

## CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
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 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

*(2 members of the public were present; 3 points were raise. First, the bank on the hill in Canada Bank is being eroded by badger; can the Lengthsman clear the soil from the highway and can WCC take some action? Second, does the PC feel that Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009 is a suitable date for the Annual Meeting? Third, the Flood Working Group (FWG) has sent several letters to members of the Regional Flood Forum and the reply from Peter Luff, MP, is that he is optimistic about the funding for the flood alleviation scheme upstream of the village. Also, the FWG feel that the PC may be unable to respond quickly to consultations, etc, and hope that this can be looked into).*

### 1/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 2/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

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

### 4/09 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that the annual meeting for wardens in south east Worcestershire is arranged for February, when the Parish Improvement Programme is to be discussed. Charlton is due in 2009/10 and, when confirmed, a detailed schedule of work will be prepared. He had attended the Fladbury glasshouse public inquiry, which involved several footpaths, and he has inspected the footpath between the Green and the Crophorne boundary.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance, and the Clerk will discuss any items raised with him. Cllr Grazier will inspect the trees on the Green.

**3. Street lights, Top Street.** The Clerk reported that he had inspected all the street lights and no.3 in Top Street is still not working; no 4 in Top Street is also not working. The Clerk will report these faults to Prysmian.

**4. Bus services in Charlton.** The Chairman reported that the work at Evesham bus station is completed and the service is running as normal. The Clerk produced a booklet with new bus shelters, which was noted, but Members did not wish to pursue at the present time.

**5/09 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre** was not in attendance and there was no report.

**District Cllr Tom McDonald** referred to five aspects. First, there has been a noticeable increase in fly tipping. Second, the new refuse collecting system is due to start in the Spring. Third, he has spoken to Peter Luff, MP, County Cllr John Smith, and others regarding the Charlton flood alleviation scheme; there seems to be good support. The Executive Board of WDC has agreed flood alleviation support grants of up to £5,000 to be used for work, not consultants; this is to be administered by parish councils. Fourth, the three major planning items are the overturning of the injunction in favour of the gypsy owners of the site at Eckington, the Fladbury glasshouse inquiry, and the proposed wind turbines north of Evesham. Fifth, to assist economic development WDC is to promote development in the three towns and it will review car parking charges.

**6/09 FINANCE**

**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.08 – 03.12.08**

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, 01.12.08 – 31.01.09	<b>£513.70</b>
back pay, April-November 2008	<b>£112.56</b>
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stamps, stationery (November/December) £54.40 + £6.82 VAT (3 invoices)	<b>£ 61.22</b>
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd verge mowing (November) £85.00 + £14.88 VAT	<b>£ 99.88</b>
Worcestershire CALC, Clerk's meeting, 11.11.08	<b>£ 7.50</b>
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (December)	<b>£120.00</b>
<u>Confirmation of payment made 9.12.08</u>	
Steve Gwilliam lengthsman duties (November)	<b>£120.00</b>

**7/09 FLOOD WORKING GROUP**

The Notes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were circulated with the agenda. These were noted and agreed. Following the drop in session in Charlton on 27<sup>th</sup> November it had been suggested that letters are sent to the West Midlands Regional Defence Committee. There was a pre meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009, so it was imperative that letters should be sent in time for that meeting. The FWG had sent a letter and the Clerk and Chairman had sent a letter from the Parish Council; members had been kept informed and this action was agreed. There will be a meeting at WDC during the next month or so.

**8/09 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2009/2010**

The draft budget, notes and possible levels 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. The Chairman explained that WCC is proposing to increase its precept by some 3.5% and WDC by some 2.5%. He also explained that the increase in the number of households in Charlton meant that no increase in the precept would result in Band D properties paying less than they do in the current year. With this in mind it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Mrs Barlow, and agreed that the precept for 2009/2010 be set at £10,060.

**09/09 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The Clerk reported that a new Model Publication Scheme has been drawn up by the Government, which will apply to all levels of local authority. It was resolved that this scheme be approved without modification. It was agreed that a charge of £20 be made for hard copies of documents and no charge for electronic copies.

**10/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Members were pleased that WCC had undertaken some work in the village, but commented that Canada Bank appeared to be unfinished and road surfacing is still needed on Brook Lane, Merryfield and between the Cemetery bridge and Jubilee bridge; the Clerk was asked to refer these items to WCC. PC Toms is to be approached regarding inconsiderate parking in Canada Bank.

**11/09 STREET LIGHTING**

The Clerk has supplied WCC with the information requested, but he has not received a reply. Members remain aware that there will probably have to be some expenditure on street lighting during the next year.

**12/09 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE**

There was nothing to report, but the Chairman commented that there will be a need for the housing need to be updated.

**13/09 FREQUENCY OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Cllr Eggleston circulated a paper which set out some of the problems with bi-monthly Council meetings and his ideas for increasing the number of meetings or speeding up Council business. After some discussion it was agreed that the current bi-monthly arrangement of meetings continues, but, first, that Agenda Items and the Public Forum be timed and, second, that agenda items be more specific.

**14/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

**15/09 ITEMS FROM CALC**

The Chairman reported that the Rural Housing Enabler will speak at the next Area Meeting.

**16/09 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009)**

Members confirmed that this would be arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> April. Suggestions for invitations were made, including PC Toms and the new vicar. There would be a notice in the village and in Five Alive.

**17/09 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed that the Press and Public be excluded from the room during the discussion of the following item, in view of the financial implications of the business.

**18/09 TENDERS FOR GRASS CUTTING, 2009**

The Clerk circulated details of the tenders received at the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed, that the contract for mowing of the Green, the Cemetery and the verges, be awarded to Limebridge Rural Services Ltd.

**19/09 REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S HOURS**

This item was deferred.

**20/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMENT**

1. Communities and local government; Code of Conduct revision. Do not wish to make further comment.

**21/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WCC – Budget Information meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 6.30 pm, County Hall
2. West Mercia Police Authority – consultation evening, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm, Hindlip Hall
3. Network Rail – Cotswold Line Redoubling Enhancement
4. Magazines, including Local Council Review, Wychavon Game On, Worcestershire Partnership
5. Register of Electors, 2009
6. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that she had received a letter from the Committee, requesting that Charlton PC considers making a (regular?) contribution towards the upkeep of the Sheppey. It was agreed that further information is obtained and other sources of funding be sought.

**22/098 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

Parking on the Green

Process for response to Urgent Business

Provision of a Christmas tree on the Green

**23/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

12<sup>th</sup> March 2009