

Charmouth Parish Council

Environment Group notes of meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2023

Present: Jane Bremner (Chair), Julie Leah, Katy Tunstall, Ivor Clist, Andrew Lightfoot; for item 1 John Calder

Apologies: Peter Noel, John Smith

1. **A35 verges:** Jane explained that she and Andrew had met with two representatives of National Highways in order to hear directly from them their intentions for this biodiversity project. Following the meeting, an article was drafted for Shoreline and was sent to Highways for approval. Also Highways had undertaken to keep the Parish Council informed of developments. John then reported that his recent conversation with Highways revealed a different plan. John gave a brief resume of the project and his involvement and said that Nick Gray (Dorset Wildlife Trust) had resigned from it due to his dissatisfaction with the reduction to one annual cut and the sampling technique adopted. Consequently, Jane had asked the Parish Council's Deputy Clerk to contact Highways and establish their plans for this year, including what was happening with the roundabout at the entrance to the village. After which, there would be further consideration of communication arrangements.
2. **Charmouth in Bloom:**
 - 2.1 Jane reported that the Parish Council had set up a budget of £1,000 for SW in Bloom for this year. Some of this budget had already been spent on the apple trees. Last year there was an unspent budget item for planters of c£300. This amount had now been used for the 2 planters and 2 trees on Lower Sea Lane.
 - 2.2 Katy, Ivor and another volunteer, Sarah, were due to meet with Andrew the following evening to plan the planting and maintenance of the Jubilee Garden.
 - 2.3 The community orchard had been established with 10 apple trees beside the bowling green and Julie said there had been positive comments on Facebook.
 - 2.4 Plants were available for planting hedging in the playing field, beside the bowling green, in the autumn. Jane undertook to consult with the Parish Council's workforce and the bowling club regarding the exact location and to establish the meterage involved.

- 2.5 Jane suggested that we should press ahead with a new information plaque on the playing field and volunteered to start a draft of the text. We still awaited a response from Dorset Council regarding the updating of the plaques on the foreshore.
- 2.6 The Council had agreed to trial differential mowing around the community orchard. Julie offered to ask Lyme Regis and Dorset Wildlife Trust about the machinery they used and the opportunity to borrow it.
- 2.7 Andrew agreed to draft a 'plan' for future activity for Charmouth in Bloom. Bob Hughes had suggested we should aim to provide floral interest throughout the year and volunteered to assist with fundraising events to complement the Parish Council's funds.
- 2.8 The RHS had just invited applications for grants of £1-5k to develop partnership activity. It was agreed to apply for a supply of bulbs for the road verges and planters for the public halls and Heritage Coast Centre.
- 2.9 In order to help promote interest, Jane offered to draft a poster and Andrew to talk to the local traders about their contributions to Charmouth in Bloom.
- 2.10 The Heritage Coast Centre was organizing a litter pick for 8th May when there was a national initiative to promote volunteering. It was agreed to postpone a village litter pick/weeding until later in the summer.
3. **River Char:** Julie reported on preparation for the Festival on 27th May, including creation of a dragon. She had requested a grant of £200 from the Parish Council to support monitoring. The Environment Agency had ceased monitoring in 2019 and there was a particular problem arising from the chemicals being used by households in the village.
4. **Climate emergency:** the merits and otherwise of declaring a 'climate emergency' were discussed. Andrew felt that locally more emphasis on 'carrots' rather than 'sticks' to try to alter people's behaviour was likely to have more impact. As well as the initiatives we have planned it was agreed to revisit the potential to have solar panels on the Heritage Coast Centre and to assess the Parish Council's carbon footprint.
5. **Notes of meeting held on 7th February:** Jane said it was unclear whether a commemorative oak was going to materialize. John was to be asked about the school's potential involvement and Julie was to follow up on

possible planting at the foreshore. Julie was also to check with Philip May about recruiting volunteers to operate a thermal imaging camera.

6. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13th June at 7pm.

ACTIONS:

Jane: hedging in playing field

Text for information plaque

Poster for Charmouth in Bloom

Julie: differential mowing equipment

Foreshore planting

Philip May

Council's carbon footprint

Andrew: Jubilee garden and plants on Lower Sea Lane

Plan for Charmouth in Bloom

RHS grant application, including liaising with partners

Solar panels

Katy and Ivor: Jubilee Garden

John: school involvement?

Playing Field Committee: To note items 1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.8.