



# Charlton Marshall Parish Council

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## News – Spring 2019

### Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Church Room

**7pm start - Refreshments available from 6.30pm.**

Police Community Support Officer Mike Sinnick from the North Dorset Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team will give a presentation about rural crime and fraud.

Parish Council Election information – come along and find out about your Parish Council:

- What does it do?
- What does a councillor do?
- What is it like being a councillor – meet current councillors
- How do I apply to become a councillor and when?
- How do I have a say in who becomes a Parish councillor

#### From the Chairman's window.

About a year ago I ended a contribution at a meeting by saying, 'Beware of men with theodolites!'. Recently you may have seen activity on sites by the Bournemouth Road on the Blandford side. The field south of Newlands Manor has received 'outline' planning permission for 40 or so houses and part of the field opposite that is now being surveyed. People who live in and love our village have challenged efforts to get planning permission on our 'sacred' site by the church; my thanks too, to those who attended Parish Council meetings concerning this and the Hall and Woodhouse plan, and took the time to write to North Dorset Planning. This all comes in a week when parish councils have been assured by the Dorset Shadow Cabinet that their views will always be taken into account. It has long been regarded as a bit of a lottery when local opinion – not always 'nimby' – has been submitted and seemingly ignored. Maybe things are moving in the right direction.

The months ahead will bring a sea change when Brexit reaches its target date. That should coincide with the launch of the new Dorset County. On top of that, local elections take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. There has to be a greater awareness of what is happening locally and all those registered to vote should get out and play their part in our democratic process. It is depressing to hear that only 27% of voters turned out to vote in some wards.

The Parish Council is responsible for the QEII Playing Field, where trees are to receive attention and some refurbishment is in the offing in the Play Area, with a new piece of apparatus arriving for the younger ones. A safety covering is also being investigated to replace the bark.

Linked in with much of the above is the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Church Room. This is an 'open house' and a chance just to listen, to sound off, or to praise! Local taxes (Council Tax and Parish Precept) have to be spent efficiently and you will be aware of the costs of running the police force. The first part of the evening from 7pm will involve a presentation by Dorset Police and the second half will be devoted to Council matters, with, hopefully, the outgoing Chairman of Dorset County Council, Cllr Hilary Cox, who is a very good friend of Charlton Marshall. Successful recipients of the Community Benefit Grant 2018 will also be unveiled.

By June's Newsletter, maybe we will be wondering what all the fuss had been about. On the other hand ...

Tim Hill

#### Annual Litter pick. 10am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April Want a clean, tidy village?

Then please join in the BIG LITTER PICK to help prepare for the DORSET'S BEST VILLAGE competition. It was great to have some new volunteers last year. More will still be welcome. Meet at the Church Room. All kit provided but please bring a hi-vis jacket if you have one. Drinks and snacks too when we've finished.



#### Is this you?

The Parish Council needs an 'odd job person', paid or volunteer, whom we can call on from time to time.

Have you noticed the new dog bin in River Lane and the litter bins at the Newlands bus stop? All part of what your Council does.

#### Working on trees? A word from Environment Dorset

The law says that if trees from a Conservation Area overhang your property, you must consult the owner, and permission must be obtained, before any cutting is done.

Watch out  
for SID.  
Coming soon  
to a pole  
near you.





**Your Parish Council needs you and your vote.**

**No! actually this is very important.**

**Local elections  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

**Have you ever thought of being a Parish Councillor?**

Parish Councils depend on local people taking an interest in their community. You could even influence what happens!!, Whatever your background you could bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and community understanding into the local team.

**The Parish Council's role is to:**

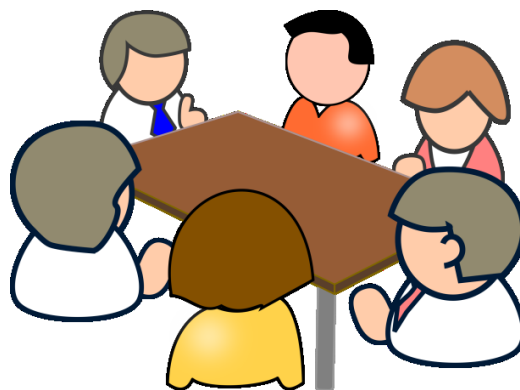
- Represent the local community
- Deliver service to meet local needs
- Strive to improve the quality of life in the parish

**Who can be a Parish Councillor?**

In a nutshell – any British citizen who has lived or worked in the Parish for the last 12 months and is age 18 or over and is on the electoral register, but check the small print with the Parish Clerk or on the websites below.



**If you are interested in becoming a councillor**, or know someone who might just need some encouragement, now is the time to act; get the forms and send them off. Help us to meet your needs by supporting your local councillors and remember to vote on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.



**Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019**  
Elections for the new Dorset Council will take place.

Also, if we have more than 8 people nominated to become Parish Councillors, then you will also vote for them (fewer than 8 and they become councillors without an election).

**Do it now!** Now is the time to ensure that your name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support your community and vote. You also need to be on the Register in order to become a Parish Councillor. Copies of the Electoral Register are kept at post offices and libraries, so check to make sure your name is there. You can also check by phoning North Dorset Electoral Services on 01305 838299 or email [elections@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:elections@dorset.gov.uk) It's your right to vote, so don't miss out.

**It's not too late**  
to get on the Electoral Register for this May's elections.



**The Annual Parish Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019** will provide an opportunity to find out more about what is involved in being a councillor and existing councillors will be on hand to answer any questions. See front page.

Nomination forms are available now and can be obtained from the Dorset County Council website at [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk). The actual links to the forms and information about becoming a councillor are shown below. Links are also available from the Charlton Marshall website [www.charltonmarshall.org.uk](http://www.charltonmarshall.org.uk) If you have any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk for assistance, contact details on the front of the newsletter.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/elections-and-voting/current-elections-and-referendums/dorset-council-area-elections-referendums-and-local-polls.aspx>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/councillors/become-a-local-councillor.aspx>