supporting the movement of Newlands and Stonebarrow Manor to Charmouth:
Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and Seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie. All in Agreement bar 1 Abstention Cllr. Vaughan.

- Cllr. Joyce asks for a vote on supporting the proposal of Stanton St Gabriel boundary changes:
Proposed by Cllr. Peck and Seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie. All in Agreement bar 1 Abstention Cllr. Vaughan.

4793: Wootton Fitzpaine Notice Board

- See 4785

4794: Bridport Local Area Partnership Report

- The main point of the meeting was to talk about BLAP itself and if it was doing a good job. Details about a possible annual charge will be forwarded if BLAP loses its funding. A letter has been drafted to Dorset Council concerning difficulties of communication between Dorset Council and its parishes.
- Cllr. Joyce adds that there were great plans and seminars for improved communications before lockdown but it seems to have stopped for good reason in the current situation.
- Cllr. Joyce confirms that she and Cllr. Mahaddie go to the part of the BLAP meetings for parish councils and find it very helpful and interesting and would be in favour of its continuation.

4795: Rights of Way survey

- Cllr. Mahaddie has filled it in and found it frustrating to fill but does feel it will be useful.
- Cllr. Joyce queries receiving the survey and asks the **clerk to look for it and send it on.**

4796: Adopt new Code of Conduct:

- Cllr. Joyce reports this has not come through yet.
- The clerk asks if this is the register of interests and confirms it is with the clerk. The clerk was not able to log in, it is sorted now and will follow very soon.

Clerk to send on the register of interest links.

- It is queried if we need to do it and how intrusive it is.
- The clerk confirms she attended a training seminar online and it is just a digital version of the current one that all councillors must do.

Cllr. Christopher joins the meeting.

4797: Cllr. Christopher, Dorset Council:

- Cllr. Joyce report reading the report and asks if Cllr. Christopher wants to speak.
- Cllr. Christopher speaks of a meeting he has attended virtually this evening with the conservative group at Dorset Council where it was discussed that full Dorset Council on Thursday will be a virtual meeting and in December it may well be a hybrid meeting. The council agenda states that 27/82 councillors are clinically vulnerable being the reason for not face to face. Cllr. Christopher believes we should be meeting face to face and getting on with our jobs.
- Cllr. Christopher then moves on to mention having spent time with Cllr. Mahaddie and Cllr. Noon with National Highways in Morcombelake and they are also looking at Chideock in terms of safety and speed of vehicles and we need to keep up the pressure.
- Cllr. Christopher speaks of Covid and the current death rate/hospitalisation and lack of hospital beds and indeed the struggle within Dorset Council for staff.
- Climate change/funding for social care employers NI will increase from April 2022 being a major cost to Dorset Council.
- Cllr. Joyce speaks to reply to Cllr. Christopher's first point about remote meetings to share Char Valley's recent experience as we wanted to meet virtually having several vulnerable councillors but were told by DAPTC this was not allowed and is illegal.
- Cllr. Christopher asks if we will send our views to Dorset Council, Spencer Flower, as it shouldn't be different rules for different councils.
- Cllr. Joyce asks for a vote:

Proposed by Cllr. Bailey and Seconded by Cllr. Noon. All in Agreement

Council to write to Dorset Council, Spencer Flower with concerns.

- Cllr. Vaughan asks for details of the financial black hole that Cllr. Christopher mentioned. Cllr. Christopher confirms it comes from the adult and child social care area where the costs are exceeding the budget with an ageing population. Cllr. Vaughan asks what the plan is for this as people should be concerned if we are looking at millions of pounds deficit. Cllr. Christopher says it is not a case of cutting services but the need to battle with central Government for more funding.

4798: Communications:

- Cllr. Noon mentions an upcoming meeting in the next couple of weeks to talk about the next issue of Char Chat.

4799: Farming Interests Working Party:

- Cllr. Bailey asks council if they have anything they would like the group to look at. Cllr. Joyce confirms it is the working party's job to come up with ideas of ways we can help farmers in the area. Cllr. Noon adds that we can be looking at the farming industry and ways it affects us i.e., farms shutting down and perhaps then change of use, good to know before it happens. Cllr. Vaughan highlights the pressures on smaller farms as costs go up and market prices are going down, labour is not readily available with Brexit and changeover of the subsidy system which will have a big impact, meaning we may lose smaller farms. Cllr. Noon then mentions this has then a wider impact as this, in turn, will encourage more tourism so more traffic, sewage etc. and many may well change land use into campsites.

