

Charmouth Parish Council
Environment Working Group

Notes of meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021

Present: Jane Bremner, Maralyn Hinxman, Julie Leah, Peter Noel, Andrew Lightfoot

1. **Chair and note taker:** it was agreed that Jane would Chair and Andrew take notes.
2. **Terms of reference:** Julie was thanked for drafting terms of reference for the Group. It was agreed that Julie would:
 - a. Simplify the terms of reference, focussing on the core functions of being a filter for the Council on environmental issues and acting as a catalyst for certain projects with an environmental theme, including the aim of developing and implementing some measures of 'the state of the environment', eg a carbon use tool.
 - b. Finance: this section to be reworded to read: the Working Group will submit proposals for expenditure to the appropriate Committee and will endeavour to attract grants from external funding sources.
3. **Planting ideas:** ideas for enhancing biodiversity by a range of planting schemes had been circulated. It was agreed that Julie would draft a strategy for the Group's consideration, including use of the South West in Bloom structure and means of engaging volunteers. The detail of these ideas would be discussed with the Council's staff prior to making recommendations to the relevant Committees. The new Councillors, Julie and Andrew, were to arrange a tour with Dave Humphries of the property maintained by the Council.
4. **Dorset National Park:** notes on the potential benefits and problems associated with this possible designation had been circulated. Given the uncertainty about the idea at the current stage, it was agreed that the Council should be recommended to maintain an open mind, pending a more specific proposal and assessment.
5. **Charmouth Neighbourhood Plan:** a meeting was due to be held the following day to consider the final draft for submission. The considerable environmental content and implications were noted with much material which would help to guide the work of this Group.
6. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 14th July at 7pm.