

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008,  
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

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

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

**1/08 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed the Members of the village to the Meeting and briefly explained the procedure of the for speaking.

**2/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received and accepted from Cllr Eggleston.

**3/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**4/08 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.

**5/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

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

**6/08 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He has discussed with WCC the possible production of a Rights of Way map for the Parish; WCC is considering the financial implications and an update will be given at the next meeting. He has reported to WCC the need for way marking of paths south of the B.4084. He reported that the Shakespeare's Avon Way is nearly a reality; the launch will take place at the end of April and a leaflet will be available. He confirmed that the path will pass through Charlton village and that he is responsible for the way marking between Evesham and Fladbury.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance.

**3. Offer of seat in the Cemetery.** The Clerk reported that he has not received details of the seat previously offered and he has had a discussion with another resident regarding the provision of an additional seat and this was welcomed.

**4. Boundary error on Wychvon Local Plan.** The Clerk has been informed by WDC that an addendum has been prepared to overcome the error in the Charlton Village boundary.

**5. Charlton Church Clock.** A letter has been received thanking the PC for the grant.

**6. Grants/Payments after the floods.** The Clerk reported that the CAB has informed him that no grants from the British Red Cross have, so far, been paid to residents of Charlton and that only some £31,000 of the nearly £136,000 for Wychavon has been paid out. The CAB hope that the period for applying can be extended. The Clerk also reported that he has not heard from WDC regarding the Flood Recovery Scheme Grant. (Cllr McDonald subsequently confirmed that this will be sent in the next few days).

#### ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

*(15 members of the public were present and all questions raised matters regarding the flooding on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Several were dissatisfied with the attitude of staff at the CAB and the unnecessary questions that were asked. In the 6 months since the flooding no work has been done to the Merry Brook - the Chairman mentioned that the EA were planning to begin work during this month, weather permitting. Cllr McDonald reported that WDC is monitoring the EA and WDC has issued enforcement notices on riparian owners - but none in Charlton. With the problems again in Brook Lane it was felt that water should be diverted off the fields and away from the highway and that culverts should be kept cleared. With comments made about the lack of any progress on Merry Brook, Cllr McDonald informed the meeting that WDC has a Flood Working Group looking at all the flooding issues and will be producing a Flood Action Plan in the Spring. A self-help option was suggested and the Chairman said that this suggestion has been put to WDC who had responded with the concern that there would likely to be legal problems with this approach. Several comments were made for a public meeting to be held with WDC, EA in attendance).*

#### 7/08 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre had sent a apology and there was no report. District Cllr Tom McDonald was invited to speak and he referred to five items. First, that the flood recovery scheme grant is due to be paid to the PC next week. Second, as referred to in the public forum, the report by WDC of the flood analysis is due in May/June. Third, the Crothorne Canyon should re-open fully by the end of January. Fourth, WDC will be introducing a garden waste wheelie bin collection. Fifth, while highway work is in progress in Pershore, the car parking fee is 10p per hour.

#### 8/08 MERRY BROOK

It was agreed that this item be brought forward. From the discussion during the public forum it is clear that residents are not convinced that sufficient urgency is being given by the relevant authorities, namely WDC and the EA, to the current problems resulting in the July 2007 flooding. The suggestions that the PC write to all riparian owners seeking agreement to work on the Brook and the setting up of a PC Working Group were put on hold. It was agreed that the PC arranges a meeting to discuss flooding and its aftermath and agreed with Cllr McDonald that he would arrange for Steve Jordan (WDC) and other involved organisations to attend a meeting in the village as a matter of urgency, to explain the current position regarding improvements to the water course. This will be advertised on the notice boards and on the web site.

#### 9/08 FINANCE

**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.07 - 03.12.07**  
This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

**2. Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Mrs Barlow and agreed that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney, salary, 01.12.07 - 31.01.08	<b>£460.28</b>
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps £64.62 + £9.89 VAT (4 invoices)	<b>£ 74.51</b>
B B Browne (for web site payment)	<b>£ 28.06</b>
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (December)	<b>£120.00</b>
N power (Oct/Dec) £123.24 + £6.16 VAT	<b>£129.40</b>
Worcestershire CALC	<b>£ 20.00</b>
<b><u>Confirmation of payment made, 10.12.07</u></b>	
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (November)	<b>£160.00</b>

**10/08 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2008/2009**

The draft budget, notes and possible level of precept were circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained that he had been able to project the cost of most items of payment and realistically to assess the receipts. There is likely to be a satisfactory end of year balance, due particularly to the uncontested election. Members were aware that there could be costs involved with flood alleviation work on Merry Brook. It was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed that the precept for 2008/2009 be set at £9,900.

**11/08 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

The Clerk was asked to report the potholes in The Dovecote and to find out how he suggested path between The Dovecote and the church is progressing.

**12/08 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN**

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Karen Humphries at Community First about the present position of the Parish Plan. Her advice is that the process should start again and the Chairman suggested that this be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

**13/08 COMMUNICATING WITH PARISH RESIDENTS**

The Clerk had received revised summaries of the previous Council meetings from Cllr Eggleston. Cllr Mrs Barlow said that the editorial board of Five Alive will meet at the weekend, prior to the February issue, and she agreed to prepare a statement from the Parish Council about the public meeting to be arranged shortly regarding the flooding problems.

**14/08 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S SALARY**

(The Clerk left the room during the discussion of this item, during which notes were taken by the Chairman).

Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk progresses to SCP 23 and that this would be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, as set out in the National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks.

**15/08 LITTER PICKING BURSARY 2008**

The Clerk reported that WDC intends to continue with this scheme and it was agreed that the Parish Council takes part. The Clerk will pass the papers to Mrs Owen who has said that the Scout Group would continue to undertake this task.

**16/08 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 were noted.

**17/08 CALC MATTERS**

The MAIL and Information Bulletin were circulated with the agenda. The Chairman reported that CALC has now moved its offices and Pat Edwards has now left. At the Area Meeting in December Steve Jorden attended and spoke about emergency procedures. Pershore TC has become a Quality Parish Council.

**18/08 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WCC Budget Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008, at 7.00pm at County Hall
2. WCC Evening Bus Services campaign
3. WDC Supplementary Planning Document - Biodiversity
4. WDC Community Strategy
5. West Mercia Police Authority consultation evening, 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm, at Hindlip
6. Regional Spatial Strategy consultation from 7<sup>th</sup> January; workshop for PCs on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at Whittington Primary School and Preferred Option consultation
7. Magazines, including Speaking Out (WMRA and WMLGA), Local Council Review, Community First Newline, Worcestershire Warden

**19/07 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

1. The Clerk was asked to obtain an up-to-date bus timetable for the village
2. A letter is to be sent to the Old School Room Committee regarding the untidy room

**20/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

13<sup>th</sup> March 2008