

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th July 2009,
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs F Wilkinson

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Two members of the public were present and three issues were raised. (1) Flooding; all members of the Flood Working Group and residents should be able to see details of the proposed ponding scheme at the meeting with the Environment Agency later in July, as there is still considerable interest in the outcome. (2) Highways; the recent activity with a roadsweeper in Charlton was noted and it is hoped that this will be followed up with further work. (3) Footbridge; following receipt of the survey of Merry Brook the retention of the bridge and its railing needs clarification).

82/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Barlow, Cllr Grazier and Cllr Wood.

83/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

84/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th MAY 2009

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

85/09 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle referred to minute 63/09 (1) and reported that, before he had had the opportunity to contact the Clerk, he had received details of the agreement for Parish Paths Wardens. This has been signed. He noted that several items of work in the Parish had already been attended to.

Mr Bostle hopes to arrange at least one Village Walk during August; he will arrange for the necessary publicity.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance, and the Clerk reported the work done during the previous month. The Clerk reported that WCC wish to receive invoices by the 10th of each month; this is done already.

3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. There has not been a meeting recently and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson was unable to give a report.

4. Bus stop information. Cllr Mrs Barlow had informed the Chairman that the flag has now been put on top of the pole and that the missing timetable would be supplied. The Clerk confirmed that he had also been given the same information.

5. Damaged window, The Cottage, The Green. The Clerk read out the reply he has received from the insurance company, which was noted. In the light of the comments

received, together with the timescale of events, Members came to the conclusion that there was no certainty that the damage to the window was caused by action of the maintenance of the Green, as the gravel drive is used by many vehicles during the day.

6. Unauthorised planting at the Cemetery. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jack had inspected the planting in the Cemetery and had found some examples of unauthorised and inappropriate planting. It was agreed that the plants on obviously unattended graves be removed and for other planting to be discussed with relatives. The Clerk to contact Steve Gwilliam to remove the unauthorised planting.

7. Parish Plan Group. The Group has not had a meeting.

8. New development, Boston Lane. Both the Clerk and Cllr McDonald had received a letter from the WDC Enforcement Officer stating that, following an inspection and discussion with the applicant, no further action is being taken. Members felt that WDC should have pursued action more vigilantly, as the building is not in accordance with the approval. The Clerk will draft a letter to WDC for Cllrs Mrs Jack and Eggleston to approve.

9. Meeting dates for 2009/2010. This was circulated and was noted.

10. South Worcestershire Strategy meeting. The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson had attended the meeting in the Civic Centre on 19th May. It became clear that there is a need for the Parish Plan to proceed, and for this to include a Parish Design Statement (examples available from WDC) and for the Housing Need survey to be updated.

11. Provision of planters on the Green. Steve Gwilliam had acquired two new planters and compost. Brenda Bowley has kindly planted them.

86/09 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre had sent her apology. She had informed the Clerk that WCC has cleared the gully in Ryden Lane and that a survey of the drainage system in Brook Lane/Ryden Lane is to be carried out. She asked for any suggestion for footway improvement in the Parish: it was suggested that, although in Cropthorne Parish, the footway between the Cemetery bridge and Cropthorne is in need of improvement.

District Cllr Tom McDonald commented on the following matters:

Flood alleviation grants have been offered in principle by WDC, with £5,000 offered to Charlton

WDC is feeling the pressure of the current recession and to improve the financial position with a fall in revenue and an increase in the number of calls for services. Some restructuring is taking place.

Health statistics. Wychavon compares well against the national average, for example, for life expectancy and crime is below the national average.

87/09 GRANT REQUESTS

Copies of letters were circulated with the agenda.

- (1) Wychavon CAB. It was agreed that a grant of £50 be made.
- (2) Mencap in Wychavon. It was agreed that no grant be given.
- (3) The Bobby Club. It was agreed that no grant be given.
- (4) Vitalise. It was agreed that no grant be given.

88/09 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.04.09 – 03.06.09

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was agreed that the subscription to Local Council Review be renewed and the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney, salary, 01.06.09 – 31.07.09	£559.16
adjustment for basic increase, 01.04.08-31.05.09	£ 11.65
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (May/June) £17.88 + £2.68 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 20.56
N power (climate change levy, 2008/9) £48.02 + £2.40 VAT	£ 50.42
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, mowing, (May) Cemetery + Green £216.00 + £32.40 VAT	£248.40
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, mowing, (June) Cemetery + Green + verges £527.00 + £79.05 VAT	£606.05
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (June) barrels and compost	£176.00 £ 48.98
Wychavon CAB	£ 50.00
NALC (Local Council Review subscription)	£ 13.50
<u>Confirmation of payment made 14.06.09</u> Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (May)	£132.00

89/09 FLOOD ALLEVIATION**(1) Flood Working Group**

There had been no meeting of the Group since the last council meeting. The Clerk confirmed that WDC has agreed in principle to the Council's application and the sum of £5,000 has been set aside as a contribution to the Environment Agency's main scheme. If the scheme does not proceed, the funding will be withdrawn. It was confirmed that a meeting has been arranged with Rob Miller (EA) with the Flood Working Group on 23rd July 2009; it is hoped that further information will become available, so that items such as land ownerships can be confirmed and that appropriate submissions can be made to the Regional Flood Defence Committee in September.

(2) Parish Council contribution. It was proposed by Cllr Browne that the Parish Council makes £2,500 available towards the flood alleviation scheme, if it is required. This was agreed. The contribution would be a Section 137 payment.

90/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members expressed a hope that the survey referred to by County Cllr Mrs Eyre would be carried out soon and that there would be an opportunity to have a meeting with WCC afterwards. The Clerk was asked to check with Mr Fullee (WCC) about the drain opposite Yew Tree Cottage and to ask Mr Gwilliam to speak to a householder regarding overgrowing hedges and shrubs.

91/09 FLY TIPPING

Members were concerned with the recent increase in fly tipping in the Parish. The Clerk reminded Members that this is a WDC function and complaints should be put to their officers. The Chairman will obtain specific locations and ask the Clerk to forward these to WDC.

92/09 STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk gave details of the calculations used by WCC regarding the cost of taking over

the Parish street lighting. Members felt that there would be minimal benefit to Parish residents if WCC took over the street lighting and agreed not to take up the WCC offer. The Clerk was asked to obtain a price from Prysmian for the replacement of the concrete column in Cherry Orchard (no. 2).

93/09 DEMARCATION OF THE GREEN

There has still been no response from Limebridge Rural Services Ltd to the Clerk's letter. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk writes to all the residents on the south side of the Green asking them to refrain from parking on the Green.

94/09 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Clerk has spoken to the Rural Housing Enabler about undertaking a new survey in the Parish. There is a lengthy time lag in this survey being done and the suggestion about a note in Five Alive asking for expressions of interest was considered to be a satisfactory solution in the short term.

95/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th June 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

96/09 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that the main discussion topic at the Area Meeting was the Power of Wellbeing. It appears that there is little interest in this across the County.

97/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Building Design Awards 2009
2. Magazines, including Local Council Review, Clerks and Councils Direct

98/09 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Footbridge on the Green
2. Overhanging hedges

99/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 10th September 2009.

10th September 2009