

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF CHARMOUTH**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WESLEY CLOSE**

17 electors, 7 Councillors, Dorset Councillor Belinda Bawden, and guest speakers were present.

1. The Chair, Peter Noel, welcomed Charmouth parishioners to this year's Annual Parish Meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Teresa Noel.
3. The Chair explained that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 using the Statutory Notice.
4. The Minutes of 2019's Annual Parish Meeting (the last one held due to Covid) had been displayed on the website since 2019 and were also available around the room. The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
5. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
6. Peter Noel introduced the 7 Councillors present (Jane Bremner, Julie Leah, Andrew Lightfoot, Katie Moore, Peter Noel, Judith Sheppard and Martin Sayers).
7. Guest Speakers gave presentations:
  - Dorset Councillor Belinda Bawden, who had been newly elected to serve Lyme Regis and Charmouth on Dorset Council, mentioned the ongoing community consultation on Lyme's 2030 Vision and problems with idling traffic outside the school and shops. She thanked everyone who voted for her, urged people to contact her and undertook to do her very best for all;
  - Cllrs Hilary Joyce and Andrew Carey from Char Valley PC gave a presentation on the River Char Project and how this affects Charmouth. A Lower Char Community Project has since been started in Charmouth to try and address the issues relevant to Charmouth parish, ie, bathing water quality. Various leaflets were available along with information on the website <https://www.charvalley.org/riverchar.html>.
8. Environment Working Group – Cllr Andrew Lightfoot gave an overview of the newly formed Working Group and emphasised that members of the public could be co-opted onto the Group if they had an interest in anything environmental. Although the Group has no powers, it can recommend items to the Council's Committees and since forming the following projects had been achieved: planting schemes using volunteers (crocuses and trees/hedging for the Queen's Green Canopy); re-planting of the planters on Lower Sea Lane using perennials and water retaining gel to make them more environmentally sustainable; a composting facility at the Playing Field; support for John Calder's work on management of the verges with National Highways (previously Highways England); entry into the SW in Bloom competition. Carbon Literacy training had been undertaken by two Councillors and plans are in place in partnership with Lyme Regis TC and Char Valley PC for a thermal imaging camera to be available. Increased community engagement is being encouraged through the Council's website and facebook page as well as through Shoreline. The first "Good for Charmouth" article on water and sewerage has been published and a second is planned. An idea which has come from the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan is for the creation of a community garden and this is being looked at by the PF Committee.
9. Update from Charmouth Parish Council – Cllr Peter Noel, Chair, gave an update from the Parish Council as a whole which included:
  - how parishioners feel about using Crowd Funding to help raise the £350,000 required to fund the proposed beach stepped ramp – he encouraged feed back on this idea;
  - the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Charmouth;
  - a reminder that a beacon would be lit at the Foreshore for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2 June at 9.45pm. This would be preceded by a bugler at 9.40pm performing the specially composed bugle call entitled, "Majesty";
  - items achieved by the Playing Field, Cemetery and Street Management Committee covered in the report of the Environment WG;

- Foreshore achievements – planting of a hedge around the reed bed; employment of a Beach Assistant for evening during July and August again this year; encouragement of locals and tourists to have regard for the dog Public Space Protection Order at the Foreshore, particularly picking up poo and keeping dogs on leads where necessary;
- Praise for all Council staff who are a great team currently and work extremely hard for the village.

10. Q&A Session – for residents to address the meeting in respect of any matter relevant to the Parish as a whole

Q. Jane Morrow mentioned that the Dorset Council bridge over the river at the Foreshore had some rotten boards (Action: Belinda Bawden, DC).

Q. Jan Coleman asked whether the boundary fence of Charmouth Beach Car Park adjacent to the path which runs from Lower Sea Lane to the bridge could be tidied up (Action: CPC to approach owner).

Q. Penny Rose asked about the footpath from Bridge Road to Riverway and whether something could be done regarding the puddles (Action: Belinda Bawden, DC).

Q. Jane Morrow asked whether an attendant would be provided for the Foreshore toilets during the summer as these are so well used and the target of many complaints (Action: Belinda Bawden, DC).

Q. Christine Meyer asked whether charging for toilets like in Mediterranean countries was an option?

Q. Christine Meyer asked whether liaison takes place with the National Trust as the gate on the coast path at the top of Stonebarrow required attention (Action: Belinda Bawden, DC).

11. Peter Noel thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm. Coffee was served.