

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 15

April 2007

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Char Valley Parish Council Budget for 2007/2008

Running Expenses	Salary, administration expenses, subscriptions, insurance, audit, hall hire etc	7,752
	Char Chat and the Char Valley website	762
	Grants to six Parochial Church Councils for the maintenance of Burial Grounds	841
	Wootton Fitzpaine Playing Field and Whitchurch Canonorum Playground	750
Donations to organisations who provide a service to our residents	Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, Citizens' Advice Bureau, WATAG, Samaritans, WRVS,	200
	Bopper Bus	500
Village Halls	Capital support grants	250
	Regular maintenance grants	990
Village improvements	Salt bins, notice boards, Wootton Fitzpaine Memorial clock, Well House	6,700
Contingency		1,500
Total		20,245

Taking into account money not spent in 2006 on projects not yet completed, the Parish Council is asking for a precept of £16,200 for 2007/08. The Accounts for 2006/2007 will be published in the June edition of Char Chat.

Our contribution to the **Bopper Bus** is increased this year from £350 to £500. More details about this excellent facility can be found on the centre pages. Some projects, such as improvements to the Well House in Whitchurch in the 2006/2007 budget for **Village Improvements**, are to be carried forward. This year we intend to re-gild and refurbish the Wootton Village Hall clock which, together with the bell, is the village's War Memorial. The cost to the Parish is estimated to be in the region of £2,000 and we hope for some assistance with the funding.

The costs of **administration have** increased due to rises in public liability insurance, subscriptions, hall hire, etc. We pay regular maintenance grants to all three village halls as our only community buildings.

That said, it is worth noting that the money we spend in the Parish (the precept) is equivalent to only about 2.5% of Council Tax for Band D.

Updates....

Charmouth Library

Thank you to all those of you who completed and returned forms giving your views on the Library. These have now been returned to Dorset County Council.

We are now waiting for Dorset CC to produce financial information in order that the Charmouth Library Committee can start putting a business plan together.

Stonebarrow Mast

The hearing of the appeal lodged by Arqiva against the decision taken in August 2006 to refuse planning permission has taken place. As yet, we have not been informed of the decision.

Affordable Housing

It now looks as if it might be possible to have an 'exception site' in Whitchurch Canonorum for affordable housing after all. As soon as there is definite news, another consultation day for residents to discuss plans will be announced.

Best Kept Village Competition - What village amenities would you like to see?

Wootton Fitzpaine was once again successful in the 2006 Best Kept Village competition, winning the Best Kept Small Village, Previous Winners class and the International Tree Foundation (Dorset Branch) Tree Award.

Wootton has won a prize almost every year since 1998 and there are now several beautiful hardwood benches around the village and money in the bank.

This year the Committee has decided to enter the Best Community Village class, small village section. We wish them good luck!

The Committee would like to ask residents of Wootton Fitzpaine Parish (which includes Monkton Wyld) for ideas on which to spend the money. Previously, money has been spent on trees and bulbs for planting. Please contact Marion Brooks, Secretary, on 560807 or by email brooksies.manorgardens@virgin.net with your ideas.

The Bopper Bus

The Bopper Bus picks up our children on Friday nights and takes them to the Bridport Leisure Centre for organised activities. It is open to children between the ages of 8 and 18 from Charmouth, Catherston Leweston, Wootton Fitzpaine, Whitchurch Canonorum, Ryall, Morcombelake, Chideock and Symondsburry. It has been a major success giving children from different schools a chance to get to know each other and make new friends while learning a variety of new (and energetic) skills.

The Bus has funding until the end of this year. The Parish Councils all contribute grants for the cost of the activities at the Leisure Centre. It is difficult to find continuing funding for this excellent venture and the organisers worry about the future.

The price has been kept down to £1 per child, which includes transport and activities, to make it accessible to any children who cannot get transport to the Leisure Centre, either due to other commitments or due to a lack of transport - public or private. Children, accompanied by trained and appropriately checked adults, are taken to the Leisure Centre where they participate in a full range of sporting activities: all ball games, martial arts, trampoline, team games, swimming etc. It operates every Friday night during term time and tickets, which are issued on a 'first come - first served' basis, can be obtained from Charmouth or Chideock Post Offices.

Kate Geraghty, who organises the Bopper Bus, would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping out on the occasional Friday night, accompanying the children. The helpers say they enjoy this chance to get to know the children. If you are interested, please contact Kate on 489422

Photo to follow

Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation

The Parish Council found this to be a very thorough document on what needs to be done to improve footpaths, bridleways, byways and wider access in Dorset. Our Parish Rights of Way Officers provided detailed reports to the consultation and councillors made some points too and we feel these have been taken on board.

The final document will set out the proposed management of Countryside Access across Dorset for the next 5-10 years. The aim is to update and develop an efficient and effective Countryside Access Network so that it provides not only recreational and sporting benefits but also support for other matters e.g. our health, road safety and sustainable transport, opportunities for and management of tourism, land management - agriculture, forestry and environmental conservation, ways to boost our local economy and opportunities for local people to get involved with countryside access.

Issues arising out of the consultation include:

- The need to increase provision for equestrians and cyclists.
- The need to develop safe off road paths so that people don't have to cross or walk/ride along busy roads to get about their local area or enjoy the countryside.
- The need to improve current management and maintenance of paths, for example, better signage, structures and surfacing.
- The need for improved and sustainable maintenance practices to protect Dorset's special and valued natural environment.
- The need to develop a network of paths within and between settlements and out into the wider countryside.
- The need to make paths easier to use by people of all ages, needs and abilities.
- The need to develop an up-to-date Definitive Map and provide better information for all involved with paths.
- The need to increase opportunities for more people to get involved in managing, maintaining and promoting their local rights of way.
- The need to better promote Countryside Access and provide information that people need.

Stonebarrow Hill and Langdon Woods Car Parks

