

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

15

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th January 2006, 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 18, Minute no. 18/06)
Cllr Mrs C C Ooi
Cllr M P Wood

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

1/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

2/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Grazier declared a personal interest in Item no. 6.1 (Minute 6/06(1), highway matters.

3/06 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY
The Clerk reported that still no applications had been received and the vacancy will be re-advertised for consideration at the next meeting.

4/06 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WORKMAN TRUST
The Chairman reported that Lindsay Beckman, who lives in Charlton and is the Treasurer of the Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee, has intimated that she would content to be the Parish representative on the Committee. Cllr Wood said that he would be happy to stand down and, on the suggestion of the Chairman, he agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the Workman Trust. This course of action was agreed and the Clerk was asked to notify the Committee's accordingly.

5/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2005
It was RESOLVED that these be signed as a true record.

6/06 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION
1. Highway matters. The Clerk reported that the HPU has stated that "Canada Bank will be the subject of a road closure early in the New Year and all necessary tree and hedge works will be carried out at that time".
A complaint from a resident about damaged verges and mud on the road between the Cemetery bridge and Jubilee Bridge has been passed to the HPU.
A follow-up meeting to the meeting held in October 2005 regarding traffic in the three parishes, with the HPU, County Cllr Liz Eyre, representatives of Crophorne, Fladbury and Charlton PCs and Simms and Woods is arranged for 16th January. The Chairman will be attending.
2. WCC assistance with street lighting. The Clerk reported that he has prepared a survey of the street lighting columns in Charlton and will be forwarding this to Pirelli.
3. Charlton Parish Plan. The Open Meeting had been held on 12th November 2005 and some 50 residents had attended. The Working Group is now assessing the comments.

4. Replacement litter bin, The Green. The Clerk reported that the wrong bin has been replaced. This was reported to WDC in early December, but no follow-up action has been taken.

5. WDC Local Plan Review. The Clerk reported that the consultation period for the Proposed Modifications Report expires on 3rd March 2006. This was noted.

6. WCC HPU Planned Works programme Process. The letter and report from the HPU was circulated with the agenda and was noted.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

7/06 GRANT REQUEST FROM WYCHAVON CAB

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that a grant of £50.00 be sent.

8/06 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.05 - 03.01.06

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney salary, 01.12.05 - 31.01.06	£435.84
Lindsay Beckman, Parish Plan expenses	£ 46.61
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stamps, stationery £42.64 + £4.07 VAT (5 invoices)	£ 46.71
Wychavon CAB	£ 50.00

9/06 PARISH LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the HPU at Pershore, attended by many of the parish councils in Wychavon. He explained that the lengthsman is able to deal only with cleaning road signs, clearing ditches and gullies, overhanging trees and hedges and graffiti. The choice had to be made whether the lengthsman is a contractor or an employee. There will be a need for a good working relationship with the HPU. A grant of £2,000 will be paid and it will be up to the Parish Council whether this sum is the upper limit or whether the PC would be prepared to fund any additional payment. The Clerk was asked to draft an advertisement and job description, and to report back to the next meeting.

10/06 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Chairman invited County Cllr Mrs Eyre to speak. She reported that there had been debates on the Police and Health restructuring proposals. She commented that WCC is one of 26 authorities with the top 4 star rating; the CC was highest for Best Value and worked well with its partners, an achievement for one of the lowest funded authorities. The current discussion is for a budget rise of 5% for 2006/7, which is causing a problem with the recent rise in fuel prices and building costs. Members raised the problems of the poor state of Ryden Lane and the road between the Cemetery and Jubilee Bridge.

11/06 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2006/2007

A copy of the draft budget and suggested levels of precept were circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained that he had been able to project the needs of most aspects without difficulty, but Members had to take into account additional items, ie. lengthsman, Parish Plan and a contribution to work at Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Ooi, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed that the Precept be set at £9,600.

12/06 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Chairman reported a letter received from the Independent Remuneration Panel, stating that the PC is now able to make a resolution to pay the allowances in accordance with the District Council scale. This was agreed. The Clerk will arrange for this to be advertised for the required 14 days.

13/06 CROPTHORNE AND CHARLTON VILLAGE HALL

A letter and schedule from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee was circulated with the agenda: this set out the aspects of the work without giving a cost for each sector. A total figure of £350,000 is given. The Chairman drew attention to the comment that "the amount given is not so important as the demonstration of support". On a proposal by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, it was agreed that the Parish Council confirms its support the scheme and will consider the amount at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to find out the timing of the financial need.

14/06 PARISH CHARTER

A copy of the "three tier" CALC charter and the draft Wychavon charter were circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Grazier, and agreed that Charlton PC signs up to the CALC Charter. The Chairman duly signed the Charter. It was felt that in due course the WDC charter could be annexed to the CALC charter.

15/05 COMPOSTING AND GARDEN WASTE SITE

The Working Group had not met and this item was deferred.

16/06 NEW PARISH NOTICE BOARD

The Clerk reported on several quotations he had obtained for a new notice board by the telephone kiosk. The Chairman reminded the PC that this would be funded in part by the balance of the litter pick grant. It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Mrs Ooi, and agreed that the Clerk proceeds to order a notice board from Village and Urban, of Berrow, Somerset, at a total cost not exceeding £800.

17/06 STREET LIGHT No. 7, RYDEN LANE

A letter from a local resident was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk reported that he had not received a reply from CALC/NALC, but the PC's contractor, Pirelli, had verbally stated that the existing pole does not present a safety issue at present. The Chairman reported that WCC had not yet been able to confirm the highway boundary. He reminded the PC that Central Networks had agreed to reduce the height, once the overhead electricity cables had been removed. The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident when the comments of Pirelli have been received in writing.

18/06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk was asked to contact Alan Saunders to ascertain when, in the light of the progress of the Local Plan, this issue can be resurrected.

19/06 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee dated 10th November 2005, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

20/06 CALC MATTERS

The MAIL was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Chairman reported that the Head of Planning at WDC, Mrs Gill Collin, had attended the last Area Meeting and warned members of the changes regarding informal discussions with applicants prior to the submission of applications. Breaches of the code could result in the matter being reported to the Standards Board.

21/06 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following list of correspondence was noted:

1. WCC Winter Gritting Routes
2. WCC Budget consultation meeting
3. WDC Register of Electors 2006
4. WDC Worcestershire LAA Partners briefing no.5
5. WDC Open Space Audit
6. West Mercia Police Authority restructuring statement
7. WRVS survey
8. ODPM Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: the Future
9. Worcestershire Telecare annual report
10. Newslite
11. Local Council Review
12. WCC recycling posters
13. WCC Transportation and DC Guide

22/06 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

1. Website
2. Land Registry and PC land
3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall grant
4. Fladbury traffic meeting

23/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This is confirmed for Thursday, 9th March 2006.

9th March 2006