

CHAR CHAT

Char Valley Parish Council Newsletter

Whitchurch Canonorum, Stanton St Gabriel, Wootton Fitzpaine

Issue 25

July 2010

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Public Consultation Meeting

A public consultation meeting was held on 3rd June in the Village Hall to apprise local residents of the proposed extension of the Conservation area of Whitchurch Canonorum.

The meeting was well attended and it was decided that individual Parish Councillors should submit personal comments on the proposal to the Planning Department of the West Dorset District Council for review in September/October 2010.

Handy Van Service

Having trouble getting a small job around the house done? If you are aged 60+ and live in West Dorset then the Handy Van service may be for you! The service is free to anyone aged 60+ living in West Dorset with less than £10,000 savings and anyone, of any age, who is disabled. For more information or to book a visit phone 0845 026 1055 or email: handyvan@ageuk.co.uk

(Any advertisements in this Newsletter are not endorsed by the Parish Council and we make no claims as to the veracity of the material they contain.)

Char Valley Parish Council Report 2009/2010

This past year has been eventful but very progressive with much achieved and several projects ongoing.

Successes include the VAS sign and the pedestrian crossing for Morcombelake as after many years of negotiation they are in place. I thank Sylvia Creed Castle plus all her helpers for The Char Valley "Today and Yesterday Exhibition", held twice during the year in August and February for making both exhibitions successful. We continue to support the Whitchurch Canonorum Playgroup and Toddler Group at Wootton Fitzpaine. Another project, run with the County Council and the Environment Agency that we hope will reap benefits, is the Telemetry Unit at Stockham Bridge. The unit will notify road users of the raised river levels 0.5 miles from the actual bridge, so they will have time to turn around where the road is wider.

Since the 2009 AGM there have been ten parish council meetings, two finance meetings and one extra planning meeting at Wootton Fitzpaine, one consultation day for the Affordable Housing with Hastoe and the Rural Housing Development Officer Mr Rob Aspray in the Whitchurch village hall, three Annual Parish meetings plus several extra meetings with regard to the Affordable Housing and the Lengthsman Scheme.

During 2009/10 the parish council has considered 47 planning applications and so far this year 22 further applications have been received. In 2009, 29 letters were written on behalf of the council and 6 this year up until the May AGM. Much correspondence is now done by e-mail; it is quicker and more cost effective. All correspondence between the Clerk and Chairman is also done by e-mail except for documents that need to be sent; very few phone calls are needed and then only when e-mailing is unavailable. Our website www.charvalleyipc.co.uk is always open for local news or pictures, meeting dates, agenda and minutes. Tim Heap (www.logomotion.co.uk) keeps it up to date for us. Dates and agendas are also put on the notice boards in the villages in time for the next meeting. Please e-mail the Clerk if you have any questions.

Ongoing projects that are taking much time are the Affordable Housing for Whitchurch Canonorum, The Lengthsman Scheme with the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council and the bus shelter opposite Art Wave in Morcombelake, the Conservation Area Appraisal for Whitchurch Canonorum, where residents were encouraged to respond to the questionnaire sent by the WDDC after a consultation day was held in the Whitchurch village hall in June. All the usual council projects - for instance more salt bins, support for the Playgroup, Toddler Group, Halls, church yards, state of the roads, drains, footpaths, planning, play areas, donations, council website etc are ongoing.

We welcome Mrs Carolyn Peck to the Parish Council after her co-option in June.

Police Report

Hello again. I will keep this short. The protest at Chideock is currently suspended following a public meeting in July. At the meeting we suggested the forming of a Community Speed Watch. The scheme is being run in Dorchester and has seen improvements in the standard of driving. The response from residents in Chideock has been encouraging and members of the protest group have come forward wanting to be involved.

Crime - be aware that there is an elderly male who wanders around the lanes and has been found in houses. When challenged he gives a sad story and stays for a cup of tea; when he leaves he sometimes helps himself to jewellery. A similar M.O. is that local parish news papers are studied or the local church visited. Then a visit is made whereby the recipient is asked for money to tide him over. He is convincing as he quotes local names and events and suggests that he was recommended to call in as you would help him out; lend him the money and off he goes, so beware.

I would like to mention **Community Messaging**. You may have heard of Ringmaster; it's basically the same thing except that individuals can ask to be part of the messaging scheme; registration documents can be obtained from the police station. The messaging is a telephone or email or fax message updating you on local crimes and community messages. It's free.

Our contact details are marshwoodvalesnt@dorset.pn.n.police.uk or telephone 01305 226912.

Please do not use those mediums to report a crime or incident. In an emergency ring 999 or general enquiries 01305 222 222.

Thank you
PC Chris Forshaw.

