

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th September 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Steve Gwilliam, Parish Lengthsman
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

Before the start of the Meeting Mr Steve Gwilliam was introduced to the Parish Council, having been appointed as the lengthsman. Members discussed the area of the work which they would like him to attend to, when he has been for his training with the County Council highways department.

100/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier and Cllr Mrs Ooi, who also tendered her resignation.

101/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

102/06 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that there has still not been any application for co-option to the Parish Council. The resignation of Mrs Ooi was also noted and the Clerk stated that he would have to inform Wychavon DC of this additional vacancy, and explain that the existing vacancy has still not been filled. It was agreed that the Clerk advertises the vacancy as necessary, adding a footnote that there will be an election in May.

103/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th JULY 2006

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously. It was **RESOLVED** that these be signed as a true record.

104/06 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Charlton Parish Plan. Although Cllr Eggleston had spoken to Bill Rose and the Clerk had emailed him, there has been no response regarding progress of the Parish Plan. The Chairman reported that he had attended a conference at which an update on the progress of parish plans in Wychavon had been given. The Chairman agreed to pass this information to Bill Rose.

2. Footpath Warden. The Chairman invited Clive Bostle to speak. He reported that he has had an informal interview with the Countryside Access Officer at WCC and is awaiting his ID documents. He has his own copy of the Definitive Map and all footpaths in the Parish were surveyed on 23rd July by the Evesham Group, with mixed results. He has commenced work and reported that FP 501 has no problem other than litter; some widening has been done on FP 507; FP 506 is nicely mown; but FP 502 requires the clearance of the route through the cropped field. The Chairman thanked Mr Bostle for the

impressive start of the task.

3. **Village notice boards.** The new notice board is now completed and is well used.
4. **Registration of Parish Council owned land.** The Clerk is awaiting the deeds, which are held at Lloyds TSB, Pershore.
5. **Parish Council Web Site.** The Chairman reported that he now has broadband.
6. **County Council verge cutting grant for 2007.** The Clerk is awaiting a reply from WCC.
7. **Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was no information to report.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

105/06 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman invited County Cllr Mrs Eyre to speak. She circulated copies of her report. She drew attention to the Gambling Act 2005, the Children and Young People's Action Plan, the viability of the two outdoor centres and new, robust guidelines for walking routes to school. On local issues the main problem is with the restructuring of the old HPUs into County Hall; across the County highway problems are mounting up and it was suggested, and agreed, that the Clerk writes to the new Director, John Hobson, to voice the concern and lack of progress.

District Cllr Meikle was not in attendance and there was no report.

106/06 REQUEST FOR GRANT - WRVS

A copy of the letter from the WRVS was circulated with the agenda. The Parish Council decided that it would not give a grant, as there is no presence in the community.

107/06 DISTRIBUTION OF CLEAN-UP BURSARY

The Clerk confirmed that the £500 bursary has been received. That £100 be given to the Charlton Scout Group and the remainder to be used towards the new notice board was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed.

108/06 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 02.06.06 - 01.09.06

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, 01.08.06 - 30.09.06	£460.28
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, £4.72 + £0.83 VAT	£ 5.55
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, July, Cemetery/Green/verges	
£483.50 + £84.61 VAT	£568.11
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, August, Cemetery/Green	
£402.00 + £70.35 VAT	£472.35
D Gisborne	£ 10.00
NFUMIS Ltd	£ 72.11
R Hirons	£ 80.00
Charlton Scout Group	£100.00

109/06 DRAFT RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING GUIDANCE

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of Cropthorne PC had spoken regarding his concern about the WDC Guidance, particularly with the composition of the Panel, although this does follow Government guidelines. Members felt that there should be a parish council representative on the panels, but the allocation of properties could present difficulties as parish councillors are too close to the ground. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to express concern that the criteria for allocation needs to be clear.

110/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS, INCLUDING LENGTHSMAN

The Chairman reported that the meeting in Fladbury on 17th July 2006 had little that was relevant to Charlton. The lack of progress with the training of the lengthsman was raised with County Cllr Mrs Eyre. It was noted that there has been an increase in heavy through traffic through the village, which has probably resulted from the closure of Evesham bridge and this is likely to continue when the A.44 is closed due to roadworks by Wood Norton.

111/06 AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS

The Chairman obtained details from the CALC website and notes that bursaries are now available for parish councils with an electorate of up to 1000. It is hoped that this could be available to pay for the Clerk to go on to broadband. The Clerk agreed to obtain an application form and to apply if qualified to do so.

112/06 STREET LIGHTING

WCC officers are now in a position to meet parish councils regarding to discuss the possible takeover of the maintenance of the street lights. The Clerk was asked to arrange a date and the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jack will attend.

113/05 COMPOSTING AND GARDEN WASTE SITE

Cllrs Eggleston and Grazier had met briefly and were concluding that this may not be a viable scheme, considering the possible problems with location, management and policing. Cllr Eggleston agreed to prepare a report for the next meeting.

114/06 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the meetings held on 13th July 2006 and 17th August 2006, which had been circulated with the agenda, were noted.

115/06 CALC MATTERS

The CALC Executive has agreed that the CALC website should be available to chairmen, as well as clerks. Members agreed that the Chairman should be able to access the website and that the protocol, to protect the privileged information available to Members Councils, be accepted.

The CALC AGM will be held on Thursday evening, 5th October 2006, at 7 pm, in County Hall.

116/06 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following list of correspondence was noted:

1. Central Networks - funding support projects

2. WDC Gypsy and Traveller consultation feedback
3. WCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside)
4. WCC appointment of Patrick White as Senior Access Officer, Countryside Services
5. WDC consultation on the Gambling Act 2005
6. WDC Parish Plans - Adoption as Local Information Source
7. WDC Reaching out to everyone initiative 2006
8. West Mercia Constabulary - Police Service restructuring
9. WCC Passenger Transport report (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny)
10. Worcestershire Warden newsletter
11. Local Council Review, September 2006
12. Rural Services Review
13. Newslines, August 2006
14. Bus Bulletin, September 2006

117/06 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There is concern with some more elderly residents of Charlton that there are no paper copies of planning applications available in Evesham library.

It is noted that the Environment Agency is currently working on Merry Brook, upstream from the Jubilee Bridge, and several streamside trees had been cleared. The Clerk will find out how far upstream into Charlton the EA intend to come.

118/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 9th November 2006.

9th November 2006