

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 19

July 2008

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May 2008 - Our Councillors

As there are no elections for Parish Council this year, we have the same councillors for all areas:

Representing Whitchurch Canonorum North:

- *Mrs Sue Johnson - Chairman (Finance Committee, BLAP, Planning Committee, Char Chat Liaison, Affordable Housing)
- *Mrs Chris Bailey (Planning Committee, Flood Warden, Affordable Housing)
- *Mrs Sylvia Creed-Castle (Finance Committee, Ancient Monuments Officer)
- *Mr Ken Tubb (Finance Committee, Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall Rep, Planning Committee)

Representing Whitchurch Canonorum South:

- *Mr Vincent Diment (Transport Rep, Planning Committee)
- *Mrs Penny Watt (Finance Committee, James Hargreaves Community Hall Rep, Char Chat Liaison)
- *Mrs Katherine Parr (Tree Rep, Planning Committee)
- *Mr Pete Ray (Planning Committee, Affordable Housing)

Representing Wootton Fitzpaine

- *Mr Ken Mansbridge- Vice Chairman (Finance Committee)
- *Mrs Debbie Snook (DAPTC Rep, Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall Rep)
- *Mr Clive Sage

Representing Stanton St Gabriel

- *Mrs Christine Everidge (Finance Committee, Char Chat Liaison)

District Councillors

- * Whitchurch Canonorum Parish: Mr M D Robinson
- * Wootton Fitzpaine Parish: Mr D Newson
- * Stanton St Gabriel Parish: Mrs G Summers

Dorset County Councillor

- * Mr G Brierley

All councillors are happy to help residents to bring issues to council meetings and send reports to the relevant West Dorset District Council Offices.

A **vacancy** will arise at the Whitchurch Canonorum South Ward in **September** when Vincent Diment has indicated his intention to retire after many years of service.

A notice will be posted in South Whitchurch Canonorum area asking if anyone wants to call an election. If less than 10 people request an election we can advertise the vacancy throughout the parish. It is then the responsibility of the councillors to take a vote on any applicants and co-opt him/her on to Char Valley Parish Council for the Whitchurch Canonorum South Ward.

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

COUNCIL MEETINGS are held monthly with the exception of August and December. The meetings are held at Whitchurch Canonorum and Wootton Fitzpaine Village Halls and the James Hargreaves Hall at Morecombelake. Dates and times of meetings plus agendas are posted on the council notice Boards and minutes can be viewed on the Char Valley Parish Council web site: www.charvalleypc.co.uk

At meetings there is a Public Discussion period when members of the public can speak on any issue concerning them. Our District Councillors and County Councillor attend our meetings.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS are held each year at Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine and Stanton St Gabriel during April or May. The minutes are printed below for each parish meeting for 2008. These are informal meetings for local residents to discuss individual parish concerns and issues. The reports from these meetings are then discussed at the next parish council meeting and actions taken if requested.

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2008

21st July (James Hargreaves Community Hall) @ 7.30pm
8th September (Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall) @ 7.30pm
13th October (Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall) @ 7.30pm
17th November (James Hargreaves Community Hall) @ 7.30pm

As yet no meetings have been booked for 2009, these are normally booked in September/October.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS are discussed at Parish Council meetings. During 2007 we received 51 planning applications and so far in 2008 we have received 23.

When an application is received from West Dorset District Council, the Clerk sends it to the Council member of the relevant area. The Council member arranges to view the planning application site, generally with either one or two more local councillors present. They look at all aspects of the plans, talk to neighbours and write a short report. The report is discussed at the next parish meeting and returned to the planning department. Applicants are allowed to make a representation at council meetings. West Dorset District Council makes the final decisions. Planning applications and comments can be seen on www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk and on www.charvalleypc.co.uk

REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS: **Rights of Way Officers** for each area are Mr and Mrs Don Newman for Whitchurch Canonorum, Mr John Bridle for Stanton St Gabriel and Mr Peter Mills for Wootton Fitzpaine. Any defects with footpaths or bridleways can be reported to them or the Clerk. Our **Tree and Hedgerow Officer** is Councillor Catherine Parr who has a list of trees with preservation orders. Our **Ancient Monuments Officer** is Councillor Sylvia Creed Castle. The exhibition about the area planned for this August has been postponed till August 2009.

BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP: Char Valley Parish Council sits on the Steering Group, which meets quarterly. We find the meetings helpful as it allows us to exchange information and find solutions to problems with other BLAP members. Information sent by BLAP has during the past year allowed James Hargreaves Hall and Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall access to extra local grants for the Halls.

ROADS AND LANES: County Councillor Brierley organises the annual Lane Inspection of each parish with the Dorset County Council officer and a local councillor for each area to discuss maintenance work that needs to be undertaken. The Parish Council is still trying to get a SID (Speed Indicating Device) to place at Morcombelake. A meeting was held with Cllr Christine Everidge, Penny Watt, John Bridle, Trevor Chambers and Mr A Kirby in early July to discuss the positioning of this SID. We are grateful to Mr John Bridle, the A35 representative, for his work over the past year.

AFFORDABLE (SOCIAL) HOUSING FOR WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM: The land on Gassons Lane was identified as the most suitable site for the affordable housing scheme. Humberts advertised the site with tenders having to be in by 20th February 2008. As yet all we know is that Hastoe were not successful in their bid, but we understand a bid has been made by another housing association. A committee of councillors and local residents is in place to help with matters and an open meeting with all concerned is promised in the Village Hall before plans are submitted to the planning department.

FINANCES: The Parish Council is very grateful to **Simon John Christopher Ltd**, Accountants, 1st Floor Suite, Drapers House, Market Place, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1AS who does the internal audit on the accounts free of charge and for his help and knowledge helping our new Clerk.

