

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th March 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 Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs F Wilkinson

In attendance: Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

24/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier and Cllr Wood. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Liz Eyre, Cllr Tom McDonald and Clive Bostle.

25/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2009

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

27/09 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle had sent an apology, as he had dislocated his shoulder. He had told the Clerk that his meeting with Fiona Argyll regarding the Improvement Programme for Charlton has had to be re-arranged.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance, and the Clerk reported the work done during the previous month. The County Council has sent the renewal contract for the lengthsman for 2009/10 and it was agreed that this be continued. Cllr Grazier was not in attendance to report on his inspection of the trees on the Green.

3. Street lights, Top Street. The Clerk reported that he had, again, inspected all the street lights and nos.3 and 4 in Top Street are still not working. The Clerk has been informed that there is no power supply to no. 3 and it was confirmed that arrangements be made for the supply to be re-connected.

4. Revised Cemetery Charges. A list of the revised charges, agreed on 13th November 2008 was circulated with the agenda and in force from 1st January 2009, was received. It was noted that a copy is displayed in the lychgate.

5. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that a flier is to be distributed regarding the future of the play area; a licence to run a "100 Club" is to be applied for; a fund raising concert is arranged; the AGM is on 20th April.

6. Bus stop information. The Clerk reported that Andy Kerr of the County Council's public transport team will be installing a bus stop sign next to the bus shelter within the next 2/3 weeks. The timetable display will be attached during April.

28/09 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre was not in attendance, but the Chairman circulated her report. The main aspects were the Council Tax level for 2009/10; unemployment levels; and highway issues, including reference to the highway works which had been done in and around Charlton during the last months. Members expressed their thanks to County Cllr Liz Eyre for her efforts in getting these road improvements in Charlton.

District Cllr Tom McDonald was not in attendance, but the Chairman gave details of his report. This related to the Audit Commission report for WDC; the budget aim for WDC; the smooth introduction of wheelie bins; and the large problems with the windfarm application at Norton.

29/09 LENGHTMAN'S CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that Steve Gwilliam, the contract Lengthsman, has stated that it has been found necessary to increase his charge to the Parish Council to £11.00 per hour. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Barlow, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that this new charge be accepted.

30/09 BROKEN WINDOW, THE COTTAGE, THE GREEN

The Clerk had received a invoice for the repair of a window, which was due to a stone being ejected from the mowing contractor last autumn. Members were concerned that this incident may or may not be covered by the Parish Council's public liability. Members agreed that this matter should remain under consideration, and that the Clerk write to the insurance company to ascertain the legal position.

31/09 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.12.08 – 03.02.09**

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, 01.02.09 – 31.03.09	£513.70
expenses, 01.11.08 – 28.02.09	£108.63
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stamps, stationery (January/February) £27.34 + £2.32 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 29.66
N power (Oct/Dec), £145.81 + £7.29 VAT	£153.10
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (February)	£120.00
<u>Confirmation of payment made 5.02.09</u>	
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (January)	£160.00

32/09 FLOOD WORKING GROUP

The Notes of the meeting held on 29th January 2009 were circulated with the agenda. These were noted and agreed. A meeting was held on 9th February 2009 with representatives of the Environment Agency; following this the EA will be walking the length of Merry Brook to find out where the main problems are. The two tasks for the PC to consider are the identification of land ownerships in the area and how the community will raise the money. The Clerk was asked to obtain details of the successful literature prepared locally for the bid for flood alleviation work in Powick.

The Clerk reported that the application form for the Flood Alleviation Support Grant had been received and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk complete this and submit it

by 30th April 2009. WDC has confirmed that the parish Flood data sheets and Action Plans have been completed and these will be considered by WDC during April.

33/09 STONE WALL, THE DOVECOTE

A copy of a letter from the owner of no. 19 The Dovecote, sent to Steve Jorden at WDC, was circulated with the agenda. The concern relates to the liability of this damaged wall. The Clerk reported that WDC is unable to help and it was accepted that the PC does not have any liability in this case. The Chairman agreed to speak to Cllr McDonald.

34/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A letter from WCC was circulated with the agenda, but this had been superseded by the information given by County Cllr Liz Eyre. Members commented that there is a need for highway work to be done on Ryden Lane, Canada Bank and Merryfield. Members asked that the poor drainage at the junction of Boston Lane with B.4084 be inspected and that there should be additional barriers at the difficult bends on the lane between Jubilee Bridge and the Cemetery bridge.

35/09 TELEPHONE KIOSK, THE GREEN

The Clerk reported that WDC had adopted the telephone kiosk under the BT scheme. The PC now has the opportunity to take over the responsibility and, if not, WDC will arrange for its removal. Members had decided, in Minute no. 99/08(9), that it would not object to its removal, provided there was no contrary view expressed. As no views were received members agreed that they did not wish to adopt this kiosk.

36/09 STREET LIGHTING

A schedule of the likely costs of WCC taking over the running of the street lighting, prepared by WCC, was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk reminded the Council that, if Members agreed to proceed, Street lighting column no. 1 will have to be replaced at the PC expense. Members considered that the figures did not make it clear how beneficial the scheme would be to the PC. The Clerk was asked to obtain more detailed information, before a firm decision can be made.

37/09 UNAUTHORISED PLANTING AT THE CEMETERY

Members were concerned that several shrubs and other plants had been planted in the Cemetery, contrary to the conditions laid down. Whilst the families of some of the graves are known, it was agreed that the Clerk liaises with Cllr Mrs Jack to ascertain which families should be written to. Where no family is currently known the Parish Council has the power to remove any unauthorised planting.

38/09 CHARLTON PARISH PLAN GROUP

There was nothing to report.

39/09 DEMARCATION OF THE GREEN

Members have become increasingly concerned with the boundary between the Green and the gravel driveway used by residents; this problem has been highlighted by the matter in Minute no. 30/09 above and an email received from a resident showing damage done to the driveway during the floods of 2007. The PC contractor has expressed concern with the stones currently indicating the boundary cause problems with the mowing, but

Members were equally concerned with vehicles parking and driving on the Green. The Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with John Stedman, Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, and for him to suggest a suitable scheme for overcoming these concerns.

40/09 POSSIBLE CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE GREEN

It was felt that there would be little purpose in having a Christmas tree on the Green unless it was illuminated. Members agreed not to pursue this owing to the lack of a source of power.

41/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th January 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

42/09 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (16th APRIL 2009)

This will commence at 7.30 pm; the Chairman will prepare his report and the Clerk will report on the accounts. The Chairman will contact local organizations. The meeting will be advertised on notice boards, in Five Alive and on the web site.

43/09 URGENT BUSINESS ITEMS

This had arisen during a meeting of the Flood Working Group; the Chairman referred to Minute no. 44/08, which set up an Urgent Matters Working Group.

44/09 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that the Rural Housing Enabler had spoken at the last Area Meeting and the power of well being was discussed.

45/09 REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S HOURS

The Chairman gave details of the Clerk's current workload and proposed that he be paid for 26 hours per month, backdated to 1st April 2008. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack and agreed.

46/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Community Grants Scheme 2009 – applications by 29th May
2. Wychavon Sport – participation in 2009 Wychavon Parish Games
3. WDC – coaching sessions
4. WDC – provision of printing/photocopying services
5. Magazines, including Local Council Review, Newline, Clerks and Councils Direct, Standards Board newsletter
6. Calor Village of the Year; agreed not to participate

47/09 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

Housing Needs Survey; Bus services

48/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 14th May 2009.

14th May 2009