

UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2012

Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council qualifies as a 'Power of Well Being' Local Authority under the power of Section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

The Council hopes shortly to be able to be one of the first parishes to have the new 'Power of Competency' granted under the Localism Act 2011

Upper Marshwood Parish Council is one of a number of grouped Councils in Dorset. The group includes the parishes of Marshwood, Stoke Abbott, Bettiscombe and Pilsdon.

The Council has 12 councillors and one member of staff, being the Clerk to the Council.

The Clerk is John Vanderwolfe who is a fully qualified clerk, having obtained his Certificate in Local Council Administration a number of years ago.

Sadly, towards the end of last year, Councillor John McClellan, who had been the representative for Pilsdon for a number of years, and was a retired Police Officer, passed away following a short illness.

There were two candidates to fill the vacancy created by John's sad departure, and the Council were pleased to welcome Mrs Gillingham on board. Unfortunately, due to poor health, Councillor Wendy Nightingale had to resign from the council, and her position, which was for Marshwood, will be filled in July. It is pleasing to note in these times when it is often difficult to fill rural council seats that there are three candidates for this position.

The Council is in a very rural area; however, it tries to be as active as possible within the local community.

A message from the Chairman of Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council

I was elected as Chairman of the Council in May 2011. I have enjoyed being chairman but have found it a steep learning curve. I am grateful to the Clerk to the Council for the guidance he has provided to me both at the meetings, and indeed between meetings. There is always so much to learn.

Councillor Robert Wyatt continues to do a wonderful job in co-ordinating the Parish Lengthsman scheme. I understand that the scheme that we are operating is looked at as a 'flagship', and it is hoped that other schemes will follow that route. We have arranged for our Lengthsman to receive Chapter 8 training, which ensures that they operate in a safe manner whilst on the highway. Both Robert and the clerk also underwent this training. This scheme is sponsored by Dorset County Council, with our parish and our neighbours in the Char Valley making a financial contribution.

The Lengthsman has been very busy clearing verges and ensuring that our gullies are maintained. With all the wet weather that we have been having this is such an essential task.

Councillor Cameron is our representative on the Affordable Homes project, which is hoping to be able to provide this facility in Marshwood in the very near future. He has also been working with Charles Somers on a project to provide rural Dorset with Super Broadband.

The Council now produces four newsletters a year. These are of a very high quality; and once again our thanks to Councillor Cameron for his assistance in the publication of these documents

The council has dealt with a number of planning applications and has been consulted on numerous issues by both the district and the county council.

Finally, I would like to thank all the councillors for their efforts during the year.

Mathew Bowditch

Chairman
Cllr Matthew Bowditch
Stokewater Farm
Stoke Abbott
DT8 3JL

Telephone 01308 862758

Cllr Fred Bailey Meadowrise, Bettiscombe DT6 6HP	Marshwood	01308 868015
Cllr Ali Cameron Blue Haze, Marshwood, Bridport DT6 5QB	Marshwood	01297 678546
Cllr Trevor Richards Deer Park Farm Marshwood Vale DT6 5PZ	Marshwood	01308 868848
Cllr Roy Warburton Shave Cross Inn, Shave Cross DT6 6HW	Marshwood	01308 868358
Cllr Roland Bugler Vale End, Lower House Farm, Bettiscombe DT6 5NT	Bettiscombe	01308 867796
Cllr Michael Rowe Waterhouse Farm, Bettiscombe DT6 5NT	Bettiscombe	01308 868726
Cllr Christopher Rabbetts Gerrards Farm, Pilsdon DT6 5PA	Pilsdon	01308 867474
Cllr David Borradaile Lewesdon House, Stoke Abbott	Stoke Abbott	01308 868424
Cllr Robert Wyatt Blackney Farm, Blackney DT6 5PB	Stoke Abbott	01308 868249
Cllr Jane Gillingham	Pilsdon	01308 867197

Clerk to the Council

John Vanderwolfe
5 Halletts Way
Axminster
EX13 5NB

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FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE Council

The Council received an unqualified audit for the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011.

For the year ending the 31st March 2012 the figures as provided to the External Auditors are as follows

Brought Forward	9518
Precept (from District Council)	6200
Other Receipts	12595
Total Income	<u>28313</u>
Staff Costs	2447
Other Payments	17152
Total Costs	<u>19599</u>
C/forward to 2012/13	8714

Fixed Assets	5298
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Grants provided during the year

Citizens Advice Bureau	100
Ring and Ride Service	60
Royal British Legion	20
Victim Support	25
Churchyard Grants	600
Bridport Tourist Association	20

The Parish Lenghtsman Scheme received £12,615 during the year, with the expenditure being £13,451.

The Newsletter cost the Council £876

Legal fees for the registration of land cost £204

Additional gritbins cost £423

The Insurance premium cost was £265

The budget for the year commencing the 1st April 2012

Budget 2012/13	
Salaries	2,596
Subscriptions	260
Insurance	300
Stationary	100
Phone and Postage	50
Audit	180
Room Hire	80
Churchyard Grants	450
Other Grants	250
Lengthsman Contribution	1,500
Newsletter	1,000
Office	120
Quality Status	150
Website	150
Notice Board	500
	7,686
From earmarked & reserves	686
Precept Demand	7,000
Other Items	
Parish Lengthsman Scheme	
Receipts	
Dorset County Council	10,000
Char Valley Council	2,000
Upper Marshwood	1,500
Total	13,500
Expenditure	13,500

Budget Agreed 17th November 2011

Quality Council

The Council is working hard to achieve the status of 'Quality Status'. This is a national standard for town and parish councils. At present there are only a few councils in Dorset with this qualification, which is a benchmark to show that the council has proven that it is operating in the correct manner and that it involves itself with the community. At the time of going to press we have forwarded our portfolio of evidence to Dorchester and are awaiting being judged.

New Notice Board

We have ordered a new notice board for Bettiscombe because the present one is in a very poor state of repair. Hopefully this will be in place in the early summer. We hope to replace or repair the one at Marshwood in the near future.

Jubilee Celebrations

We were pleased to be able to assist Marshwood with securing funds for a Diamond Jubilee party for the residents of Marshwood through West Dorset District Council. West Dorset Council provided the maximum grant of £250 towards this very special event. I understand that a good time was had by all!