

Charmouth Parish Council

Council Office The Elms St Andrew's Drive Charmouth Bridport Dorset DT6 6LN

Telephone (01297) 560826 E-Mail charmouth@dorset-aptc.gov.uk



Mammal Policy

INTRODUCTION

This policy statement details the Parish Council's policy regarding alive or dead stranding of whales, dolphins, seals, porpoises, turtles and such like creatures on Charmouth's foreshore and associated river banks that are the responsibility of Charmouth Parish Council.

Dead Creatures on the Foreshore etc.

Any dead creatures found on Charmouth's foreshore and associated river banks are, in the first instance, the property of the Crown. HM Coastguard (HMCG) is the agency delegated by the Crown to be responsible for reporting any landing of such creatures and the co-ordination of other agencies. Therefore, the first point of contact must be with the local HMCG. HMCG will catalogue the creature and make contact with agencies as detailed in their standard operating procedures (SOPs). The parish Council's staff will follow the instructions of HMCG.

Live Creatures Stranded on the Foreshore etc.

Any live creatures found stranded on Charmouth's foreshore and associated river banks are NOT the property of the Crown.

Therefore, the first point of contact is the RSPCA. If for any reason the RSPCA is uninterested or unresponsive, the second point of contact is the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). Parish Council staff should follow the instructions of RSPCA and BDMLR.

Standard Operating Procedures

The Parish Council's Facility Manager will create a standard operating procedure (SOP) detailing the points of contact with the various agencies and associations as well as detailed instructions and all health and safety considerations.

BACKGROUND TO POLICY

Dead Findings of Creatures Stranded

Observations of dead creatures stranded are required by common law to be informed to HM Coastguard (HMCG) and for land owners and others, including the Parish Council, to follow HMCG's procedure and instructions. Common law is based on the rule that anything found in territorial waters or landed from the sea belongs to the Crown. It may well be that HMCG will notify a number of different agencies in the instance of a carcass found and it is possible that the carcass will be required by any of the agencies. If the carcass is not required by the Natural History Museum or other agency, as directed by HM Coastguard, then the carcass is to be offered to Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Live Findings of Creatures Stranded

Charmouth Parish Council will adopt the Dorset Wildlife Trust's procedures in dealing with live stranding's of whale, dolphin, seal or turtle. In conjunction with the UK's Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (UK-CSIP), which is funded by HM Government (currently Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and the devolved administrations.

Adopted by Council: February 2017
Reviewed: November 2019
Review Due: November 2023