

Charmouth Environment Group

Notes of meeting held on Thursday 7th May 2026

Present: Cllr Jane Bremner (Chair), Cllr Julie Leah, Andrew Lightfoot

Apologies: Katy Tunstall, Sam Webber

1. **South West in Bloom:** Jane confirmed that the entry application had been submitted and she would advertise the fact on facebook. She would also revise the portfolio, enquire whether the library wanted to participate and check when the judging date is known. Julie suggested that the focus should be on the recent work of the Parish Council staff, especially in the playing field. It was agreed to arrange some street weeding activities nearer the judging date.
2. **Further planting:** regrettably, the recent planting in the cemetery had been devastated by rabbits. Julie would enquire about getting a roll of chicken wire to protect any further planting there. She intended to plant the plugs she had obtained in the planters and established sites around 30th May. Some of the older planters were due to be replaced in the autumn.
3. **Community garden plans:** while the plan had not been progressed, a number of residents had expressed interest in the idea to Julie. The Parish Council was investigating the possibility of purchasing the section of Barrs Lane adjacent to the playing field. Julie suggested that renaming the area 'Charmouth Park' with some more prominent signage would attract more people to use the field for recreation.
4. **Annual report:** Andrew had drafted a report on the Group's activities over the past year. This was to be passed to the Parish Council for reference at their Annual meeting.
5. **Solar panels at The Elms:** as requested by the Parish Council, Andrew had obtained estimates from four companies for installation of arrays of solar panels on the roof of the flat at the rear of The Elms. All the proposals showed significant, positive financial returns, the best being the largest scheme which had a capital cost of £14k and a financial return over 20 years of £38k. Unfortunately, not having budgeted for this, the Council decided not to use any of their reserves in the current financial year to invest in such a scheme.
6. **Future Coast Charmouth:** Jane said that communication channels had been improved and there had been a presentation to the Parish Council

of the various possibilities which were being actively explored. These included new steps for beach access, investigating several possible sites for relocating the Heritage Coast Centre and installing flood defence doors on the Old Cement Factory building.

7. **River Char Action Group:** Julie reported that the Group had bought an incubator which would allow daily, on site monitoring of water quality and then publicizing the results for swimmers. Also ideas for the Dragon Festival in 2027 were being developed.
8. **National Emergency Committee on climate change film:** Andrew described this film which had been shown in Bridport and Uplyme during April. Julie thought that the River Char Action Group would arrange a screening in September in Charmouth.
9. **Future of this Group:** Jane and Julie had drawn up a plan designed to better integrate environmental activities within the Parish Council. In brief, the Environment Group would cease to meet as it had for the past five years and the Parish Council would:
 - Strengthen its Environmental Policy, particularly to:
 - o Enhance Nature and natural habitats within the scope of the green spaces managed by the Parish Council;
 - o Improve energy efficiency of Council assets, processes and equipment to reduce emissions;
 - o Influence improvements in public transport to reduce local emissions and improve connectivity;
 - o Work with the community to reduce the local carbon footprint.
 - A Councillor would be nominated as the Environment Rep and report to each Committee with a defined section within each meeting where environmental issues could be raised.
 - Discussions and meetings on the environment could be held on an ad hoc basis involving Parish Council staff, councillors, members of the community and experts in order to make progress on projects.
 - A volunteer organizer could directly contact volunteers with updates and details of activities.
10. **Notes of meeting held on 3rd February:** agreed and all the actions had been taken.

ACTION POINTS

Jane: advertise SWiB entry on facebook

Update the portfolio
Enquire about the library's participation
Enquire about judging date
Arrange dates for street weeding

Julie: check for photos of planters for the SWiB portfolio
Plant plugs
Enquire about chicken wire to protect planting at the cemetery
Develop community garden idea

Andrew: submit annual report to Parish Council
Check for photos of planters etc for portfolio
Circulate meeting notes for final time!