

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th July 2005, at 7.30 pm in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack (until Item 17, Minute no. 84/05)
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs E Eyre
District Cllr M Meikle
R D Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

68/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

69/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

70/05 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Mr C W Leaper giving his resignation from the Parish Council. The Clerk had informed the Democratic Services department at Wychavon DC and a notice of the Vacancy is currently being advertised. If there is no request for an election at the end of the period then the Clerk will arrange for the vacancy to be filled by co-option. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Leaper to thank him for his work whilst on the Parish Council.

71/05 APPOINTMENT OF URGENT MATTERS WORKING PARTY

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Eggleston continue as the Urgent Matters Working Party.

72/05 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN

This matter was deferred to enable the Chairman to discuss this matter with Cllr Mrs Ooi.

73/05 INSPECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL DEEDS

The Chairman presented the deeds which would be available for Members to inspect after the meeting.

74/05 SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO MEETING DATE IN SEPTEMBER 2005

Because the Clerk and Chairman have other meetings on the originally agreed date it was agreed that the September meeting now be held on Thursday, 15th September 2005. The Clerk has confirmed that availability of the Old School Room on that date.

75/05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2005

It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and RESOLVED that these be signed as a true record.

76/05 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Planning complaint: Farm shop, Evesham/Pershore road.** The Enforcement Officer had written to report that, following an investigation of these premises, there did not appear to be a breach of planning and, therefore, no action will be taken, although the site will be kept under review. A recent report that part of the site is being used for residential occupation will be reported to the Enforcement Officer.
- 2. Maintenance of land adjoining Merry Brook.** The Clerk reported that he has not had any success in contacting the Land Registry and he was asked to pursue this.
- 3. Web site/The Local Channel.** Both the Chairman and Cllr Eggleston had looked at the details of the Local Channel. Members agreed that this be pursued as there does not appear to have any cost implication. The Chairman agreed to follow up and to report back.
- 4. Replacement sign on the shelter.** Members had noted that this is now in place on the shelter and many favourable comments have been received.
- 5. Progress of Audit.** The Clerk reported that Mr Tooby, the Internal Auditor, had inspected the accounts, etc; the Annual Return had been sent to the External Auditor and the Clerk has now received an unqualified audit opinion for 2004/2005. The closure of the audit is currently being advertised.
- 6. Overhanging trees, Canada Bank.** The Clerk reported that he has not had a reply from Mrs Stratton.
- 7. Merry Brook water levels, Easter 2005.** The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Environment Agency regarding their assessment of the level of the flood water in Merry Brook at Easter, in the light of the brook becoming a Main River. However, the maining has not yet been come into operation and, therefore, the EA does not have any information. When it becomes a main river a detailed survey of the water course will be done and action taken to remove any obstruction.
- 8. Local Transport Plan.** The Chairman was unable to comment.
- 9. Village Clean up Bursary.** The Chairman reported that Mrs Owen had made the necessary arrangements for the litter pick. This has already been done and the final inspection is awaited.
- 10. Update on the Clerk's training.** The Clerk reported that he has still to complete the Clerk's training and submit to CiLCA. NALC is offering parish councils with a precept of less than £25,000 a bursary towards the training. A clerk can only apply for one bursary and this has been applied for, and received, by Churchill and Blakedown PC. The Clerk should make the final submission in the autumn.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

77/05 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr Mrs Eyre's report dated June 2005 was circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Chairman invited Mrs County Cllr Mrs Eyre to speak. She commented that she has been appointed Lead Member for the new Directorate of Children's Services and the extent of her duties in the evenings in this connection will mean that her attendance at parish council meeting will be restricted. She intends to issue a newsletter to communicate with parish councils via email when her workload has settled down. On the matter of

attending Pre School in the Old School Room and for parishioners attending church. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Browne, and agreed by 4 votes to 1, that the Clerk writes to the HPU in support of the residents. The Clerk was also asked to keep the residents informed.

82/05 STREET LIGHT NO. 7, RYDEN LANE

The Clerk reported that he had been approached, by telephone, by Central Networks (CN) to explain that, as CN is undergrounding electricity cables in this area, the pole on which street light no. 7 is attached will not be needed for their purpose. CN offer to reconnect free of charge if the PC arrange (and pay for) a new column; this offer would need to be taken up within 3 weeks. The cost of a new column would be about £300.

The Chairman explained that the pole appears to be in the garden of no. 2 Ryden Lane and there is no apparent location for a replacement column. He also noted that street light no. 8, also on an electricity pole, at the Brook Lane/Ryden Lane junction has already had the cables removed and this pole has been reduced in height.

It was agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to CN, copy to HPU and WCC, regarding the problems caused and the lack of prior, formal notice of the works taking place. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Browne, and agreed that the light be kept on the existing pole and CN be asked to reduce the height, as with no. 8. The Clerk was also to arrange an on site meeting with the highway authority to find out the extent of the highway in this location.

83/05 WCC ASSISTANCE WITH STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk explained that, before WCC would take over the maintenance of the PC street lighting a survey and testing had to be carried out. This would cost £13 for a steel column and £1 for a visual inspection of a concrete column. It was agreed that, before any decision is made, the Clerk discusses the matter with Pirelli.

84/05 PARISH PLAN/REPORT OF PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the first meeting was held on 16th June 2005, three residents, two councillors and the Clerk were in attendance. The Chairman chaired this meeting and explained the stages in the process towards the preparation of a Parish Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for 21st July, when the group should be put on a structured footing and items such as the appointment of a Chairman, publicity, grants etc can be discussed.

85/05 REPORTS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the Planning Committee dated 12th May 2005 and 16th June 2005, which had been circulated with the agenda, were noted.

86/05 CALC MATTERS

The Chairman reported that a new Chairman of the Executive has been appointed. The "Pointers to Good Practice" booklet was noted and Worcestershire MAIL was received. The CALC Model Complaints Procedure and Member-Officer Protocol, which were circulated with the agenda, are to be put on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

87/05 CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

1. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee; invitation to the opening on Saturday, 13th August, at 11 am - some members hope to attend
2. WDC; Members allowance scheme for subsistence and travelling - to be included on the next agenda
3. WDC: Distinction in Building Award nomination - no suggestions
4. WDC: Rural transport in Wychavon - Clerk to write suggesting that the last bus time is related to local events
5. WDC: Local Development Framework - Chairman to look at

88/05 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The list of correspondence, as attached, was noted.

89/05 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

1. Repair to notice board by the phone box
2. PC representative on the Workman Trust
3. Road Safety for School Children in Charlton
4. Provision of village compost heap

90/05 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This is confirmed for Thursday, 15th September 2005.

15th September 2005