

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 11th January 2007, 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
County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

1/07 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting by offering the Council's congratulations to District Cllr Meikle on being awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List and to the Clerk for passing and being awarded the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

2/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Wood.

3/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2006

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

5/07 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Charlton Parish Plan. Cllr Eggleston commented that the current Plan is not likely to be pursued and he hoped that the information obtained from the open meeting in November 2005 can be retrieved. The Chairman commented that there has been no approach from residents; therefore there is no pressing concern. It was accepted that the issue should be raised at the Parish Meeting and that the Parish Plan Committee could reform after the May elections.

2. Footpath Warden. An A4 plan showing the footpaths in the Parish was enclosed with the agenda. The Chairman invited Clive Bostle to speak. He reported that the wet weather has curtailed work on the footpaths, but he noted that along Path 514/516/517/518 the northern part of 516 and 514 are blocked by oilseed rape. Path 515 is currently unwalkable. He asked if Steve Gwilliam would be able to help with some strimming of path 508 during the summer and said he hoped to attend the Annual Wardens Meeting.

6/07 SHAKESPEARE'S AVON WAY LONG DISTANCE FOOTPATH

This item was brought forward so that Clive Bostle could comment before he departed. The letter and plan were enclosed with the agenda and the intention is to set up a long distance footpath from Market Harborough to Tewkesbury, following the River Avon, using existing public paths. The section through the Parish is shown from Rawlings Farm to The Bight and thence along public roads. Comments were made and it was agreed that Mr Bostle discusses directly with the organiser and responds on behalf of the Council.

7/07 FURTHER PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

3. Parish Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was unable to attend, but the response from residents in the parish is very encouraging and already there has been a noticeable improvement. The Clerk reported the receipt of an email concerning the area around the telephone box, due to run-off from Canada Bank. The Clerk will pass the concern to Steve Gwilliam.

4. Registration of Parish Council owned land. The Clerk has still to arrange this.

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

6. Letter of thanks for grant. This has been received from Wychavon CAB.

7. Parish Council website. The Chairman explained the current position regarding the tests and trials and the need for the Clerk to re-apply for the £250 bursary from CALC, funded by Defra. When this has been received there will be an opportunity for publicity. It was agreed that the Chairman should be reimbursed for his expenditure.

8. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. A letter from the Chairman of the Hall Committee, setting out the current position with the refurbishment, was circulated with the agenda. Phase 1 of the work is now being carried out and there is no request for this Parish Council's contribution (of £2,000) to be paid yet.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

8/07 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.06 - 01.12.06**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid:

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| R D Gurney, salary, 01.12.06 - 31.01.07 | £460.28 |
| Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps £16.85 + £2.95 VAT (2 invoices) | £ 19.80 |
| Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, installation of wire netting in cemetery + disposal of fallen tree: £320.00 + £56.01 VAT | £376.01 |
| Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties, November (confirmation of payment, 09.12.06) | £190.00 |
| Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties, December | £120.00 |
| Joseph Baker Workman Trust, room hire, 2005/2006 | £ 91.00 |
| B B Browne, for website costs | £ 37.62 |

9/07 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2007/2008

The draft budget, notes and suggested level of the precept were circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained that he had been able to project the cost of many aspects and those items including the lengthsman, Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall and the Parish Plan, all new during 2006/2007. WDC has advised that £1,000 needs to be included to cover the cost of a contested election. Budgeted receipts are unchanged and there is likely to be a good end of year balance, due to reduced payments. It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed that the precept remains at £9,600 for 2007/2008.

10/07 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk informed the Meeting that there had been no applications to fill either of the vacancies and had been informed by the Electoral Registration Officer at WDC that, in view of the election in May, there is no requirement to advertise the casual vacancies.

11/07 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman invited County Cllr Mrs Eyre to speak. She explained the main current concerns at County Hall are the future of the three County Council outdoor centres at Malvern, Llanrug and Upton Warren: the new White Paper on the Direction of Health and Social Care: the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): and the discussion regarding unitary or two tier administration.

The Chairman invited Cllr Meikle to speak. He also commented that WDC is concerned with the details of the Regional Spatial Strategy, but is encouraged by the possible favourable outcome of the future of the outdoor centres. (The Chairman and Clerk will attend a meeting at WDC on the RSS on 15th January). WDC has produced a document following the Gypsy meeting last year and hopes that there will be a better understanding of the problems.

12/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC - stakeholder survey by the Audit Commission re Wychavon DC
2. WDC - Parish matters newsletter (enclosed) and summary of Gypsy & Traveller scrutiny review
3. WDC - Register of Electors 2007
4. WCC - notice of timetable changes to local services
5. WCC - West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, invite to workshop on 25.01.07 at 6.30 pm at Whittington Primary School
6. WCC - Minerals and Waste Development Framework, adoption of SCI
7. WCC - Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan
8. Rockford Consulting (for WCC) - request for details of PCs walking/riding guides
9. West Mercia Police Authority - consultation on priorities
10. WDC - Statement of Accounts 2005/6
11. Newline, December 2006
12. Local Council Review
13. Worcestershire Partnership Newsletter

At this time the Meeting became inquorate and no further business was able to be transacted.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, 8th March 2007.

8th March 2007