

# CHAR CHAT

## Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 12

June 2006

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## CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006

The **Parish Council** is the first tier of Local Government. The parish council has its own powers and can also ask District or County Councils to act on issues that matter to local people. **Residents** can ask a Councillor or the Clerk to look into a problem for them with the correct authority. We do this with your money provided by the parish element of your Council Tax, known as the "Precept". Councillors are not paid though they may claim expenses. The Parish Council cannot function properly without **YOU**. Our Rights of Way Officers and other representative positions as well as Committees and Working Parties are open to residents, not just to councillors. Please contact the Clerk, Mrs Hughes if you would like to help in any way to look after our area.

**Char Valley Parish Council** serves the three parishes of Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonorum and Wootton Fitzpaine - a "grouped" parish council. The Council is divided into four wards: **Stanton St Gabriel** (St Gabriel, part Morcombelake & Stonebarrow Lane); **Whitchurch Canonorum North** (Whitchurch, Ryall, Berne Lane, Newlands, the Vale & Fishpond); **Whitchurch Canonorum South** (Morcombelake, part Ryall); **Wootton Fitzpaine** (Wootton, Monkton Wyld & part Fern Hill). There are twelve councillor positions; nine councillors stood for election in 2003 and three were co-opted by the Council later. The parish councillors for each ward are shown on the back page.

**The next elections will be in 2007.** Some councillors will be retiring and new councillors will be needed. Anyone who has lived in the Parish or within three miles of the boundaries for one year is eligible to stand for election. We do please urge any resident interested in becoming a councillor to ask the Clerk for details of how to stand and what the job entails. There is an excellent description of how to become a councillor on the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council's website at [www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk](http://www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk). The DAPTC provides us with excellent advice and support.

**OUR PARISH COUNCIL CLERK MRS CHARLOTTE HUGHES:** The Clerk is the only paid officer of the Parish Council. Charlotte arranges the meetings, sets the agenda, takes the minutes, writes letters, contacts County, District and other Councils, keeps the books, tells us what the Council and councillors can and cannot do, and can lay her hand on any document (even those stored in the attic). She has also been awarded the first stage of the Parish Council Clerks' Certificate of Local Council Administration and is working towards the second part. Well done Charlotte!

**COUNCIL MEETINGS** are held ten times a year in public. There is a **Public Discussion Period** when members of the public can speak on any issue concerning them and those with planning applications may make a presentation. Our District and County Councillors attend our meetings, reporting on matters that affect our area and providing valuable advice. Parish Councillors' attendance in 2005/06 was 72.5%. The average number of members of the public present was five. **We welcome members of the public** to our meetings whether you wish to speak or not.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** are discussed at Parish Council Meetings or at a Planning Committee Meeting, depending on when recommendations are due back to WDDC. During 2005/06, we received and commented on **59 planning applications**. The short turn-around time set, means that some minor applications are dealt with by councillors between meetings, but a report is always given in public later. Larger applications go to a public meeting. This is an important part of the Council's work and the system for dealing with applications covering a wide physical area is working well. **The Parish Council** makes planning recommendations to **West Dorset District Council**, which makes planning decisions.

**REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS:** Each of our parishes has **Rights of Way Officers** who report on defects to Dorset County Council. The problems of SW Coastal Path diversions should be resolved soon with agreement over replacement routes. The Parish Council is very grateful to Cllr & Mrs John Bridle, Mr & Mrs Don Newman and Mr Peter Mills for looking after our Rights of Way. Our **Transport Representative** attends the Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) to discuss public transport in the area. Our **Tree and Hedgerow Officer** has dealt with a number of tree preservation issues.

The system governing requests for tree work has recently been changed by WDDC. A formal application will be sent to the Parish Council and will be dealt with in a similar way to a planning application.

**BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP:** Char Valley Parish Council is on the Steering Group of the Partnership. Meetings between Bridport Town Council, the surrounding parish councils, voluntary organisations, and businesses take place quarterly. We have had talks with guest speakers from DCC and WDDC during the last year. The **Planning Working Party** have examined and reported on the Draft Local Plan, the Inspector's Report on the Plan and the Statement of Community Involvement for the new Local Development Framework. We are grateful to Rob Perry who represents Char Valley on the **Heritage Coast Working Group**. The first **BLAP Assembly** was held in Bridport in March with displays from community groups showing their activities. Char Valley Council find BLAP very useful as it allows us to discuss solutions to problems with a number of other councils.

