

# CHAR CHAT

## Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 16

June 2007

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## Elections May 2007 - Our New Councillors

Firstly, a vote of thanks to all our previous councillors. At least one was a councillor for eighteen years and many had served for more than eight years. There are now new councillors in office for the next four-year term, some elected, some co-opted, and some who have served before.

### WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM PARISH - NORTH WARD

#### Sue Johnson - Chairman

I have lived in the Marshwood Vale for 35 years, the last 18 years at Cardsmill Farm where the family run a mixed farm with, a herd of dairy cows, beef cattle and sheep. We also run a self-catering and bed and breakfast business. I have been on the Char Valley Parish Council for 8 years due to my interest in local issues, like housing, roads and planning.

#### Christine Bailey

I have lived at Mandeville Stoke Farm for the last 28 years and have a family of 4 children who all attended local schools. I help on the farm feeding the calves etc. My interest in local issues include planning, housing and schools.

#### Sylvia Creed-Castle

I am currently a primary school supply teacher and Adult Education Tutor. I am involved with running the West Dorset Branch of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society and I am hoping to develop my role as Ancient Monuments Liaison Officer for the Council. I and my husband Malcolm farm near Shave Cross and I make chutneys for a weekly Farmers' Market stall.

#### Ken Tubb

After many years in the Building Supplies Industry, a change of direction in 1986 seemed like a good idea. Our moving to a smallholding in the Marshwood Vale proved to be the right decision. I hope that I can help maintain a balanced rural community, particularly with homes for all ages and incomes.

### WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM PARISH - SOUTH WARD

#### Vincent Diment

I am sixty-six years old and am self-employed in the building industry. I like most types of music, in particular Irish folk music and classical music. I like gardening and my main interests are social history, local history and old buildings. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to live in West Dorset all my life.

#### Catherine Parr

I have lived in Ryall for the last twenty years and am keen on the wonders of nature around me, largely maintained by generations of farmers. I spin, dye and weave local fleece into colourful tapestries as well as doing other artwork and gardening.

#### Pete Ray

I have lived and farmed in Whitchurch since 1980 having married a local girl. I am particularly interested in all aspects of rural life and country pursuits and was chairman of the Flower Show committee for 14 years..

*Continued on back page*

# **CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007**

**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. Our District and County Councillors attend our meetings, reporting on matters that affect our area. Parish Councillors' attendance in 2006/07 was 76%. The average number of members of the public present was six. **Members of the public are welcome** to the meetings whether they wish to speak or not.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS:** Each of our parishes holds an Annual Parish Meeting. These are informal meetings for local residents to discuss individual parish issues. Money for village projects can be available through the Parish Council budget. Copies of the minutes are held by the Char Valley Parish Council Clerk.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** are discussed in public at Parish Council Meetings. During 2006/07, we commented on **56 planning applications**. We are

notified of approvals for agricultural buildings that do not need a full planning application but we do not have a say on them. The Parish Council makes planning recommendations to West Dorset District Council which takes the planning decisions. Planning applications and comments can be seen on [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk) and on [www.charvalleypc.co.uk](http://www.charvalleypc.co.uk).

**REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS:** Each of our three parishes has **Rights of Way Officers** who report on defects to Dorset County Council. The Parish Council is very grateful to Mr & Mrs John Bridle, Mr & Mrs Don Newman and Mr Peter Mills for looking after our Rights of Way. Our **Tree and Hedgerow Officers** dealt with several tree preservation applications and our **Ancient Monuments/Heritage Officer**, Councillor Sylvia Creed-Castle has been on a training course and is planning an exhibition about the area in August 2008.

**BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP:** Char Valley Parish Council sits on the Steering Group which meets quarterly. Char Valley Council finds the meetings very useful as it allows us to exchange information and find solutions to problems with other BLAP members. The Planning Group also discusses the large consultation documents which are produced so frequently. A BLAP Action Plan has been produced and the actions for 2007 are already under way.

