

## Charmouth Parish Council Environment Group

### Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm at The Elms

**Present:** Julie Leah, Maralyn Hinxman, Andrew Lightfoot

**Apologies:** Jane Bremner, Peter Noel

1. **Climate action awareness:** since the Council receives a lot of information eg from Dorset CAN, it was felt most appropriate to seek to disseminate some of this to residents using the web site, notice boards etc. Members of the Environment Group are willing to do the reading and suggest the most pertinent articles for Council officers to publicise.
2. **Carbon footprint auditing:** the three members present are able to attend the carbon literacy course being run by Lyme Regis Town Council later in the month when they hope to learn from the Town Council's experience in auditing their carbon footprint.
3. **Roadside verge management:** it was agreed to offer to meet John Calder for an hour on either Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm. Meanwhile Andrew had spoken with Nick from Dorset Wildlife Trust who had worked with John to develop a specification. Nick offered to help us survey verges within the village where we might seek to replicate what happens beside the A35. Andrew had also spoken with Andrew Kirby, Route Manager for the A35, who was going to send the Verge Enhancement Works report. He said that Natural England assessed Highways England's management of ragwort for the passed 3 years and felt that they went over and above what was necessary. Julie recommended a talk given by Richard Bradford on verge management and suggested a link could be out on the Council's web site.
4. **Composting and grass cutting:** one of the Group's recommendations was for the Council to have more composting facilities. It was agreed to **recommend to the Playing Fields Committee** that a composting facility be created in the playing field and to the **Foreshore Committee** that one be created at a discreet location there, ideally using waste timber which had been accumulated.  
Dave Humphrey had provided estimates of the time spent cutting grass at various locations. This information would be helpful if any modifications to the grass cutting schedule were suggested.

5. **Surface water drainage:** following recent spells of torrential rain, Andrew had contacted Dorset Council Flood Risk Management Team. The advice included:

- Request maintenance of blocked highway drainage assets on the Dorset Council website;
- Report property and highway flooding on the Dorset Council website, which might highlight maintenance requirements or the need for a scheme of improvement works;
- The highway drainage assets were not designed to cope with the effects of climate change or the intensity of rainfall for prolonged periods that we now experience.

Given the third point above, it was agreed to **recommend to the Planning Committee** that greater attention is paid to the drainage implications of each planning application and that the Council asks Dorset Council to review sites in Charmouth where there are persistent flooding events and to implement improvement works where necessary.

6. **Tree Strategy:** a draft Tree Strategy for Sidmouth was considered as a potential model for something similar in Charmouth. It was agreed to collate available information and to discuss how to proceed on this at the next meeting.

7. **Notes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August:** progress was to be chased on:

- Provision of crocuses;
- Attraction of volunteers;
- Management schedule for beach management;
- South West in Bloom 2022.

8. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December (subject to Jane and Peter's availability)