

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 11th September 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 Mrs F Wilkinson
Cllr M P Wood

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(4 members of the public were present and all questions related mainly to flood alleviation. Some concern was expressed that there should have been a second meeting of the Flood Working Group (FWG), particularly with regard to the response to WDC. The Chairman responded by commenting that the information asked for by WDC was factual and did not relate to details of how this would be implemented. Cllr McDonald confirmed that other agencies will become involved with the Flood Action Plans. He reported that he had just heard that the EA has made a bid to the West Midlands Flood Relief Scheme for a scheme upstream of Charlton and that WDC will be likely to take a decision on Flood Wardens.

Mr Stevens commented that he had visited all residents who had been flooded and said that some were reluctant for such information to become publicly available; Cllr McDonald confirmed that such information held by WDC would not be divulged. Concern was expressed at the lack of any work being done to the roads in Charlton).

83/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Eggleston.

84/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

85/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JULY 2008

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and RESOLVED that these be signed as a true record.

86/08 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that he had arranged two public walks in and around Charlton, on one there were 9 walkers but none turned up for the second. The circular walk on Bank Holiday took in part of Fladbury and Crophorne, where overgrown paths were found. Generally this was a success.

It is noted that the footbridge on the path below Ryden Lane had been vandalized, but is still useable; this could be reported as a Health & Safety or the PC could arrange for the repair. A schedule of works has been put forward to WCC for 2009/10, but this could be delayed due to slippage of the 2008/9 work.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. The overgrown triangle at Top Street/Canada Bank was referred to and the Clerk stated that this is in the Limebridge verge cutting contract and had been cut earlier this week.

3. Planning briefing meeting. The Chairman and the Clerk had attended and the Chairman reminded Members of the need for caution when discussing planning schemes with applicants.

4. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson had attended a recent meeting and reported that a Lottery bid is being made for the next stage of the improvement work; a decision will not be made before February. The grant offer from the PC has been referred to in the bid.

87/08 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre had sent her apology and there was no report.

District Cllr Tom McDonald circulated a report which referred to the proposed Post Office closures, noting that the offices at Hill & Moor, Hampton and Bishampton are not to be closed: funding is available for play areas: the BT proposal for removing telephone kiosks, including the one at Charlton: and the temporary road closures around Jubilee Bridge. Members were concerned that no information on this was available in Charlton.

88/08 VILLAGE CLEAN UP BURSARY

The Clerk reported that the £500 bursary has been received. Members expressed their gratitude to the Scout Group for their effort on behalf of the community. It was agreed that £100 be given to the Scout Group and the Clerk was asked to investigate the purchase of a bus time table display screen. (The Clerk was asked to obtain an up-to-date time table for the village).

89/08 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A letter from WDC regarding the request from the landlord of the Gardeners Arms for Rural Rate Relief from Business Rates was circulated with the agenda. It was felt that the PC should help the current business and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Wood, and agreed that £271.43, as requested, be given.

90/08 REQUEST FOR GRANT

A letter from the WRVS was circulated with the agenda. That £50.00 be sent was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Mrs Barlow, and agreed.

91/08 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.06.08 – 01.08.08

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney, salary, 01.08.08 - 30.09.08	£485.56
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stamps (July/August)	
£29.44 + £2.15 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 31.59
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd	
mowing, Green (July) £439.00 + £76.83 VAT	£515.83
mowing, Green + verges (Aug) £524.00 + £91.71 VAT	£615.71

Charles Tooby	£ 50.00
Clement Keys	£135.00 + £23.63 VAT
B J Roberts, Extreme Cleaning Solutions	£40.00 + £7.00 VAT
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (August)	£160.00
Charlton Scout Group	£100.00
WRVS	£ 50.00
Wychavon DC (for Rural Rate Relief)	£271.43
<u>Confirmation of payment made, 21.08.08</u>	
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (July)	£160.00

92/08 REPORTS OF THE AUDITORS

The Clerk read out the letter from the External Auditor, confirming that an unqualified audit opinion has been given. The notice of the closure of audit is currently being advertised on the notice board. A verbal satisfactory report has been received from Charles Tooby, the Internal Auditor.

93/08 FLOOD WORKING GROUP

The Notes of the meeting held on 31st July 2008 were circulated with the agenda. These were noted and agreed. Many of the matters relating to flooding/flood alleviation had been discussed and commented on during the public forum. In particular the Chairman commented that Alan Kingston, WCC Countryside Section, is endeavouring to contact the EA regarding the footbridge across the Green. The draft reply to the letter from Tony Jones, WDC, was circulated and it was agreed that, subject to minor amendments, this be sent. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Flood Working Group be held on Thursday, 25th September, the Clerk to circulate the agenda. The Chairman reminded members that some £2,050 is being held for flood alleviation measures. Cllr Wood reported that a planning application for a large housing development has been submitted on land on the south side of Pershore Road, Hampton: this could have significant consequences for Charlton village, as much of the drainage from this site is likely to flow into Merry Brook, upstream of the village. It was agreed that the PC writes to object to this application on drainage grounds.

94/08 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Concern was expressed about the temporary road closure while work takes place around Jubilee Bridge and that the PC has not been notified about this. It was noted that WCC has not taken any action on, or responded to, any of the highway problems raised at the previous meeting with Paul Cooper (the Clerk reported that Mr Cooper has now moved from this post and his replacement is not yet started). It was felt necessary to keep pressing until the works have been completed.

95/08 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE

Cllr Browne reported that a list of topics had been produced and the members of the Group had prepared some reports. There is a need for a further meeting.

96/08 STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that he had had a meeting with the street lighting officers at County Hall, which was a follow up to the attempts for a meeting to be held during 2007. There is the option for the maintenance of the street lighting in Charlton to be managed by

WCC, with the street lighting budget from the PC being handed over. It would be necessary for a meeting in the village to be held with the County officers, so that any problems found with the present lights can be highlighted and rectified before the scheme could come into operation (possibly in April 2009). On the practical side any faults are reported to the Clerk, who emails the fault to Prysmian; Prysmian deal with these according to the seriousness of the fault. If taken over by WCC all faults would be reported to WCC, either direct or via the Clerk. It was agreed that this suggestion be progressed and that Cllr Mrs Jack and Cllr Mrs Barlow would attend any meeting.

97/08 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10th July 2008 and 24th July 2008, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

98/08 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that Planning Officers from WDC had attended the Area Meeting on 10th September, when the suggested eco-town proposal was discussed. He reported that the CALC training programme should be available shortly and the AGM will be held on Thursday, 9th October in County Hall.

99/08 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – New Recycling and Waste Services
2. WDC – Annual Report 2008
3. WDC – Draft Planning Enforcement Policy
4. WCC – Bus Bulletin
5. Community First – notice of AGM, 1st October at 6 pm, Hanley Swan Village Hall – Chairman will be attending
6. Rural Development Programme for England – Funding conference, 19th September
7. SWJCS – Preferred options consultation, 19.09.08-31.10.08
8. Magazines, including Partnership Matters, Local Council Review, Newslines, Clerks and Councils Direct
9. BT – notice of removal of the telephone kiosk by 6th October 2008 (Members felt that the PC could not object to its removal, but it was agreed that the Chairman puts a notice to that effect in the kiosk and the PC would respond if necessary)

100/08 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

Tendering for Grass Cutting.
Revision of Burial fees

101/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 13th November 2008.

13th November 2008