**ROADS AND LANES:** County Councillor Brierley organises an annual **Lane Inspection** of each parish with a DCC officer. In 2005 the roads in Monkton Wyld and Wootton Fitzpaine were resurfaced, flood alleviation work was carried out at Stockham Bridge, Whitchurch and drains in Verriotts Lane, Morcombelake were repaired. We have requested 'side-lining' of the lanes. The Parish Meetings at Whitchurch

Canonicorum and at Wootton Fitzpaine asked for speed limits in their villages but this request was turned down by Dorset County Council.

#### **CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2006/07**

Parish Council Meetings take place on a Monday evening at 7.30 p.m.  
Parish Council, Planning and Finance Committee Meetings are held in public with agendas posted on notice boards

2006		2007 (provisional)
12 June	James Hargreaves Community Hall, Morcombelake	8 January Whitchurch
17 July	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	12 February Morcombelake
August	No Meeting	12 March Wootton
11 September	Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	9 April Whitchurch
9 October	James Hargreaves Community Hall, Morcombelake	14 May Morcombelake (AGM)
20 November	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	
December	No Meeting	

The Parish Council held a meeting with the **Highways Agency**, together with Chideock and Symondsburry Parish Councils, chaired by **Oliver Letwin MP** to discuss pedestrian crossings and speed limits for the **A35** from the Eype turning on the Bridport Bypass to the west side of Morcombelake. We have asked several times for a **pedestrian crossing** and **Speed Indicators** in Morcombelake. The Highways Agency has refused these requests although they agree the facilities are needed. We will continue to lobby for a better response.

**AFFORDABLE (SOCIAL) HOUSING:** In 2004 the Council completed a Housing Needs Survey in Whitchurch Canonorum parish that showed there was an urgent need for affordable housing. Last year the Council asked landowners whether they had any sites that might be suitable. Several owners offered land and we are very grateful to them all. The sites were looked at by the Steering Group together with a professional advisor. Some were ruled out as not suitable for building or too far from village facilities. However, four sites looked possible; three in Whitchurch, one in Morcombelake. In March 2006, the Parish Council held a **Village Consultation** to display the sites so that local residents could have their say. Housing Enabler Andy Lloyd came to answer questions and Hastoe Housing Association showed the developments they have built in other Dorset villages. About sixty local residents visited the exhibition and more people in need of housing signed up to the West Dorset Housing Register. There was approval of the idea that there should be social housing to enable Whitchurch youngsters to remain in the village; however, there were naturally some differences of opinion about the suitability of the different sites. Many useful comments were written down and have been transcribed. We now need to talk to planning officials to find an **exception site**.

**FINANCES 2005/06:** The Parish Council is very grateful to Simon Christopher who carries out an internal audit on the accounts free of charge. **Simon John Christopher Ltd**, Accountants, 1st Floor Suite, Drapers House, Market Place, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1AS

#### THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

meetings are in public. Our precept varies from year to year partly due to grant applications made by village halls which, if approved, we support with a grant of 5% of the total cost. All three halls have projects under way to provide disabled access, to comply with health and safety regulations or to update their facilities. The Parish Council supports these projects which have entailed much fundraising by local residents. We now also provide an annual sum for regular maintenance of the buildings.

#### INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS:

The **Parish Council newsletter** is put together four times a year by Liz Daros and Trevor Chambers, together with a parish councillor. Char Chat is posted or delivered to every household with the help of Martin Legg of Morcombelake Post Office. Our **website**, [www.charvalleypc.co.uk](http://www.charvalleypc.co.uk) is maintained by Tim Heap ([www.logomotion.co.uk](http://www.logomotion.co.uk)). Agendas, minutes, meeting dates, planning applications, Action Plans and the Community Survey are all on the website. We hope you are now better informed about issues affecting our area.

