

**Stanton St Gabriel, Morcombelake Annual General Meeting  
25th April 2019**

Chairperson - Cllr Everidge  
Secretary - Cllr Eager

Present: Cllr Mahaddie, Cllr Christopher and three members of the public

Minutes of 2018 were agreed and signed off.

1. A35 improvements

Sir Oliver Letwin convenes a quarterly meeting in Bridport with interested bodies over concerns regarding A35. Cllr Everidge attends and offered to take any concerns/comments to future meetings.

The recent Community Severance Feasibility Study has produced an extensive draft report which is looking positive. There has been a request from the Highways England Route Manager to hold a meeting with the core group of the elected members of CVPC to discuss the improvement options set out in the report. This will take place once the May 2nd council elections have been finalised. Cllr Everidge reminded that for this there is allocated money available outside routine maintenance, upkeep and repairs. Cllr Christopher confirmed that there was going to be a second road crossing in Morcombelake opposite the Art Gallery.

A Diversion Voluntary Group (DVG) has been set up with the aim of helping the police deal with diversions off the A35. There have been a couple of community meetings which, in consultation with local police, have discussed routes and procedures. The leader of the DVG has recently met with Sir Oliver Letwin and will soon be distributing a summary of their discussion.

2. Morcombelake Post Office and Post Box

Cllr Mahaddie described the lack of action by the Post Office to replace Morcombelake Post Office. Post Office remuneration currently does not adequately cover expenses here and so it is hard to find someone to run a Post Office in Morcombelake. We discussed the use of outreach Post Offices with set opening times a week, maybe combining Charmouth and Morcombelake. Many people now use Charmouth Post Office but once that goes in May there will be a good number of people who will have nowhere to go.

The current postbox is in the garden of the old Post Office and CVPC have agreed to the planning application to remove it with the stipulation that the post box will be reinstated in an alternative and suitable position. The Post Office, however, will not provide another post box as there are two post boxes within half a mile radius of each other. One of these

post boxes is next to the Village Hall but access is very limited and involves walking on busy roads without pavements. There was discussion around getting support to lobby for another

post box on the main A35. Regulations specify that there needs to be a wide enough area to put it on; a postbox on land governed by Highways will require an in-depth Health and Safety assessment. An area near Moores has been discussed but nothing has been progressed as yet. Cllr Christopher will mention the situation to Jane Gordon-Banks when he meets her at Wootton.

### 3. Dorset and East Devon National Park

There has not been much activity recently. CVPC supports a move to the second stage of assessment and has asked to be kept informed regarding the situation. Further information can be found at <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com>

### 4. Planning - Section 106 funds

CVPC want to use this money to put a roof over the existing seat at the bus stop opposite Moores. There are problems as the roof cannot overhang the footpath without an in-depth Health and Safety assessment so CVPC are investigating setting the bench further back into the bank. The next stage is to contact Moores who own the land. It will cost more than our current allocation but we might be able to so the work in stages whilst awaiting the next instalment of CIL money for the second stage. Cllr Christopher suggested mobilising donations of money and the appropriate skills.

### 5 Changes to Hospital Services

Two local information meetings put on by NHS about changes were not well attended due to unsuitable venues and there has been no news on the outcome of the third and final meeting. There are concerns regarding accessibility as certain disciplines have moved hospitals: musculoskeletal services are to be moved to Blandford whilst bladder/kidney matters remain in Dorchester. Cllr Everidge has a powerpoint of the reasons behind the changes which she is willing to circulate to people.

### 6. May Elections

There have been changes to electoral areas and the local ward is now Marshwood where there are 5 candidates competing for 1 seat: Cllr Christopher, Phyllida Culpin, Simon Fairlie, Eddie Gerrard and Jaqui Sewell. For Char Valley Parish Council there are 2 contested positions so there will need to be elections for parish councillors: in Whitchurch South where there are 5 candidates for 4 seats whilst in Stanton St Gabriel there are 2 candidates for 1 seat. Everyone needs to be encouraged to vote.

### 7. Other topics raised by attendees

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- Cllr Everidge requested someone new to take on role of footpath officer for Stanton St Gabriel.
- Cllr Everidge reported that the stile near Felicity's is a courtesy by the landowner, not a right of way.
- Concerns were raised that people now seem to be living in the building described on the Hill Farm planning application WD/D/16/002880 as a replacement outbuilding. CVPC will report this planning issue to the enforcement officers.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.