

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 8th March 2007, at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr M P Wood

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

13/07 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and remarked that, as he is not standing for re-election, it is Cllr Meikle's last attendance at the Parish Council.

14/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

15/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2007

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

17/07 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. The Chairman invited Clive Bostle to speak. He reported that he had attended the annual south eastern area meeting of Path Wardens and a Parish Paths Wardens Essentials course. Due to floods and the wet weather little work on the paths has been possible, but Red Lane from Hampton has been walked.

2. Shakespeare's Avon Way Long Distance Footpath. Clive Bostle's reply to Peter Titchmarsh was enclosed with the agenda. He has had discussion with Mr Titchmarsh regarding the route through Charlton and the scheme should develop in a few years. Clive Bostle agreed to help with way marking. The Chairman thanked Mr Bostle for responding to the letter.

3. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was invited to speak. He reported that the centre of the village is generally in good order and, apart from some overgrown hedges, the footways are also in good order. He is currently working to clear the grips in Yessell Lane and Boston Lane. The gullies near the telephone kiosk is solid and needs attention from WCC. The recent flooding problems in Ryden Lane have now been identified by WCC and will be attended to. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Grazier for his help at an early stage to obviate the concern about flooding near the Brook Lane bridge, prior to WCC clearing the drains to the brook.

4. Registration of Council owned land. There was nothing to report.

5. Street lighting meeting with WCC. This has not been arranged

- 6. Charlton Parish Plan.** No information had been received from Cllr Eggleston.
- 7. CALC Bursary.** The Clerk reported that a bursary of £250 for the setting up of a web site had been received from CALC. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 8. Regional Spatial Strategy.** The Clerk confirmed that a reply to the consultation, setting out the strong views against large scale housing development in the Wychavon area, had been sent.
- 9. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall.** The minutes were noted.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(4 members of the public were present. The flooding problem in Brook Lane was raised with the comment that jetting the blockage did not work, whereas the suction system did clear the drains. It is hoped that WCC will visit in 6 months to ensure that the problem has been solved. The Ryden Lane surface is breaking up due to another serious blockage; the Chairman commented that this work is promised for the first week in April. Concern was expressed at the amount of moss on footways in Charlton; Steve Gwilliam agreed to deal with this when the weather has become drier. It was also suggested that white lines are needed in the middle of Boston Lane, near the bends, and for posts to be placed to mark the verges in this location).

18/07 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PROPOSALS FOR MERRY BROOK

The Chairman agreed that this item be brought forward. Details had been circulated with the agenda. Members did not feel that they could add to the suggestions put forward by the EA. Past problems were again raised and the silting under the Brook Lane bridge is still unresolved and the Clerk will report this to the EA.

19/07 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Chairman invited Cllr Meikle to speak. He stated that WDC had increased their Council Tax by 2.5% and WCC had agreed a 4.9% increase; on a Band D house in Charlton this will represent an increase of about £35. Consideration is being given to amending the car parking arrangements in Wychavon to assist the over 65s and disabled, but he felt that this would be of little help in Pershore. WDC had suggested that Option 2 of the RSS was the only reasonable option, especially as some of the Worcester City allocation will have to be located in Wychavon. As part of the housing survey Cllr Meikle informed the meeting that a caravan survey of the District will have to be done.

20/07 GRANT REQUEST - HEREFORD & WORCESTER AMBULANCE SERVICE

A letter was circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Grazier, and agreed that a grant of £50 be given.

21/07 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.12.06 - 02.02.07

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, 01.02.07 - 31.03.07	£460.28
expenses, 01.11.06 - 01.03.07	£54.41 + £0.67 VAT
	£ 55.08

Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps £74.98 + £10.39 VAT (4 invoices)	£ 85.37
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties, January (confirmation of payment, 15.02.07)	£269.17
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties, February	£120.00
n power (to 31.12.06) £146.74 + £7.34 VAT	£154.08
Worcestershire CALC, Clerk's meetings, 15.01.07 & 01.03.07	£ 45.00
Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service	£ 50.00

22/07 REIMBURSEMENT OF STEVE GWILLIAM, PARISH LENGTHSMAN

As the Parish Council meets on a two monthly cycle, an arrangement to pay Steve Gwilliam on the months when no meeting is held. It was agreed that, based on the current invoices of £40 per week, a cheque for the equivalent sum be signed and post dated at the previous meeting of the Council. This would be reported for confirmation at the subsequent meeting, when any adjustments can be made.

23/07 AMENITY MAINTENANCE COSTS, 2007/2008

The scale of charges submitted by Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, set out in the letter dated 8th February 2007, were accepted.

24/07 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Clerk reported that WCC has produced their Scrutiny Report following the meeting in November 2006 with P&TCs. The concerns about the state of Ryden Lane had been referred to earlier in the meeting and the Chairman hoped that WCC would undertake the work in the first week of April as stated.

25/07 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND NEWSLETTER

The Chairman had hoped that the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th April 2007 would be in time to encourage nominations for the Parish Council election, but, in fact the list of candidates will be known by that date. A flier is being prepared for circulation, via Mr Gisborne, with the Evesham Journal. It was agreed that PC Davey, Clive Bostle and Steve Gwilliam be invited.

26/07 LOCAL ELECTIONS, 3rd MAY 2007

In order to ensure that help and information is available for aspiring candidates it was agreed that Members of the Parish Council be on hand in the Old School Room on Thursday, 29th March, between 6pm and 8 pm. Publicity will be included on the flier for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that WDC be informed that, in the event of a contested PC election and a non-contested WDC election, poll cards would be requested.

27/07 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11th January 2007 and 15th February 2007 were noted.

28/07 CALC MATTERS

The Chairman reported that the Area Meeting scheduled for 7th March had been cancelled. The MAIL had been circulated previously.

29/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Department of Communities and Local Government - consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct
2. Defra, etc - Review of QPS
3. Audit Commission - confirmation of Clement Keys as External Auditor for 2006/7
4. WCC - Evesham Forum, 21st March 2007, at 7 pm, in Evesham Town Hall
5. WCC - Winter gritting routes
6. WCC - Waste Core strategy submission document
7. WCC - Changes to Bus Services countywide (new timetable in bus shelter)
8. WCC - Home composting (on notice board)
9. WDC - Fly tipping (poster on notice board)
10. Community First - parish planning event, 14th March, at 5.30, at Avoncroft
11. Calor Village of the Year competition (entry by 27th April 2007)
12. Newslite, February 2007
13. Enjoy England, celebrate St George's Day, magazine
14. WMRA magazine
15. WDC - request for suggestions for housing sites in Charlton (agreed none obvious)
16. WDC - Community buildings survey (taken by Chairman)

30/07 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

The Clerk commented had heard that the External Auditor may bring forward the date for the submission of the Annual Return and it might be necessary to hold an extra meeting to approve the accounts; Members felt that no special arrangements should be made at this stage.

31/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 17th May 2007.
The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday, 12th April 2007, at 7.30 pm.

17th May 2007