

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011,  
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton**

**PRESENT** Cllr B B Browne  
Cllr R L Davies  
Cllr S M Eggleston  
Cllr Mrs B W Jack  
Cllr Mrs F Wilkinson  
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Liz Eyre  
District Cllr Tom McDonald  
David Lavender, WCC  
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

**ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM**

*(One member of the public was present, but no comment was made).*

**1/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier.

**2/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3/11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

The draft Minutes were circulated with the agenda. It was resolved that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

**4/11 RYDEN LANE/BROOK LANE HIGHWAY DRAINAGE**

The Chairman invited County Cllr Liz Eyre and David Lavender, WCC Highways, to speak. Mr Lavender said that for normal circumstances the current system is coping satisfactorily, although a quantity of oil was recently deposited in the drain and into Merry Brook; EA is now dealing with this.

WCC is waiting for the current EA scheme, following on from the public meeting held in November. WCC is preparing an overflow scheme involving new manholes, pipe and outfall in Ryden Lane, able to take a greater capacity of water. This will necessitate the closure of Ryden Lane for up to 3 weeks, and there would be a period of consultation with residents, farmers and the PC regarding the details. He confirmed that funding is in place. It is expected that details will be available in April and that the work on this scheme could take place during August 2011. Some work will probably be necessary where gullies pass through private gardens; it is understood that WDC has grants available for this work. Mr Lavender commented that an improved flow of Merry Brook will help this scheme to be successful.

**5/11 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr Liz Eyre's report was circulated with the agenda. No matters were raised, although a meeting regarding the proposed cuts in bus services is to be held in Broadway at the end of February/early March.

**6/11 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle had sent his apology. He had informed the Chairman that little work has been done during the recent months, but WCC is proceeding with the leaflet.

**2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and there was no report. Mr Lavender had commented that the gullies across the Green needed to be cleared. It was agreed that the current contract and schedule of work be included at the next meeting.

**3. Crophorne and Charlton Village Hall.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that the Committee is waiting for tenders to be received for the completion of the work. Two more items for the playscheme have been ordered and there is a fundraising event in Fladbury next week.

**4. Old School Room.** Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that there is a meeting next week, but the improvements to the flooring and kitchen were noted.

**5. Parish Plan Group.** There has not been a meeting.

**6. Housing Need Survey.** There was nothing to report.

**7. Telephone kiosk, The Green.** The Clerk reported that WDC is not taking overall action with kiosks until all parish councils have responded. In the meantime WDC will not be doing any maintenance or repairs to the kiosks in its control and suggests that the PC contacts BT direct if it wishes the kiosk to be removed. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**8. County Council/Parish Council web site link.** The Chairman reported that there has been no improvement to the link during the past two months.

**9. Planning appeal, travellers' site, Yessell Lane, Charlton.** The decision on the planning appeal is still awaited.

**10. Willow tree, The Green.** The prunings left by Eon have not been removed and the Clerk will chase this. A report for the tidying up the tree is being requested from Toby Cheung.

**11. Street light no. 6, Merryfield.** The Clerk reported that Prysmian confirm that the only option for this column is for it to be replaced. Members were aware of the cost to replace the column in Cherry Orchard and asked the Clerk to obtain costings from both Prysmian and Central Networks. This work would need to be considered in the budget.

**12. PACT meeting.** No meeting has been arranged.

**7/11 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**District Cllr Tom McDonald** was invited to speak. In his report Cllr McDonald referred to the road conditions in the parish during the bad weather; to parish plans being replaced by neighbourhood plans; the WDC budget strategy, with grant funding reduced by £1.8 million over 2 years (not 4 years as previously planned); and the changes to the flood alleviation programme.

**8/11 FINANCE****1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.10.10 – 26.11.10**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

**2. Accounts for Payment**

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

R D Gurney salary, 01.12.10 – 31.01.11

**£563.68**

Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps (Nov/Dec) £22.06 + £3.01 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 25.07
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd Cemetery, Green and verge mowing August	£216.00 + £37.80 VAT £253.80
Central Networks	£443.00 + £77.53 VAT £520.53
N Power	£86.91 + £4.35 VAT (2 invoices) £ 91.26
Steve Gwilliam (November)	£132.00
(December)	£132.00
Cllr B B Browne (reimbursement of web site fee)	£ 17.55

**9/11 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2011/2012**

The draft budget and details of a possible level of the precept were circulated with the agenda and updated at the meeting. The Clerk explained that he had been able to project the cost of most items of expenditure and realistically to assess the receipts. The main items of budgeted expenditure remain the maintenance of The Green and the Cemetery, payment to the Clerk and lengthsman (this is reclaimed from WCC), grants to local organizations and potential elected election costs. Reserves at the end of the year may be reduced from last year, due to payment to Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. Members were reminded that the Parish Council holds some £2,547.50p, given as donations for flood alleviation, as well as a commitment to make £2,500 available. The Chairman explained the Band D figures for Charlton. That the Precept remains at £10,560 was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed

**10/11 CEMETERY MATTERS**

It was agreed that the various matters relating to the Cemetery, namely painting the lychgate, replacement roadside hedge, possible unauthorized interment and re-allocation of the original small plots, be considered at a meeting of the Cemetery Working Group.

**11/11 FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

At the public meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 the EA explained their reasons for not being able to pursue the pond scheme upstream of the village, cost being one major factor. Instead grants averaging some £5,500 per household will be available for individual flood alleviation measures. It was agreed that regular inspections should be made along Merry Brook by a Brook Warden; this would ideally be voluntary, with incidental expenses paid by the PC. Arrangements would need to be discussed with the EA.

Cllr Davies offered to take on the responsibility of Brook Warden and that this be accepted was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed.

It was also agreed that the PC supports the production of a leaflet with the EA for distribution in the village and that the PC contributes up to £200, if necessary.

The Parish Council fully supports the current scheme now put forward by the EA.

**12/11 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS**

The many highway matters had been considered with Mr Lavender earlier in the meeting. There was concern with the lack of grit boxes, particularly at the Ryden Lane/Brook Lane junction and the Clerk will make enquiries for one to be sited there.

**13/11 UNAUTHORISED PARKING ON THE GREEN**

The Clerk reported that he had recently sent letters to all residents living adjacent to The Green. There has been no response.

**14/11 COMMUNICATION WITH PARISHIONERS**

Following the discussion at the previous meeting the Chairman had spoken to the CALC Executive Officer and agreed to email the reply to Cllr Eggleston.

**15/11 PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS (14<sup>th</sup> April)**

It was agreed that the usual format be followed, with reports from the Chairman and Clerk, with local organizations invited to attend and give reports. It was suggested that Mr Lavender be invited to give details of the highway drainage proposals for Ryden Lane and Brook Lane and for a short talk on Localism.

**16/11 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The report of the Planning Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010, which was enclosed with the agenda, was noted.

**17/11 ITEMS FROM CALC**

The Chairman commented that details of CALC are on the web site.

**18/11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – South Worcestershire Development Plan – feedback from meeting, 23.11.10
2. E-on – new unmetered supply certificate
3. Royal British Legion – details of “Great Poppy Party Weekend”, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2011
4. WDC – Vacancy for Member on Independent Remuneration Panel
5. Magazines, including Clerks and Councils Direct, Local Council Review
6. WDC – Register of Electors for 2011/2012

**19/11 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

The Clerk reported that he should have details and application forms for the May election in time for the next meeting.

**20/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This is arranged for Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011

10<sup>th</sup> March 2011