

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

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

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre
District Cllr Tom McDonald
Clive Bostle, Parish Paths Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

103/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier.

104/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

The Chairman reminded the Council that it is the individual councillor, not the Chairman or Clerk, who must decide whether or not he/she has an interest to declare.

105/07 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Clerk reported that there had been no response to the recent advertisement. It was agreed that the Clerk arranges for a further advertisement to be displayed for the vacancy.

106/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2007

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously. The following amendments were suggested:

Minute no. 84/07, line 7, delete "and presence"
Minute no. 89/07, line 15, add"including Section 12(2)...
Minute no. 94/07, line 2, amended to "2005".

Subject to these amendments it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston and RESOLVED that these be signed as a true record.

107/07 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He commented that the two bridges on public paths in the Parish, referred to in the minutes of the last meeting, did not need repair following the recent floods. He commented that there are some 185 sites in the County which do have serious problems and it will require some £600,000 to remedy. Locally, Mr Bostle has been waymarking and clearing the paths between Boston Lane and the B.4084. There are several stiles, which would be nice to replace with self-closing gates.

He reported that some work may start soon on the Shakespeare's Avon Way and that, as part of the current review, he felt that there should be a link off the Wychavon Way, from Fladbury Bridge to Evesham.

He is to follow up the possibility of a footpath map being displayed on a notice board.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. The Chairman reported that Mr Gwilliam will replace the Cemetery hedge later in the winter, and he has obtained a source of hawthorn plants. Cllr Mrs Jack agreed to visit the new residents at "Langley" to seek agreement for the overgrowing hedge to be trimmed back.

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting today at County Hall on improvements/changes to the Lengthsman scheme. This will include the use of portable vehicle activated speed signs, arrangements for the collection of green waste and training for parish clerks.

3. Community Notice Board. The Chairman confirmed that this has been discussed with Mrs Waterman.

4. Registration of Village Greens. After discussion with the WCC Countryside Section the Clerk reported that no action needs to be taken at present.

5. Offer of seat in the Cemetery. The Clerk reported that Mrs Purvor will submit details of the seat to the parish Council early next year.

6. Willow tree on the Green. It was reported that Cllr Grazier has dealt with this matter.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Two members of the public, Brenda Bowley and Roger Davies, were present. Both raised matters resulting from the flooding on 20th July 2007, including the potential blocking of the brook course below the cemetery bridge (in Crophorne PC), the raised level of Merry Brook across the Green, potential blockages between Brook Lane and Canada Bank bridges, and the blocked gullies across the Green from near the bus shelter. The Chairman commented that he had been unable to get a response from the Environment Agency regarding the Green, but it seems that a meeting with the EA is essential. The Chairman agreed to send County Cllr Mrs Eyre photographs of the blocked gullies. It was suggested that Peter Luff, MP, should be contacted regarding sources of grants for flood relief).

108/07 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre was invited to speak and she referred to four matters. First, the new culvert is in the Crophorne Canyon and the road should re-open as a single carriageway on 8/9th December. Second, gritters and snow blowers are at the ready for the winter. Third, following a discussion it was agreed that the short length of pavement between The Dovecote and the Church should be made up; details and a photograph will be sent to Cllr Mrs Eyre. Fourth, there have been some changes to the 550/551 bus services.

District Cllr Tom McDonald was invited to speak and he referred to five items. First, a decision has been taken to introduce wheelie bins, with a weekly food waste collection; an Exceptions policy is to be prepared. Second, there has been a successful prosecution of a fly tipping offence. Third, Crophorne Canyon will re-open next month. Fourth, the consultation period for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy started on 2nd November. Fifth, the WDC Flood Working Group is in operation and a progress report with recommendations will be sent to the Executive in November.

109/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(1) Village Clean Up Bursary. The provision of a second seat is thought appropriate but, in view of the offer of a seat to be donated to the Cemetery, it was agreed to defer a decision until the details of the new seat are available.

Order no. 25 be amended to read:

“The proceedings of the Parish Council shall be in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 13th September 2007 (minute no. 89/07).”
A copy the revised Standing Orders to be circulated at the next meeting.

114/07 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN

Cllr Eggleston presented a detailed report of the comments made at the consultation held in November 2005, highlighting the major issues at that time. It is accepted that the flooding issue would now feature more prominently. It was agreed that the next step is for the Chairman and Cllr Eggleston to meet Karen Humphries at Community First for advice.

115/07 COMMUNICATING WITH PARISH RESIDENTS

The Clerk submitted A4 drafts of the proceedings of the two previous meetings. Cllr Eggleston and Cllr Mrs Barlow will discuss the format and presentation and Cllr Mrs Barlow will check its suitability for publishing in Five Alive.

116/07 WALL OPPOSITE THE BUS SHELTER

After the last meeting the Chairman has spoken to PC de Paris. She has spoken to Mr and Mrs Tooby and the schoolchildren who were damaging the wall and the matter appears to be amicable resolved.

117/07 CALC MATTERS

The Chairman reported that Calc is moving to new premises with Community First within the next two months. The Government may be relaxing the election criteria for QPS.

118/07 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted.

1. WDC - copy of adopted Local Plan (letter to be sent to WDC re error of boundary)
2. WDC - Training event for parish councillors, 7th November (previously circulated)
3. DEFRA - booklet on ways to tackle climate change
4. SBE - newsletter
5. SWJCS - public consultation, 02.11.07-14.12.07; parish council event at Evesham Town Hall on 20.11.07, 4 pm to 6 pm
6. PACT meeting arrangements
7. WCC - Evesham and Pershore Forums
8. Magazines, including Speaking Out (WMRA and WMLGA), Worcestershire Partnership

119/07 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

The footway lights in The Dovecote have been repaired.

120/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 10th January 2008.

10th January 2008