**ROADS AND LANES:** County Councillor Brierley organises an annual Lane Inspection of each parish with a DCC officer to discuss programmes of work. Char Valley has agreed to join with other local Parish Councils to acquire a moveable Speed Indicating Device (SID) to place in speeding black spots in different villages in rotation. Our A35 Transport Representative attended several meetings with the Highways Agency last year, together with Chideock and Symondsbury Parish Councils, to discuss pedestrian crossings and speed limits for the A35. We have asked repeatedly for a pedestrian crossing and speed indicators in Morcombelake. The Highways Agency has now agreed to allow a Speed Indicating Device but it is still not installed.

**AFFORDABLE (SOCIAL) HOUSING FOR WHITCHURCH:** The Housing Needs Survey showed at least 16 people in need of housing in Whitchurch and the Village Consultation day showed that the village community would back a social housing scheme for local needs. The Parish Council did not have the expertise or funding to carry this on, into the buying of land or building of houses, so Hastoe Housing Association was asked to continue the process. They are negotiating to acquire suitable land and WDDC Planning Department has said that in principle they could approve a site in Whitchurch. We wait to hear from Hastoe what the next step will be but they assure us that another Village Consultation will take place when they have decided on a site and before plans are submitted to WDDC.

## **CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2007**

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

June 11th	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
July 16th	Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall
August	No meeting
September 10th	James Hargreaves Community Hall
October 8th	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall
December	No meeting

**FINANCES 2006/07:** The Parish Council is very grateful to Simon Christopher who does 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

	2006/07	2005/06
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Precept from WDDC	14,000.00	10,860.00
Bank Interest	101.24	86.44
VAT returned	82.14	149.30
Grants	-	127.50
Other Income	-	100.00
<b>RECEIPTS TOTAL</b>	<b>14,183.38</b>	<b>11,323.24</b>
Balance at 1 April	4,494.73	4,119.13
	18,678.11	15,442.37
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
<b>Running Expenses</b>		
Information - Char Chat & website	1,167.76	774.58
Clerk's salary, office expenses, hall hire, insurance, subs, training etc	6,251.21	6,073.05
<b>Burial Ground maintenance grants to PCCs:</b>		
Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Fishpond, Stanton St Gabriel, Monkton Wyld & Morcombelake URC (JH Hall)	818.00	800.00
Village halls maintenance grants	945.00	900.00
<i>Agency Services:</i>		
Play spaces maintenance	625.89	623.00
Audit Commission	141.00	120.00
<b>Donations:</b>		
Dorset Air Ambulance, WATAG	60.00	150.00
Bopper Bus (Chideock Parish Council)	500.00	350.00
<b>Contributions towards Grant Aid:</b>		
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	250.00	825.00
James Hargreaves Community Hall	1,500.00	-
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	-	-
<b>Village Improvements:</b> Salt bins, Playground sweeper	911.71	332.01
<b>PAYMENTS TOTAL</b>	<b>13,169.57</b>	<b>10,947.64</b>
Balance 31 March to carry forward	5,508.54	4,494.73
	18,678.11	15,442.37

**INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS:** Char Chat is posted or delivered to every household with the help of Martin Legg of Morcombelake Post Office. We hope residents like to have the newsletter and will also contribute local information, articles or photographs themselves, to keep Char Chat a lively newsletter for our scattered communities. The Char Chat editors are Liz Daros (01297 560459) and Trevor Chambers (01297 489349) and 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)). Tim would also welcome photographs of our area.

