

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th November 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 F Wilkinson  
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden  
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

## ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

*(CSO Simon Hall and two members of the public were present.*

*(1) CSO Hall reported that there have been very few issues in the Parish since he came three months ago: he did remind people that house doors should be locked, as thieves are able to steal car keys. He referred to the mobile police station being on the Green on 30<sup>th</sup> November, between 10 am and 12 noon. This has been advertised in 5 Alive. He said that a possible PACT meeting will be arranged with adjoining parishes.*

*(2) Brenda Bowley, who was aware of the planning decision on the gypsy application, said that gypsies owned land near the Cemetery bridge, in Cropthorne Parish.*

*(3) Derek Arnold drew attention to the excavations caused by badgers on Canada Bank and that the pedestrian refuge on the other side of Canada Bank needs to be cleared. The Clerk will pass this to the lengthsman He hoped that the footway between the Church and The Dovecote will be made up by WCC).*

## 121/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Jack and Cllr Grazier.

## 122/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 123/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

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

## 124/09 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle reported that he has been trying, without success, to obtain a footpath map of the Parish from the Countryside section at WCC. However, it seems that a map showing footpaths in Cropthorne, Fladbury and Charlton may now be produced. He has had no success in finding out whether WCC had approved the alterations to the footbridge across the Green, but the Clerk was asked to pursue this with Kevin Oliver. He had received a letter from Elaine Hawley with several concerns and these have been resolved. He had done some work on the path parallel to Boston Lane.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance, and the Clerk reported the work done during the previous month.

**3. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that there is a shortfall of some £32,000 for the refurbishment scheme. This is being met by a Quiz

Evening with a Christmas raffle drawn on that night. The 200 Club is up and running and it is hoped to run a race night.

**4. Bus stop information.** This now seems to be satisfactory.

**5. Unauthorised planting at the Cemetery.** It is understood that this has been resolved.

**6. Leaning headstones.** The Clerk is awaiting information on the cost to rectify from a stonemason.

**7. Parish Plan Group.** Mrs Hawley has recently held a meeting of the newly formed Group: Cllrs Browne and Eggleston had attended. It is welcomed that the Group will use the Parish Council web site.

**8. Housing Need Survey.** The Clerk will send a preliminary item for publication in Five Alive.

#### 125/09 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

**County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre** had given her apology at the previous meeting and there was no report.

**District Cllr Tom McDonald** was not in attendance but his Report is on the web site.

#### 126/09 UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLERS SITE, YESSSELL LANE

The Clerk reported that the planning application for the gypsy traveler site in Yessell Lane (W/09/02227) was considered at the WDC Planning Committee this afternoon. He, along with two residents, Peter Pawsey and Elaine Hawley, had spoken at the Meeting. The application was refused on traffic and landscaping grounds, and enforcement action was authorized.

Members felt that all that had needed to be done at this time was done.

#### 127/09 FINANCE

##### 1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.08.09 – 03.09.09

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 anticipated during the remainder of the financial year. This Summary was accepted.

##### 3. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney, salary, 01.10.09 – 30.11.09	£558.16
expenses, 01.09.09 - 31.10.09	£ 22.00
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps (Sept/Oct) £58.57 + £6.32 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 64.89
N power (July-Sept) £146.18 + £7.31 VAT	£153.49
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, mowing, (September) Cemetery + Green £432.00 + £64.80 VAT	£496.80
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, mowing, (October) Cemetery + Green £432.00 + £64.80 VAT	£496.80
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (October)	£132.00
Village and Urban £35.00 + £6.13 VAT	£ 41.13

Cllr B B Browne	Web site and domain name	£ 34.38
	travelling for EA meeting, 14.10.09	£ 42.07
	parking at EA	£ 4.50
<u>Confirmation of payment made since 10.09.09</u>		
Maria Bayliss	£95.00 + £14.25 VAT	£109.25
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (September)		£176.00

**128/09 FLOOD ALLEVIATION****(1) Flood Working Group**

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

**(2) Meeting at Environment Agency, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

The EA Pre-meeting of the Regional Flood Defence Committee was held so that its members could assess the schemes for flood alleviation, prior to the decision making Committee meeting in January. Cllr Browne and Cllr Grazier (Parish Councillors), Cllr McDonald (District Councillor), Cllr Liz Eyre (County Councillor), Steve Jordan (WDC Head of Environmental Services) and Derek Arnold (Charlton Flood Group) attended on behalf of Charlton. EA Members were impressed by the high level of support, which was referred to by County Cllr Liz Eyre, who spoke at the meeting. Although no decision could have been taken Members were pleased with the progress and, if approved, could be scheduled for a start in 2011/2012.

**(3) Local Fund Raising**

It is understood that several local residents have made offers of financial support, although none has yet been received by the Parish Council, who will hold the fund.

**129/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Concerns were expressed during the Public Forum about the excavations by badgers on the west Canada Bank and the overgrown refuge on the east side; the Clerk will speak to Steve Gwilliam to attend to these. It was noted that the lengthsman has cut down the vegetation between the church and The Dovecote, and the Clerk confirmed that he has asked WCC to make this up as a footway. Members enquired about the investigation of the gullies, which had been promised by WCC would be undertaken.

**130/09 BUS SHELTER**

The Clerk is awaiting details of new shelters and this item was deferred.

**131/09 STREET LIGHT no 2**

The Clerk reported that the quote for installing the replacement column by Prysmian is £474.20p, to which must be added £353 + VAT for the transfer by Central Networks. The Clerk was asked to check the reasonableness of these figures with WCC. Provided this is satisfactory, it was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Mrs Barlow, and agreed, that the Clerk arranges for the replacement column in Cherry Orchard.

**132/09 COMPLAINT BY MRS BAYLISS/DEMARCATON OF THE GREEN**

After the last Meeting further information had been sent by Mrs Bayliss, which confirmed the dates when the Green had been cut; this had been circulated to Members and payment had been made. This action was confirmed. The Clerk was asked to submit a claim to Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, after speaking to Mr Stedman.

The follow-up matter of demarking the Green and gravel driveway is unresolved;

meanwhile the Clerk was asked to write a general letter to all residents of The Green, asking them not to drive or park on The Green.

**133/09 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

Cllr Mrs Barlow presented a sample newsletter produced by a nearby parish council. It was agreed that a newsletter for Charlton could be based on this format. Cllr Mrs Barlow agreed to prepare a draft newsletter for the next meeting.

**134/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

**135/09 CLERK'S SALARY AWARD**

The Clerk reported the increase in the rate of the Clerk's pay, which has been agreed by NALC, and is payable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. This was noted.

**136/09 ITEMS FROM CALC**

The Chairman reported that Cllr Perkins from Rock PC has taken over as Chairman of the Executive. The AGM is to be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009, at 7 pm in County Hall.

**137/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Advice note to parish councils regarding Standards Complaints. The Chairman explained the changes to the procedure and the Clerk was asked to keep a copy.
2. WCC – Adult Learning service needs and venues
3. Wychavon – Parish Matters (enclosed)
4. Magazines, including Worcestershire Partnership matters, Word on Worcestershire, Wychavon Annual Report

**138/09 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

1. Budget and Precept for 2010/2011
2. The Chairman explained that he has stood down as a Board Member of Community First, although he remains the Parish Council's representative.
3. The Clerk was asked to write to Howard Heath explaining that the Parish Council was unhappy with the state of the Old School Room on this evening.

**139/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

14<sup>th</sup> January 2010