Char Valley Parish

Council Report

2009/2010 cont'd

I would like to thank:

- County Councillor Geoff Brierley, District Councillors Mike Robinson and Dave Newson for their wise comments and advice.
- All councillors for their help and input during the past year all members of committees like BLAP, PACT and DAPTC for their attendance at meetings and for reporting back to council on issues.
- Footpath officers, rights of way, village hall reps, ancient monuments, tree officer, planning and finance committees and Char Chat editors.
- Simon John Christopher Ltd for the internal audit on the accounts, free of charge, and for helping out our Clerk on financial matters.
- The local Marshwood Vale Police Team, Home Watch contacts and last but not least my clerk Emma. She has done a fantastic job this past year even though she has a young family and has moved house, in keeping me up to speed on all issues to do with the Char Valley Parish Council and making the relevant response.

A big thank you to you all.

Sue Johnson

Year Ended 31st March 2010

2008/2009		2009/2010
£	Receipts	£
15,000.00	Precept	16,200.00
225.12	Bank Interest	7.01
0.00	Other Income	1,198.42
312.59	VAT Refund	425.36
0.00	Grants	0.00
15,537.71	TOTAL RECEIPTS	17,830.79
	Payments	
	General Administration	
4,289.65	Clerk	4,410.67
1,198.94	Insurance	1,309.94
300.11	Office Expenses and Equipment	273.17
	Agency Service	
921.54	Play Spaces	1,012.75
170.00	Audit	165.00
670.00	Section 137 Payments	2,200.00
	Capital Spending	
0.00	Notice Boards	50.00
2,020.00	Village Improvements	3,300.00
1,980.00	Yearly Hall Maintenance	990.00
0.00	Hall Grants	0.00
	Running Costs	
221.00	Parish Council Hall Hire	486.50
45.50	Parish Meeting Hall Hire	45.50
864.00	Burial Grounds	895.00
311.90	DAPTC Membership	322.17
28.00	CPRE Membership	29.00
0.00	WATAG Membership	0.00
0.00	Councillor/Clerk Training/M'bership	0.00
0.00	Councillor Expenses	0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous	1,452.98
0.00	Village Plan	0.00
767.94	Web Site	760.00
631.27	Char Chat	323.95
54.75	Ordinance Survey	0.00
425.36	VAT Paid	62.85
14,899.96	TOTAL PAYMENTS	18,089.48

Welcome to New Parish Councillor

I am Carolyn Peck and I applied to be a Parish Councillor in order to become more involved in local matters and I believe that the Parish Council provides a valuable link between residents and local government.

I live in Whitchurch Canonorum. By trade, I am a gardener but our two acres, four hens, assorted fruit and veg are keeping me fully employed for the time being. Nick and I bought the house here in Spring 2008 and were frequent visitors until moving in full time in July last year. I am a keen walker and you might have seen me on my bike, red faced and puffing up Goodens Hill! I am a volunteer with the Witness Service for Victim Support based at the Courts in Weymouth and Dorchester. I am a keen supporter of local activities and have made many new friends. We have been made to feel very welcome here and I cannot think of a better place to live!

I can be contacted on 01297 489185 or carolynspeck@btinternet.com.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN and The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Since the mid 1980s the United Kingdom has been affected by natural and technological disasters that have sometimes affected local communities. The nature of the threat to the United Kingdom has changed significantly and new threats have been identified.

Today we have to consider, among others, the following: -

- a. *Climate change* causing much higher summer temperatures and heatwaves that adversely affect the young and elderly.
- b. *Health crises* such as pandemics that affect the ability of organizations to provide services to the local populace.
- c. *Isolation of the community* from flooding or landslides, and the consequent loss of critical utilities such as electricity or telephones.
- d. *Interruption to businesses* caused by disruption to fuel supplies affecting agriculture or distribution services.

Purpose of the Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a self-help guide to the resources available within the community to support it in crises such as those above, and the procedures to be followed, especially if the emergency services or relevant local authority support is delayed because of the scope and nature of the emergency.

Purpose of the Act. The purpose of the Act is to establish a new statutory framework for civil protection at the local level. Under the Act all Local Authorities are deemed to be organisations that are the core of the response to most emergencies. This means that local authorities have the same duty in planning for a major incident as the emergency services.

The Parish Council's Intentions. Dorset County Council has provided a plan template for us, the local community, to complete on a voluntary basis and will provide assistance to help complete the Plan. The Parish Council will complete the Plan and make it accessible to residents. This will help ensure that we are aware of what the risks are, the resources which are available and how the community intends to activate the Plan and respond to a crisis. A copy of the Plan will be sent in electronic form to the borough or district emergency planning liaison officer and the Dorset County Council Emergency Planning Service.

Our role. We, the local community have no formal role in the response to such emergencies but local planning can help prepare us for occasions when support from other organisations is not immediately available or which may be limited in scope or capacity.

For how long would we have to cope? It is possible that the community will have to cope for up to 72 hours before any aid from other agencies arrives. For instance, extreme snowfalls and blizzard conditions over a prolonged period, affecting the whole of the country, may cause roads to be impassable as in the winter of 1962 / 63.

