

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

109

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 10th September 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: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Two members of the public were present. (1) Mrs Bayliss drew attention to the letter she had received from the PC stating that it would not accept to pay for the broken window caused, allegedly, during mowing of the Green last autumn (Minute no. 85/09(5) refers). The Chairman agreed to consider this as a complaint to the PC and it would be dealt with under the complaints procedur later in the meeting. (2) Mrs Hawley raised three matters: (a) the gravel driveway alongside the Green was damaged during the 2007 floods and would the PC make a contribution to the cost of repair, currently the responsibility of the residents; (b) was the Parish Plan proceeding? (c) the footpath between the Green and the Cemetery bridge is quite overgrown).

100/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

102/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

103/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th JULY 2009

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously.

It was agreed that amendments be made as follows:

Minute no. 86/09, delete "survey", insert "inspection" and delete "drainage system", insert "drains".

Subject to these amendment its was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

104/09 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle had sent his apology. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Mr Bostle is planning a walk in the Parish later this month and this will be publicized locally.

2. Lengthsman. Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance, and the Clerk reported the work done during the previous month. One overgrowing hedge has been cut back and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the overgrowing hedge at the Cemetery to be cut back from the highway as soon as possible.

3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that a 200 Club is being set up for fundraising towards the Hall refurbishment.

Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (August)	£176.00
Charles Tooby, Internal Auditor	£ 50.00
Clement Keys, External Auditors £135.00 + £20.25 VAT	£155.25
Wychavon DC	£284.94
Charlton Church	£ 40.00
<u>Confirmation of payment made 15.08.09</u>	
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (July)	£176.00

108/09 AUDIT REPORTS

The reports of the External and Internal Auditors were reported and were noted. The notice of closure of the accounts was advertised for two weeks from 14th August 2009.

109/09 FLOOD ALLEVIATION**(1) Flood Working Group**

There had been no meeting of the Group since the last council meeting.

(2) Meeting with Environment Agency.

A meeting with the EA was held in Charlton on 23rd July 2009, with the Parish Council, Flood Working Group, and a WDC representative in attendance. The purpose was to keep the various parties apprised of the current position for the progress of the scheme, which had been displayed earlier in the year. The EA is now hoping to involve the landowners affected by the suggested scheme, although it appears that they are already aware of the scheme and broadly support it. There is a pre meeting of the Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) on 16th September, prior to the main decision making meeting in January 2010. The Chairman had agreed to make contact, by email, with the Chairman of the RFDC and the representative for Worcestershire on this Committee, setting out the bullet points. He had done this, but has had no reply to date. This will be pursued.

(3) Local Fund Raising

This matter is to be left with the Flood Committee. There has been an article in the Evesham Observer, which has given publicity to the problem.

110/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members expressed concern that Brook Lane continues to flood whenever there is heavy rain, due to water off Ryden Lane. WCC officers are aware of this, but are of the view that this is a landowner problem. Members are not sure as the flood water is clear, not muddy. County Cllr Mrs Eyre will speak to David Lavender again, but feels that the cost/benefit issue will have to be considered. She reported that gully clearing is to be done three times each year, to include Ryden Lane. Members considered that the PC may have to hire its own consultant.

The Clerk reported receipt of an email, requesting making a footway between The Dovecote and the church. The Clerk was asked WCC if a footway can be constructed, in view of its location near the church and schoolroom, and with heavy farm traffic using this road. The Clerk agreed to ask Steve Gwilliam to cut down the existing vegetation.

111/09 FUTURE OF THE BUS SHELTER

Cllr Mrs Jack commented that she has been cleaning the shelter on a regular basis during the summer. It was felt that consideration is given to the provision of a new shelter and the Clerk was asked to obtain costs in time for the next meeting.

112/09 STREET LIGHT no 2

Members recalled that this street lighting column was found to be in a poor state of repair in the survey carried out some 2 years ago. The Clerk reported that Prysmian have quoted £474.20p as the cost of replacing Column no. 2, in Cherry Orchard, but this does not include the Central Networks charge to transfer the service. The Clerk is to find this cost for the next meeting.

113/09 DEMARCATION OF THE GREEN

Elaine Hawley had spoken during the public forum about the problem with the gravel driveway, allegedly resulting from the 2007 flooding. Members asked the Clerk to check its status as a highway and whether kerbing, for example, could be installed between the gravel driveway and The Green. He was then asked to speak with Mrs Hawley to see the possibilities for an agreement.

As the matter of the broken window to The Cottage raised by Mrs Bayliss during the public forum related to The Green, the Chairman introduced her complaint formally. Under the Parish Council's Complaints Procedure he will ask Mrs Bayliss to make her complaint in writing and for the Clerk to prepare a schedule of dates, etc. The information would be circulated to Members and, if there is general agreement, it was agreed that the complaint be concluded as expeditiously as possible. If not, then an extra meeting should be called to agree how the matter should be concluded.

114/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20th August 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

115/09 HEADSTONES IN THE CEMETERY

The Clerk has been asked to complete a survey for the Dept. of Justice regarding the current situation and facilities in the Cemetery. The Chairman commented that there are two leaning headstones, both dating from the early 20th century. The Clerk was asked to find out what work would be necessary and how much it would cost to rectify the leaning headstones.

116/09 FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The report of the meeting held on 22nd June 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

117/09 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported CALC has received a grant of £25,000 for 5 years, which will mean financial security. The recent Area Meeting was attended by a Planning Officer from WDC.

118/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. Wychavon Policing Matters Group – meeting, 23.09.09, 7 pm at Evesham Town Hall
2. Worcestershire's Ancient Trees and Orchards
3. WDC – Gypsy and Traveller Issues Scrutiny Team recommendations
4. WCC – Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership newsletter
5. DCLG – Strengthening Local Democracy – consultation

6. WCC – Area Forums in Wychavon (Evesham to be confirmed, 30.09 or 01.10)
7. WCC – Bus Bulletin
8. Magazines, including Newslines, Clerks and Councils Direct, Worcestershire Partnership, Word on Worcestershire

119/09 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Complaint from Mrs Bayliss
2. Bus shelter
3. Parish council newsletter

120/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 12th November 2009.

12th November 2009