

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th November 2008, 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 (from Item 7, Minute no. 108/08)
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs F Wilkinson

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(2 members of the public were present, both members of the Charlton Flood Committee. A meeting of the Committee had been held and notes would be available shortly; Cllr McDonald had attended. Some brook clearance work had been done upstream of Brook lane and the EA has not communicated with WCC regarding the need to replace the footbridge on the Green. The Clerk reported that he understood that the EA are holding an exhibition and forum in the Old School Room on Thursday, 27th November, which was new information to all in the room; it was felt that there is a need to hold a public meeting at the end of the exhibition).

102/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier and Cllr Wood.

103/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None. The Chairman reminded Members that individual councillors have a duty to notify the Monitoring Officer at WDC of any change in their circumstances.

104/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER 2008

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

105/08 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that he had done some work, including waymarking, on the bridleways off Haselor Lane.
- 2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance. It was noted that some work will be required to trees on the Green, particularly the horse chestnut and one of the silver birches. It was agreed that these be referred to Cllr Grazier in the first instance.
- 3. SWJCS, objection to land at Hampton.** The Clerk reported that he had submitted an objection to the inclusion of this land, at least until the flooding/drainage problems on Merry Brook have been resolved. This was noted.
- 4. Proposed removal of BT Payphones.** No response to the note left in the kiosk has been received. It was agreed that this be left to take its course.
- 5. Street light nos 1 and 3, Top Street.** The Clerk reported that, following the problems with these columns, no. 1 is now working, but no. 3 is out; this will be reported, again.
- 6. Grass cutting tenders for 2009.** These are not due back until December.

7. Acknowledgements for Grants. Letters of thanks have been received from WRVS and Charlton Scouts.

106/08 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre had informed the Clerk that highway maintenance work is due to start in Charlton this month.

District Cllr Tom McDonald reported that the wheelie bin system is to be introduced across Wychavon in the Spring; officers are available to discuss any special requirements. WDC is aiming to keep the precept increase to 2.5%; this will mean a £1 million cut, but there should not be any loss of staff or services. He had attended the Charlton Flood Committee meeting and has submitted his sixth flood watch report. He has received a request for a bus stop to be sited in The Strand.

107/08 BUS SERVICE AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION

The Clerk spoke to WCC officers regarding the provision of a bus timetable facility in Charlton, as the only timetable is on the PC notice board. WCC are proposing to provide bus stop poles on both sides of the road and these would have timetables. There is no commitment when these will be provided, but the Clerk will chase during next year. As WCC would provide these facilities there is no need for the PC to reserve money. The Clerk has also obtained the current timetable.

The Chairman drew attention to the temporary changes resulting from the work at Evesham bus station and has displayed the amended timetable on the notice board.

108/08 VILLAGE CLEAN UP BURSARY

As some work may have to be undertaken on the trees on the Green it was agreed that no decision be taken at this time to spend the balance of this bursary.

109/08 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.08.08 – 03.10.08

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Mid Year Financial Summary.

This was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk drew attention to the figures and explained that no further large receipts or payments are expected during the remainder of the Financial Year. This was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney, salary, 01.10.08 - 30.11.08	£485.56
expenses, 01.07.08 – 31.10.08, £50.85 + £0.19 VAT	£ 51.04
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stamps (September/October)	
£19.95 + £7.18 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 27.13
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd	
mowing + verges (September) £524.00 + £91.71 VAT	£615.71
mowing (October) £439.00 + £76.83 VAT	£515.83
B J Roberts, Extreme Cleaning Solutions £40.00 + £7.00 VAT	£ 47.00
Worcestershire CALC, Clerk's meeting, 16.09.08	£ 7.50
N power (July/Sept) £145.82 + £7.29 VAT	£153.11
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (October)	£160.00

Confirmation of payment made, 9.10.08

Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (September)

£160.00**110/08 FLOOD WORKING GROUP**

The Notes of the meeting held on 25th September 2008 were circulated with the agenda. These were noted and agreed. The Chairman reported that he had discussed the items referred to in no. 11 with Steve Jorden at WDC. A warning system will be looked at again and there is no funding for a Flood Warden. The flood risk report is due in February 2009, but no information was available for the sill at the cemetery bridge. WDC Flood Action Plan should be available in January 2009.

The Clerk reported that the Flood drop in session/forum, by EA, is understood to be arranged for Thursday 27th November.

Many of the matters relating to flooding/flood alleviation had been discussed and commented on during the public forum.

111/08 HIGHWAY MATTERS

County Cllr Liz Eyre had informed the Council that the planned highway work in The Strand/ Canada Bank/Ryden Lane/The Dovecote is due to start the following week.

Members raised concern about the ambiguous notice on the Green about road closures, especially as the Clerk had received an email from the Legal Department at County Hall stating that these road closures would not now take place. The Clerk agreed to find out the current position, and it was hoped that this confusion would not delay the work.

112/08 REVISION OF CEMETERY CHARGES

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the list of charges, which had been agreed in November 2004. After discussion a revised scale of charges was agreed, to be operative from 1st January 2009. A copy of the revised charges is to be sent to the local funeral directors and a laminated copy is to be displayed in the lychgate.

113/08 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE

There was nothing to report.

114/08 STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that a meeting with the street lighting officers at County Hall had been held, when the procedure for WCC to take over the maintenance and energy cost was explained. Problems with several existing columns were explained and these would have to be rectified at the PC's expense prior to any "takeover". A detailed report is to be sent. The Clerk was asked to supply the latest invoices from N power, for the energy, and from Prysmian for the maintenance, so that WCC can assess what the annual cost would be for the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Mrs Jack and Cllr Mrs Barlow, continues discussions with WCC.

115/08 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 SCP24 (from SCP23) and that this is backdated to 1st April 2008, as recommended by NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

It was agreed that the Clerk's hours should be looked at and the Clerk was asked to provide an assessment of his workload at the next meeting.

116/08 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that he had attended the AGM in October and that there may be staffing problems at the CALC office due to a reduction in grants.

117/08 CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMENT

1. WCC; new governance models (by 3rd December). Agreed that the suggestion for a mayoral system at WCC be not supported.
2. Communities and local government; the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws (by 20th November). No comment.
3. Communities and local government; Code of Conduct revision (by 24th December). Do not wish to comment.
4. WCC; Waste Core strategy (by 19th December). Clerk to complete questionnaire.
5. WDC; Supplementary Planning Document on Water Management (by 27th November). Clerk to respond.

118/08 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Parish Matters (enclosed)
2. West Mercia Police Authority – Combined Equality Scheme
3. Standards Board newsletter, September 2008
4. Magazines, including Local Council Review, Wychavon magazine, Newslines, Clerks and Councils Direct

119/08 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

Budget and Precept.
Frequency of meetings

120/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 8th January 2009.

8th January 2009