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£ 2005/06	£ 2004/05
Precept from WDDC	10,860.00	11,750.00
Bank Interest	86.44	101.30
VAT returned	149.30	100.62
Grants	127.50	531.25
Other Income	100	-
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>11,323.24</b>	<b>12,483.17</b>
Balance at 1 April	4,119.13	7,171.77
	15,442.37	19,654.94
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
<b>Running Expenses</b>		
Hall Hire	203.00	198.00
Information - Char Chat & website	774.58	743.86
Clerk's salary, office expenses, insurance, subs, etc	5,870.05	5,070.79
<b>Burial Ground maintenance grants</b>		
Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Fishpond, Stanton St Gabriel, Morcombelake URC & Monkton Wyld	800.00	1,352.00
<b>Village halls regular maintenance grants</b>	900.00	-
<b>Agency Services</b>		
Play spaces maintenance	623.00	522.00
Audit Commission	120.00	141.00
<b>Donations</b>		
Dorset Air Ambulance, Citizens Advice Bureau, WRVS	150.00	200.00
Bopper Bus (Chideock Parish Council)	350.00	350.00
<b>Contributions towards Grant Aid</b>		
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	825.00	1,750.00
James Hargreaves Community Hall	-	2,800.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	-	800.00
<b>Village Improvements</b>	332.01	1,608.16
<b>Payments total</b>	<b>10,947.64</b>	<b>15,535.81</b>
Balance 31 March to carry forward	4,494.73	4,119.13
	15,442.37	19,654.94

**OTHER ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING 2005/2006:** Apart from the regular issues, some other matters which came up in 2005/06 were: bus stop signs and timetables, Public Entertainment Licences for outdoor events, Byways Open to All Traffic, quad bike racing, overhanging trees and branches, refuse collection problems, drainage and flooding problems, public seats, the Tetra mast site on Stonebarrow Lane, and excessive slurry on roads. We are not always successful but we do our best to see that problems are resolved or notified to appropriate authorities as quickly as possible.

# CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL 2006/2007

www.charvalleypc.co.uk

## Representing Whitchurch Canonorum North

Mr R S ANDREWS	Beeperlands Farm, Berne Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RD	01297 560203
Mrs C BAILEY	Mandeville Stoke Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RW	01297 489714
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RP	01297 489375
Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500

## Representing Whitchurch Canonorum South

Mr R COOK	Hillside Home, Ryall, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EG	01297 489695
Mr V G DIMENT (Vice Chairman)	Peter Pan, The Green, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EA	01297 489636
Mr R K TAYLOR	Knapp Cottage, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DY	01297 489125
Mr P G WHITE	7 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 498128

## Representing Wootton Fitzpaine

Miss B BRISCOE	Stonecroft, Fishpond, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NN	01297 678203
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wyld, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464
Mrs E J FORTESCUE (Chairman)	Nutcombe Cottage, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NA	01297 560800

## Representing Stanton St Gabriel

Mr J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Stanton St Gabriel, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
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## Planning Committee

Mr V G DIMENT (Chairman)	Peter Pan, The Green, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EA	01297 489636
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For Finance Committee and Working Party members, contact the Clerk

## Rights Of Way Officers

### Stanton St Gabriel Parish

Mr J E BRIDLE	Cold Harbour, Stanton St Gabriel, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6EP	01297 489711
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### Whitchurch Canonorum Parish

Mr & Mrs D NEWMAN	Peal House, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RH	01297 489781
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### Wootton Fitzpaine Parish

Mr P MILLS	The Old Rectory, Wootton Fitzpaine, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6NF	01297 560654
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## Tree & Hedge Officers

Mr C N RICHARDS	6 Goodens Hill, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF	01297 489500
Mr W B CHAPMAN	Stubbs Farm, Monkton Wyld, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DE	01297 560464

## Ancient Monuments Officer

Mrs S CREED-CASTLE	Crabbs Bluntshay Cottage, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RN	01297 489064
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## Village Hall Representatives

Mr R S ANDREWS	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	01297 560203
Mrs S M JOHNSON	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	01297 489375
Miss B BRISCOE	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	01297 678203
Mr R K TAYLOR	James Hargreaves Community Hall, Morcombelake	01297 489125

## West Dorset District Councillors

### Whitchurch Canonorum Parish

Mr I L GILLESPIE	Tempest, Hawkchurch, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5UW	01297 678235
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### Wootton Fitzpaine Parish

Mr D NEWSON	Lavender Cottage, Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6BB	01297 560855
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### Stanton St Gabriel Parish

Mrs G SUMMERS	31 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3AD	01308 421966
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## Dorset County Councillor

Mr G BRIERLEY	Hinkhams, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RJ	01297 489773
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## Police Liaison Officer

P C BYE	The Police Station, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3PG	01297 442603
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## Clerk to The Council

Mrs C HUGHES	42 Fishweir Fields, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3HF	clerk@charvalleypc.co.uk 01308 421410
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