4800: Local Amenities Working Party:

- Cllr. Creed Castle confirms for new noticeboards are needed - 1 for Morcombelake as in disrepair, 1 at Wootton, 2 boards in Whitchurch are too small and need replacing.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle was hoping to ask Cllr. Hansford about addressing CVPC and the new footpath officers at the beginning of the next meeting.

Cllr. Creed Castle to send a letter to Cllr. Hansford.

- Cllr. Creed-Castle mentions that we need a new tree officer as Cllr. Peck is leaving unless Cllr. Peck wishes to carry on this role as a non councillor. Cllr. Peck states she is not but Cllr. Vaughan is also a tree officer who confirms he is willing to continue.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle speaks about the new grit bins needing moving and suggests the back of the village hall. Cllr. Joyce confirms they can stay on her property but will just need to be moved to another barn.
- Cllr. Creed-Castle then speaks of the bench that is also in Cllr. Joyce's barn that needs moving and offers a space on her campsite.
- Following discussion of various sites, it is agreed to consult the parishioners and to put into Char Chat.
- It was agreed to order unlocked noticeboards.

Clerk to order from the same supplier as last time and to purchase 4 unlocked double boards; liaise with Cllr. Creed Castle.

4801: Climate Environmental and Ecological Working Party/River Char Community Project (RCCP):

- Cllr. Joyce reports for the River Char Community Project that we are waiting to hear from Ian Reese whether it will be the 2nd or the 9th of November for the next stages.
- Cllr. Joyce sent the report to Charmouth and Marshwood Vale immediately after last month's meeting but has had no response or acknowledgement. Cllr. Joyce phoned Charmouth today to check they had received it, which they had, and they have decided to leave any comment until it is properly launched.

4802: Planning Working Party:

- Cllr. Mahaddie would like to write an introduction of the Housing Needs Survey for the next issue of Char Chat. Cllr. Noon confirms it will be sometime in November.
- Tourism – Cllr. Mahaddie reports the working party feel that the level of tourism is now getting to a level that seriously affects the lives of the residents and we should write to Dorset Council and the MP.
- Cllr. Joyce speaks of the effect of the growing tourism on locals i.e., some people stay in during the summer school holidays due to the traffic and busy-ness of the towns and beaches.
- Cllr. Noon asks Cllr. Christopher if there is a strategy for this. Cllr. Christopher answers that businesses that attract the tourism can't really be limited i.e., people can open cafes or have holiday properties.
- Cllr. Noon adds that we know it is increasing with the campsites already talked about etc. so do Dorset Council have any solutions. Cllr. Christopher suggests we could add this to our correspondence to Spencer Flower, "Where is the tourism strategy?".
- Cllr. Joyce asks for a vote to send a letter:

Proposed by Cllr. Noon and Seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie. All in Agreement

4803: Staffing Committee:

- Cllr Joyce speaks - Cllr. Peck is leaving end of December, so we are looking for a new member for the staffing committee. Cllr. Joyce is not allowed as she is the clerk's first call in any disputes.

4804: Transport Working Party:

- The Transport Working Party have not had the time to meet, only 1 item to discuss.
- Cllr. Noon has had a request from National Highways for us to write to people to ask they keep their hedges well maintained to protect the pedestrians. National Highways will visit next week to take action to cut back any hedges and they may then charge the owners and leave mess. Cllr. Joyce states this is tricky as we don't hold all the names and addresses. It is suggested we put an article in Char Chat and Cllr. Noon agrees. Cllr. Noon also offers to put leaflets through resident's doors.

Cllr. Noon to create a leaflet and article in Char Chat

Proposed by Cllr. Creed-Castle and Seconded by Cllr. Mahaddie. All in Agreement

4805: Councillor training:

- Councillors are encouraged to read the DATPC newsletters for relevant training and to do as much as possible now while they are being done online which is much easier than attending in person.

4806: Date of the next meeting:

- 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall or 'GoToMeeting'. To be decided in advance of the agenda being issued.

4807: Meeting closed at 21.55.