

# Charlton Marshall News - January 2012

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Clerk to the Council: Pam Higgins Tel 488431, email: [charltonmarshall@dorsetparishes.gov.uk](mailto:charltonmarshall@dorsetparishes.gov.uk)

Editorial Matters: Chris Newby , email [chris@newby160.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:chris@newby160.freeserve.co.uk)

Website: [www.charltonmarshall.org.uk](http://www.charltonmarshall.org.uk)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

## Parish Council Meetings:

The Council meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Church Room at 7.30pm

3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> October
7 <sup>th</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> May	7 <sup>th</sup> August	6 <sup>th</sup> November
6 <sup>th</sup> March	12 <sup>th</sup> June	4 <sup>th</sup> September	4 <sup>th</sup> December

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at the Church Room. Please let any Councillor or the Clerk know if there is a particular subject, relevant to the village, you would like included for discussion.

This is not a Parish Council meeting.

**Chairman's Report:** This is an iceberg job! Much of what is done is never seen. Letters have to be carefully composed, applications have to be painstakingly constructed and complaints addressed.

The most obvious addition is the family of grit bins, which have been placed at strategic points in the Parish. The actual placement had to be agreed and carried out by DCC Highways, who also supplied the grit - at least, for this coming year. After 13 months hard work, October saw the freehold of the Playing Field off Hopegood Close transferred to the Parish Council. It is being nominated for QEII Field status, a national scheme to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The village calendar sold out (150 copies). The idea for one grew out of the photographs taken for the Village Design Statement and voted for at the Church Fete, other than December's epic, which was on display at the Arts & Crafts Festival and became a very popular village Christmas card. The VDS is on hold because of the Government's extension of the idea to Neighbourhood Plans. Much time has been spent organising the case to oppose building such a large estate in the Conservation Area off Church Lane. We are working closely with Dorset CC Countryside Rangers in trying to get the Woodland Trust to compromise on the expense of looking after the area off Cereleton Park, should the PC decide to take it over. We continue to contribute towards the now excellently run Blandford Leisure Centre and we endorsed the outstanding Campaign on School Transport, which achieved success when the walking route along the A350 was declared dangerous. Tim Hill, Chairman

## Councillor vacancies:

The Parish Council is looking hard for volunteers to join the team. There are currently two vacancies. As the Chairman reported in his item, the Council has been very busy on behalf of the community. Being two members short puts a lot of responsibility on those in office, so if these places could be filled it would be beneficial to all. The Council meets once a month. But there is lots going on in the area that the Council has to be aware of, sometimes attending meetings that might affect the village, to voice the Council's concerns. The Clerk handles all administration and keeps the members informed ready for the meetings. The only qualifications necessary are that you really care for the village and have been a resident for 12 months. No previous experience necessary! If you're interested, please contact the Clerk (details above) or come along to one of the meetings.

Charlton Marshall website - [www.charltonmarshall.org.uk](http://www.charltonmarshall.org.uk)

Please look at the website and subscribe to the Mailing List. This gives the Parish Council the opportunity to inform residents of any news - be it casual or urgent. The monthly Parish Council meeting agenda and minutes are published for viewing. Local groups are also published here with the type of activity, day of meeting and contact numbers. For anyone who doesn't have access to a computer, the On-Line centre is available at the Church Room, Monday - Thursday (10.30am - 12.30pm) with volunteer mentors to guide you, so please come along. If you are running a local business or have any items of local interest that you would like included, please contact the Clerk (details above).

### **Charlton Marshall. Aspects of our Story - an update.**

The book has been far more successful than I could ever have hoped and people seem to be really enjoying it. I decided that the book would be published on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at £15 and made a pre-publication offer at £10 per copy, knowing that if I could get 200 orders I could cover the cost and that even if I fell short of that number, I could reasonably expect to sell the remainder and recover my money eventually.

What has happened has overwhelmed me. By the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June around 320 copies had been ordered. It was difficult to decide how many to get printed; there were bound to be a few people who would want a copy later, and I wanted a few left for people moving into the village over the next few years, but I didn't want boxes of books cluttering up the place for ages. I eventually decided on 400 and hoped for the best. As it happens, that was really too few; the supply is almost exhausted and unfortunately it is not practical to do a reprint.. There are copies in the library.

I have always said this project was non profit-making (and could easily have made a loss), but it is good to know that there will be some surplus funds from which some 'good causes' will benefit.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a success, you know who you are.

**Mark Churchill**

**Grit bins:** As you walk around the village, you will see grit bins sited at various locations. These sites were agreed by DCC Highways with the Council. Please may we remind you this salt/grit is for public use only and not for private paths/driveways. Highways filled the bins and they will be re-filled if needed, for free - this year. Next year, with the financial savings DCC are proposing, they are looking to charge local councils for salt/grit. This will be an additional financial burden to the village precept. If a bin near you becomes empty, you can either contact Highways direct as below or the Clerk.

**Tel: 01305 221020 or email: [dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk)**

**Youth Club:** The Youth Club has sadly now closed. Blandford Youth Club is very popular with the village children once they go on from primary school, so hopefully this will fill the gap. At the Fun Day in September we sold off all the smaller items and the snooker and football tables were bought by a Welsh Rugby Club. All the money raised has gone into the Playing Field Project. If you have any ideas for fund raising for the play equipment, or would like to organise an event, please get in touch with any Councillor or the Clerk, details above.

**Bonfires:** This has appeared in the Newsletter previously, but it is particularly important as we tidy the garden up for spring. If you must have a bonfire, please:

Check wind direction

Warn neighbours beforehand

Burn only dry material, damp makes more smoke

Don't use paraffin or petrol to get the fire going - it may get out of control quickly.

Light bonfire at a time least likely to affect neighbours, ie not on a warm sunny day when neighbours are likely to be in their gardens

### **Dog Mess on the playing field in Hopegood Close**

The problem of dog mess is still very much with us. It has been brought to the Councils attention the playing field in Hopegood Close is used as a "dog toilet". Now the Parish Council has taken ownership of the field they are concerned for the safety of children and would urge all dog owners to take responsibility and clean up after their pets. A reminder that dogs are also not allowed in the play area.

Police contact details: PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard 01202 223003 or 07825 521850

Police Non-Emergency Number is 101

**"Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations for Charlton Marshall"** - Bank Holiday Monday 4th June 2012 on the playing field at Hopegood Close - book this date in your diary - unveiling of plaque to celebrate QE Field Status and Country Fete with 'Queen for a Day' competition (tba). Watch this space for further details.