**SOME OTHER ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING 2006/2007:**

Parking in narrow lanes, Playground inspections, Closure of Charmouth Library, Community Land Trusts, Ship Inn Morcombelake, Local Government reorganisation, WDDC Statement of Community Involvement, WDDC Local Development Framework, South West Regional Assembly Consultation Document, Footpaths & Green Lanes, Recycling problems, Litter, English Nature's Hardown Hill Management Scheme, Environment Agency Consultation Document on West Dorset Streams, Stream water quality in Whitchurch, Bus routes, Best Kept Village Awards, Bopper Bus, Rural Post Offices, Accident Signs for A35 road closure, Whitchurch Canonorum Conservation Area, Lifeguards on Charmouth beach, MSC Napoli reports, Stolen salt bins, Flooding at Stockham Bridge, DCC Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

## ***Elections May 2007 - Our New Councillors - continued***

### **WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM PARISH - SOUTH WARD (continued)**

#### **Penny Watt**

I am a retired medical practitioner - working in community medicine with a special interest in deaf children. I moved to Dorset in 2000 to indulge in growing plants, which started as a hobby 45 years ago and is now an addiction. I much appreciate this beautiful area and hope it can remain unspoiled.

### **STANTON ST GABRIEL PARISH**

#### **Christine Everidge**

I teach at The Woodroffe School and have two sons in Further Education. I collect used stamps in aid of the Reynauds Society.

### **WOOTTON FITZPAINE PARISH**

#### **Ken Mansbridge**

I was born in Southampton pre-war into an aeronautical family. I am married with three children and five grandchildren all living locally. We started farming on our own account in 1974 and are still going! I am interested in conservation and looking after the local environment.

#### **Clive Sage**

I was born and brought up here in the parish, taking over farming my father's farm where I farm both sheep and beef in a traditional way. I am involved in many local food groups, am a Director of Dorset Farmers Markets Ltd, and organize and run Bridport Farmers Market. My wife, Jo, helps me with the business and runs her own complementary health practice and we have two wonderful children.

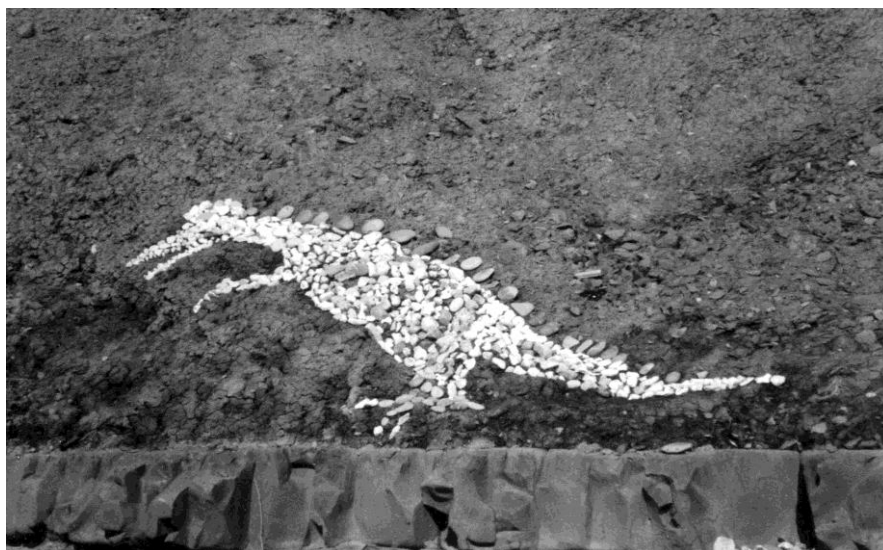
#### **Debby Snook**

I have lived in Wootton Fitzpaine since 1978 and have 2 grown up sons, both of whom work in London. I manage and let a holiday cottage in the village and serve as Hon. Secretary of the Lyme Regis, Charmouth and District Hotel and Restaurant Association, our local tourism group. I am also the village Neighbourhood Watch Representative.

Contact details for councillors together with other representatives will be given in the next issue of Char Chat.

**PARISH COUNCIL CLERK MRS CHARLOTTE HUGHES: 01308 421410, [clerk@charvalleyipc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@charvalleyipc.co.uk)** remains in office as the lynch pin of the whole operation. She is the only paid official of the council and manages its affairs.

### ***Stanton St Gabriel's Beach Dinosaur (but we're not all dinosaurs!)***



Picture by John Bridle, taken on St Gabriel's Beach.

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