RECEIPTS	2007/08	2006/07
Precepts from WDCC	16,200.00	14,000.00
Bank Interest	304.69	101.24
VAT returned	215.74	82.14
Grants	-	-
Other Income	1,019.08	-
RECEIPTS TOTAL	17,739.51	14,183.38
Balance at 1 April	5,558.49	4,494.73
	23,298.00	18,678.11
PAYMENTS		
Running Expenses		
Information - Char Chat & website	1,124.35	1,158.15
Clerk's salary, office expenses, hall hire, insurance, subs, training etc.	7,632.07	6,213.10
Burial Ground maintenance, grants to PCCs:		
Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Fishpond, Stanton St Gabriel, Monkton Wyld and Morcombelake URC (JH Hall)	841.00	818.00
Village Halls maintenance grants	-	945.00
<i>Agency Services</i>		
Play spaces maintenance	475.00	1,139.39
Audit Commission	160.00	120.00
Donations		
Dorset Air Ambulance, WATAG	-	10.00
Bopper Bus (Chideock Parish Council)	1,104.25	500.00
Contributions towards Grant Aid:		
Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall	-	250.00
James Hargreaves Community Hall	-	1,500.00
Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall	-	-
Village Improvements:		
Salt Bins, Playground sweeper	504.00	465.93
Notice Boards	800.00	-
PAYMENTS TOTAL	12,640.67	13,119.57
Balance 31 March to carry forward	10,657.33	5,558.49
	23,298.00	18,678.06

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS: Char Chat is posted or delivered to every household in the Char Valley Parish Area. We thank Martin Legg of Morcombelake Post Office for his help with delivery. We hope residents like to have the newsletter and will also contribute local information, articles or photographs. Our editor is Liz Daros 01297 560459 ably assisted by Elizabeth Fortescue, Cllr Chris Everidge and Penny Watt.

Our website www.charvalleypc.co.uk is maintained by Tim Heap (www.logomotion.co.uk) Tim would also welcome photographs of our area for the website.

Wootton Fitzpaine Annual Parish Meeting - April 17th 2008

The meeting, held in the Village Hall, was well attended. A report on the activities of the Char Valley Parish Council was given by Cllr Mansbridge and covered matters such as flytipping in Charmouth Forrest, problems with broadband in the village due to restrictions at the Charmouth exchange and the identification of houses at risk from and the action taken to reduce that risk, which included a proposal for a village flood representative to whom villagers could report flooding and by whom a record could be kept.

Jon Snook gave a report on the usage and financial status of the Playing Fields and reports were given by the various Community Groups: It was reported that Wootton had won 3rd prize in the Community Village section of the Best Kept Village competition and a programme of village maintenance had been drawn up. Guy Bryant reported on behalf of the Wootton 2000 History Group that the Abbots Wootton Book was progressing well and that only 187 books remained from the initial print-run of Wodetone.

As part of the Homewatch Report residents were warned to be wary of doorstep sellers of tarmac products and it was noted that Marshwood Vale had recently been hit by a gang stealing quad bikes. Village residents were urged to keep belongings secure and to ensure equipment was security marked. Special arrangements are in place for farmers: PC Foreshaw to be contacted.

Stanton St Gabriel Annual Parish Meeting - May 13th 2008

The meeting, held in The James Hargreaves Hall, opened with a discussion about speed cameras in Chideock together with the request for a SID (Speed Indicating Device), a zebra crossing and a 30mph speed restriction on the A 35 in Morcombelake. It was noted that the initial request for a SID had been made in September 2006 and that to date no action had been taken. PC Foreshaw volunteered to convene street corner meetings where concerns about speeding could be registered (meetings to be advertised on CVPC notice boards) and undertook to raise the matter with the appropriate authority and to provide a timescale within which action would be taken.

Coastal erosion was also raised as an issue with the vulnerability of properties belonging to Stone Barrow residents being of particular concern. The action of some fossil-hunters - sometimes going as far as to use explosives - was seen as a contributory factor.

The value of the Bopper Bus was confirmed although concern was expressed of the usage of the 'Ring and Ride' service - locals were encouraged to promote its availability and to take advantage of the resource - and the introduction of bus passes for those over 60 had proved popular.

Whitchurch Canonorum Annual Parish Meeting - May 19th 2008

The meeting, attended by Cllrs C Bailey (Chairman), V Diment, K Parr, P Watt, S Creed Castle and S Johnson and eight members of the public, was held at the Village Hall. Matters discussed included the Affordable Housing project (see in Annual Report) and the possibility of a sewerage scheme with Wessex Water for Whitchurch, Morcombelake and Ryall. Following a vote of 7-1 in favour of the scheme, Mr Newman and Ms Sandford asked the Parish Council to take this initiative forward.

Work to the Well House is to be undertaken by Mr D Brooks and Councillor Bailey, the Flood Warden, reported that the meeting with Defra, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and Councillors is still to be arranged; flooding down Crooked Lane and near the Five Bells was thought to be due to the poor state of roads and drains.

The Home Watch team have distributed letters around the village and a meeting is to be called for all coordinators with the Police Community Support Officer.

And Finally the marriage of our Clerk, Emma

Mat and I married at Netherbury church on 7th June 2008 with a reception at Salwayash Village Hall. It was a beautiful sunny day and everything was perfect - not one hiccup! Our little boy, Sam (2 yrs old) was my page-boy and I had one bridesmaid, also aged 2. They were surprisingly well behaved and managed to spend most of the day holding hands and looking adorable. My new name is Mrs Emma Costin - quite a bit shorter than my previous surname which is quite nice!

