

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th November 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

In attendance: Cllr Malcolm Meikle
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

119/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier and Cllr Wood.

120/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

121/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2006

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously. Subject to the deletion of the word "regarding" from Minute no. 112/06, line 1, it was RESOLVED that these be signed as a true record.

122/06 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Charlton Parish Plan. There has been no response regarding progress of the Parish Plan and it is considered necessary to know where this is now going. The Chairman reported Karen Humphries of Community First will be contacting Bill Rose, as too will Cllr Eggleston. Options for the Parish Council are (1) to start again, (2) to take over the current information and continue, and (3) for the Parish Council to draw up key issues with Wychavon DC. Members felt that the process should not be restarted, but that the PC should obtain the information and take the lead.

2. Footpath Warden. The Chairman invited Clive Bostle to speak. He reported that he has continued to inspect footpaths in the Parish. He reported the following:

FP 501. Litter cleared

FP525/526. Waymarking improved. WCC approval would be required for the path to be surfaced.

FP508/509. Stiles need improving and pipe wrap found around wire at stiles. Otherwise in fair condition and waymarking OK.

FP 510/511 OK.

FP 512. Cleared around footbridge.

FP 523. Cleared entrance off Haselor Lane.

FP 514/515/516/517/518. Generally poor condition and to be reported.

3. Registration of Parish Council owned land. The Chairman had obtained the deeds and these were passed to the Clerk to arrange registration of the land.

4. Meeting with WCC re street lighting. This has still to be arranged.

5. Letter of thanks. This has been received from the Scout Group, following the receipt of the cheque for the litter pick.

6. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. There was no information to report.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

123/06 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman invited Cllr Meikle to speak. He reported that the Health Centre at the new Pershore Hospital is open; there are some delays due to problems in the dentistry department; and the hospital itself is expected to open in December. The WDC Scrutiny Committee is considering the outcome of the meeting in the summer re gypsies and decisions are awaited on some planning appeals. He commented that there is a suggestion that the Revenues and Benefits departments of all six district councils in the County to have shared services; if successful this could lead to other shared schemes being considered.

County Cllr Mrs Eyre was not in attendance and there was no report.

124/06 REQUEST FOR GRANT - WYCHAVON CAB

A copy of the letter from the Wychavon CAB was circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that a grant of £50 be made.

125/06 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.09.06 - 03.10.06**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Half Yearly Receipts and Payments/Budget summary.

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

3. Accounts for Payment

It was RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney, salary, 01.10.06 - 30.11.06	£460.28
expenses, 01.07.06 - 01.11.06, £60.49 + £0.88 VAT	£ 61.37
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps	
£45.18 + £5.77 VAT (3 invoices)	£ 50.95
Limebridge Rural Services, Sept, Cemetery/Green/Verge mowing	
£483.50 + £84.61 VAT	£568.11
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, October, Cemetery/Green	
£402.00 + £70.35 VAT	£472.35
Charles Tooby	£ 50.00
Mrs B W Jack (reimbursement for flowers via Chairman's allowance)	£ 20.00
npower (to 30.09.06) £131.61 + £6.58 VAT	£138.19
Wychavon CAB	£ 50.00

126/06 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk informed the Meeting that he has been told by the Electoral Registration Officer at WDC that there has been no request for an election and the Parish Council is able, therefore, to make arrangements for co-option at the January meeting. The Clerk was asked to mention on the notice that elections will be held in May.

127/06 PARISH LENGTHSMAN PROGRESS

The Clerk reported that a meeting for instruction was held at WDC offices on 01.11.06, at

which time equipment was handed out. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jack walked around the village with Steve Gwilliam, pointing out problems and he has inspected Yessell Lane/Boston Lane/Haselor Lane. Steve Gwilliam plans to spend Wednesday mornings in Charlton.

The Clerk drew attention to the agreement to claim on a monthly basis and for the lengthsman to be paid monthly. It was agreed that authority be given for the Clerk to arrange with Members for payment to be made in December 2006; on other months when there is no meeting an agreed fixed payment shall be made at the preceding meeting. Members agreed that they would expect the claim to include the two meetings referred to already and agreed that any necessary, additional fee for Steve Gwilliam's Public Liability insurance would be met.

128/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Clerk reported that he has received a holding letter from John Hobbs, Director of Environmental Services at WCC regarding the concern over several highway matters. An invitation has been received to input to the Highway Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 23rd November 2006, at 7.30 pm, in County Hall. Cllr Eggleston hoped to be able to attend, along with the Clerk. The Clerk drew attention to possible funding problems for the Lengthsman scheme in 2007/8 and he will write to Mr Hobbs expressing the concern that reducing the £2,000 annual grant will have.

129/06 PARISH WEB SITE

The Chairman reported that he has got the web site working - www.charltonparishcouncil.org.uk. There is now a need for Members to try and test the system and for comments to be discussed at the next Meeting. The Clerk reported that the application for a bursary towards the website will have to be submitted with details of costs.

130/06 MERRY BROOK

The Environment Agency has been working on Merry Brook, upstream from the River Avon. The Clerk has been approached regarding ownership of the Green and has been promised a report from the EA about the treatment of Merry Brook across the Green, but this has not been received.

131/06 COMPOSTING AND GARDEN WASTE SITE

Cllrs Eggleston circulated the report of the Working Party. It was recommended that this scheme should not proceed, due to difficulty in finding a suitable location, problems with management and policing. The report was accepted.

132/06 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR THROCKMORTON AIRFIELD

Cllr Meikle was invited to speak on this item. He commented that this is based on the scheme submitted by Qinetiq for a business park-type development, and it had received support from residents of Bishampton. This was noted.

133/06 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the meeting held on 26th October 2006, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

134/06 CALC MATTERS

A report has been received from the Chairman of CALC with a suggested amendment to the way that subscriptions are calculated. The aim is to help the very small councils and to reduce the burden on the large town councils. Under the scheme Charlton PC would pay an additional £22 next year above the current £144, an increase of 16%; in 2009 there would be a further increase of £22 (13% increase). Members disagreed with the suggested scheme; it should be based on population and it is considered that it will not solve the current problem of the Association's finances. The matter is to be debated at the CALC Executive meeting on 22nd November 2006.

135/06 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following list of correspondence was noted:

1. Npower - notification of price increase
2. WDC - Parish matters newsletter
3. WDC - Christmas/New Year waste and recycling collections
4. WCC - Christmas Park & Ride, Worcester
5. Countryside Alliance - support for rural post offices
6. E-on - Christmas decorations grant
7. Community First AGM
8. WCC - Worcestershire Local Transport Plan submission
9. Worcestershire Warden newsletter
10. Worcestershire Telecare Annual Report
11. WMRA magazine
12. Newline, October 2006
13. WDC consultation on developers S.106 contributions for education

136/06 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

1. Budget and Precept

137/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 11th January 2007.

11th January 2007