What information will the Parish Council record? The Plan will include sections for the more obvious contact numbers and resource requirements to support the community in a broad range of crises. For our area, we will also include: -

- *Escape routes* to one of the larger towns if the A35 and B3165 are unusable because of floods/ice/snow.
- *Emergency accommodation*, making use of our village halls, churches and holiday accommodation.
- *Medical expertise* such as retired doctors, resident nurses and trained first aiders
- *Communication.* To include planned physical signals. We also need to know the occupants of every dwelling, and the location of anyone who has emergency equipment, tools and vehicles.

Timescale. The Parish Council intends to complete its Plan by the autumn of this year.

Caring for our lanes, drains and verges

Upper Marshwood Vale and Char Valley Parish Councils are pleased to announce the services of **Stephen Lee** who is to be our new Lengthsman - a Lengthsman being a person dedicated to maintaining our lanes, drains and verges.

Upper Marshwood was the lead parish, followed by Char Valley, in setting up the scheme with Upper Marshwood looking after the organisational aspects. The appointment will cost each parish council approximately £2,000 pa - subsidised too by the County Council - and will involve one day a week per parish.

Stephen is self employed with his own insurance, van and tools; he will keep his own records as to the work undertaken and to help the job along he's even bought his own metal detector to unearth covered grates. Stephen's primary function is to keep an eye on things in a preventative capacity clearing drains and gullies, cutting back hedges where they cause obstruction and keeping the grass tidy (without undue use of chemicals). However, it's not his job to fill in potholes. Rather, it's keeping on top of the dozens of other small related jobs around the vale.

For more serious works such as verge subsidence or lane/road damage, these should be reported in the usual manner by contacting Dorset District Council on 01305 221000 or via their website www.dorsetforyou.com

Caring for our lanes, drains and verges (cont'd)

Ken Mansbridge - 01297 560600 - has kindly volunteered to liaise with Stephen on behalf of our parish council so please ring Ken if you feel there is something within Stephen's remit which requires attention i.e. any problems with drains, gullies, hedges or verges.

As yet, Stephen hasn't got around to putting a sign on his van but we hope to rectify this shortly with a view to allaying any fears of suspicious behaviour. Likewise, we will ensure that Stephen also carries some ID.

We hope that this initiative will do a lot to greatly reduce the damage and inconvenience caused by blocked drains and the like and we're very pleased to welcome Stephen to our respective parishes.

John Marsden
Whitchurch Parish Councillor



Village Hall Updates

The James Hargreaves Community Hall

- VILLAGE PICNIC on 13th June at Stonebarrow. This was a great success with 20 adults and 13 children playing games, having picnics and enjoying the lovely weather.
- BRIDPORT CHARTER FAYRE on Saturday 3rd July. Our stall made over £400 which was very satisfactory, It is always desirable if money can be raised outside of the usual environment.
- The LUNCHEON CLUB continues to attract increasing numbers and the Village Lunch on 11th July had 38 guests.
- Dates for the diary:-
 1. Sunday 8th August at 3.30 pm. - Strawberry Tea at St. Gabriels, Shedbush Lane, Morcombelake. In the hall if wet.
 2. Thursday 12th August at 7.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting.
 3. 30th August - Whitchurch, Morcombelake & Ryall Flower Show
 4. 24th September - Harvest Supper in the hall
 5. 30th September - An evening with Bonny Sartin. Morcombelake
- BRIDGE LESSONS
Would you like to learn to play bridge or have refresher lessons? Starting in September a group will be having lessons in the hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
If you are interested and for more details please contact Alan on 489055.

Whitchurch Canonorum

The hall's committee made the unhappy decision to cancel the St George's Roast in April because with five days to go only some eight villagers had committed to attend. Yet the year previously nearly 100 guests enjoyed the event. Our sympathy is to the Johnson family for all their hard work prior to the cancellation.

We held a quiz evening with a difference in July which was enjoyed by over 30 guests.

Future events at the hall to note include:

- 25th September - a cheese and wine evening
- 10th October - a harvest meal following a service in the Church
- 4th December - Dinner Dance with the JK Duo

Wootton Fitzpaine

The village fete, held on 31 May, made a profit of £2151.23. £500 will go to the church, £200 to the Kingfisher ward at Dorchester Hospital and the remainder towards the kitchen refurbishment. A film was made at the fete by Lyme TV and is available on the Lyme TV internet site under the "events" heading.

The kitchen refurbishment will take place between 16 August and 17 September. The contractor is Shaun Annetts Ltd from Beaminster. There will be no bookings at the Hall during this time. At the meeting held on 22 June, the treasurer, Bill Taylor, reported that lettings income had increased this year. Some work is needed on the maintenance of the garages.

The recent Arts Reach event featuring an African Dance Band on 2 July was very successful. There will be a cream tea on the afternoon of Sunday, 15 August in aid of church funds. The Harvest Supper will be at the beginning of October, date to be announced.