

CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th January 2010,
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
Cllr M P Wood

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(Three members of the public were present. One member of the public wished to correct some incorrect information which had been referred to during the previous meeting in regard to the gypsy site planning application in Yessell Lane. A second member expressed concern that the application for the gypsy site was submitted to Wychavon DC after the site had been developed.)

1/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier.

2/10 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre had given her apology. She had sent a report, which the Chairman agreed to put on the web site. This included the Assessment Report for Worcestershire, current shared services between WCC and district councils, aim to keep the WCC budget at 2.5% increase for 2010/11 and corporate plan priorities.

District Cllr Tom McDonald was presented his report, which included an update on the gypsy site, the action taken by WDC because of the heavy snow during the previous week, efficiency actions being taken by WDC to assist a reduction in the budget, temporary speed sign indicators and an update on flooding grants. The Chairman agreed to put this report on the web site.

3/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4/10 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2010/2011

In view of the current bad weather, it was agreed to discuss this item at this time in the meeting.

The draft budget and possible level of the precept were circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained that he had been able to project the cost of most items of expenditure and realistically to assess the receipts. The significant new items in the budget are the cost of a contested election (£700) and the contribution towards the flood alleviation scheme. Under Minute no. 89/09(2), in July 2009, the Parish Council did propose making a contribution of £2,500 for flood alleviation, if it is required. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Barlow, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, and agreed, that the

Parish Council should make available £1,000 in the coming financial year, this to be covered by £500 in the budget and £500 from reserves. The Precept would be increased by £500 to £10,560 for 2010/2011 and this was agreed.

5/10 REPORT OF FOOTPATH WARDEN

The Chairman invited Clive Bostle to speak. A map showing the footpaths in the Parish had been circulated with the agenda and this was superseded by a map showing items of interest. WCC will prepare a leaflet and, possibly, a display map for the Green. There is a need for photographs and other points of interest. It was agreed that this project should progress and the Chairman will liaise with Mr Bostle.

WCC will give publicity to village walks taking place during the summer; the afternoon of Saturday 31st July is committed for the Charlton Walk, starting at The Green at 2.30pm.

6/10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER 2009

The draft Minutes had been circulated previously. Subject to the deletion of “and Cllr Eggleston” in Minute no. 124/09(7) it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

7/10 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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

2. Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that there had been a recent meeting of the Committee. A Playscheme is being considered and grants are being requested, although the Clerk has not received one. Fund raising events are planned for the Improvements.

3. Leaning headstones. The Clerk has been told by a local stonemason that the cost to restore the leaning headstones is about £100 each; he pointed out that a third headstone is loose and this would also cost about £100 to stabilize. It was proposed that this be accepted, but an amended proposition that a second quotation be obtained was carried. The Clerk will arrange for this.

4. Parish Plan Group. Mrs Hawley has arranged a meeting for next week.

5. Housing Need Survey. A notice was put in Five Alive, but there has been no response.

6. Replacement street light, no.2 Cherry Orchard. The Clerk reported that this has been arranged.

7. Street light problems. There are continuing problems with street light nos. 3 (Jars Cottage) and 4 (Top Street, opposite Brook Lane). Prysman report that a supply is required, Eon claim to have done this, but these lights still are not working. The Clerk agreed to discuss the problem with Prysman, so that the matter can be discussed at the next meeting.

8. PACT surgery, 30.11.09. This was advertised and was held, but there has been no feedback.

8/10 UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLERS SITE, YESSELL LANE

Cllr McDonald had reported that WDC has served the requisition for information on the site occupants, prior to the serving of an enforcement notice, agreed at the WDC Committee on 11th November 2009. A planning appeal is expected to be made.

9/10 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 30.09.09 – 17.12.09**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney, salary, 01.12.09 – 31.01.10	£563.68
back pay, 01.04.09 – 30.11.09	£ 22.08
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps (Nov/Dec) £15.54 + £2.34 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 17.88
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (December)	£132.00
N Power, £146.17 + £7.31 VAT	£153.48
<u>Confirmation of payment made 05.12.09</u>	
Steve Gwilliam, lengthsman duties (November)	£132.00

10/10 FLOOD ALLEVIATION**(1) Flood Working Group**

There has been no recent meeting of the Group.

(2) Meeting of the RFDC at Environment Agency, 13th January 2010

Because of the severe weather this meeting of the Rural Flood Defence Committee has been postponed until next Wednesday, 20th January.

(3) Local Fund Raising

The Clerk has received a cheque for £270 from Charlton PCC.

11/10 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Clerk reported an email received from WCC about the highway problems currently being experienced and the expected problem with potholes after the thaw. Lengthsmen are expected to check their parishes and to report, via the Clerk on problems found. There had been concerns about grit bins being emptied, but these have been re-filled. The Clerk was asked to find out why there has been no progress with the inspection of the drainage system in Brook Lane, as floods will still occur after work has been carried out on Merry Brook.

12/10 BUS SHELTER

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

13/10 DEMARCATION OF THE GREEN

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

14/10 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

15/10 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th December 2009, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

16/10 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH MEETING, 15TH APRIL 2010

The Chairman suggested that he would send invitations to the WI, Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall Committee, Workman Trust, the Police and the Flood Group.

17/10 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that WCC will be holding a conference for parish councils and at the Area Meeting on 3rd December officers from WDC spoke about parish elections, to be held in 2011.

18/10 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WCC – Budget Consultation Meeting, Monday 25th January, 6.30 pm at County Hall – Chairman agreed to attend
2. WDC – Register of Electors 2010
3. WCC – consultation on Planning Validation Document
4. WDC – Land Drainage Act; copy of 2 letters to owners for clearance of watercourses
5. WCC – Waste Core Strategy, summary of emerging preferred options
6. Magazines, including Newslines, Worcestershire Warden, Worcestershire Partnership matters, Word on Worcestershire, Clerks and Councils Direct

19/10 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Future of the telephone box
2. Playscheme at Cropthorne

20/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 11th March 2010.