

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 12th January 2012,
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton**

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne
Cllr R L Davies
Cllr S M Eggleston (until Item 11, minute no. 11/12)
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs R A Powell (from Item 4, minute no. 4/12)
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: District Cllr Tom McDonald (until Item 8, minute no. 8/12)
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No members of the public were present).

1/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3/12 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

MC The Clerk formally reported that one application has been received for the vacancy, from ~~Mr~~ Rachel Powell. It was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jack, and agreed, that Mrs Powell be elected. Mrs Powell signed the acceptance of office and took her place at the meeting.

4/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2011

The draft minutes had been circulated previously. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

5/12 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. The Chairman circulated the booklet of local footpaths "in and around Charlton." Mr Bostle explained that 500 have been printed and he and the Chairman will discuss the distribution. A copy will be given to all 250 or so households in the Parish (possibly in connection with the Parish Plan questionnaire), with some in the Gardeners Arms, on notice boards, and in adjoining villages and Evesham. Clive Bostle was thanked for his work towards the production of the booklet.

2. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. There is no representative and there was no report.

3. Workman Trust/Old School Room. There was no report.

4. Current Planning issues. The Clerk reported that the WDC Enforcement Officer has advised that a planning application has been requested for the residential use of the access at Fenn Brook, Boston Lane, but this has not yet been received. The Clerk was asked to

keep in contact with WDC on this issue. He has not received replies from WDC on other matters.

5. Damage to street light column no. 13, The Dovecote. The Council expressed great concern at the length of time for this replacement column to be brought back into use. The Clerk was asked to find out the reason for the delay and then to send a strong letter to Prysmian. Members had already noted that Countrywide had agreed to pay for the work.

6. Painting the Lychgate. The Clerk reported that he had instructed Mr Vellender to undertake the work. In a recent conversation the Clerk was told that the carpenter would start work within a week or so and the painting would be done, probably during February.

6/12 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

(1) Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Powell agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee. The Clerk will inform the Village Hall Committee.

(2) Workman Trust/Old School Room. Cllr Mrs Powell agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the Trust. The Clerk will inform Mrs McArthur.

7/12 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Tom McDonald was invited to speak. He referred to his report, which is on the web site. He referred to the grants currently available from WDC; the theft of the skate board ramp at Cropthorne; the Youth Bus is being made use of; an application for some housing in Cropthorne has been deferred by WDC; improvements to the Cotswold Line; and the New Homes Bonus scheme.

County Cllr Liz Eyre had submitted her apologies.

8/12 REQUEST FOR GRANT – YOUTH BUS

An email from Jane Segar giving details of the Youth Bus scheme, to visit on 7th February and 13th March was circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Davies, and agreed that a grant of £70 be paid. The Clerk was asked to find out how many Charlton residents attend.

9/12 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.10.11 – 02.12.11

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Davies, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney net salary, 01.12.11 – 31.01.12	£451.28
HMRC (third quarter)	£169.00
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (November/December) (3 invoices) £50.03 + £3.00 VAT	£ 53.03
Steve Gwilliam (December)	£132.00
Limebridge Rural Services Ltd (Nov) £172.00 + £34.40 VAT	£206.40
N Power Ltd £146.17 + £7.31 VAT	£153.48
B B Browne (for web site)	£ 17.31
Sheppey Junior Sports Club (S.137)	£ 70.00
<u>Confirmation of payment made 15.12.11:</u>	
Steve Gwilliam (November)	£176.00

10/12 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2012/2013

The report of the Finance Working Group, held on Thursday, 24th November 2011, together with details of the budget for 2012/2013, were circulated with the agenda. Although the income for the current year has increased due to an increase in the Cemetery fees, there is a likely to be a deficit at the end of the year. Expenditure for next year is seen as likely to increase, with the significant items of expenditure being the cost of mowing the Green and the Cemetery. To keep the Precept at the current level is likely to bring about an increased deficit. The FWG recommended that the Precept be increased by 10%, to £11,616, which would mean an average annual increase of £4.48p per household.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Davies to increase the Precept by 10%. An amendment to increase the Precept by 7% failed to be seconded. On a vote it was agreed by 6 votes to one that the Precept be increased by 10% to £11,616.

Members asked that the Cemetery fees be considered at the next meeting.

11/12 GRASS CUTTING TENDERS

The Clerk reported that only two tenders of the four requested had been received, and these were enclosed with the agenda. Cllr Davies and Cllr Mrs Jack had assessed these two tenders, from Limebridge Rural Services Ltd and New Farm Grounds Maintenance, and it was suggested that the better value was the 3 year fixed price contract by the latter. To have a contract with New Farm Grounds Maintenance was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Wood, and agreed.

12/12 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies reported that there had been discussions with the EA for the scheme with householders. There have been minor hold ups with the legal agreements between householders and the EA, but these are expected to be available in February. Work should start in March, as too should the maintenance of Merry Brook.

A Community Flood Plan for Wychavon is being drawn up by WDC and WCC.

13/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

(1) Land between The Dovecote and the Church. Members felt that this area should be cleared to road level and kept clear of growth. The Clerk will check what WCC can advise and confirm that this work can be done by the lengthsman.

(2) Provision of grit bin, Ryden Lane/Brook Lane. The County Council has put a grit bin at this junction, as requested by the Parish Council.

(3) Resurfacing of Ryden Lane and The Bight. WCC have informed the Clerk that resurfacing over and above the planned resurfacing is not able to be done. The resurfacing of roads such as these would have to be considered in another contract.

14/12 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

Members questioned whether the Council's Financial Regulations require that the contract for the lengthsman needs to be put out to tender, as has been the case with the mowing contracts. The Clerk was asked to check the current agreement and with CALC and then to proceed as necessary.

15/12 REGISTRATION OF THE GREEN

The Clerk was asked to discuss with the CALC Executive Officer whether it is advisable for the Parish Council to register The Green (and the Cemetery) with the Land Registry.

16/12 PARISH PLAN

Cllr Davies reported that the questionnaire has been looked at by a third party and, as soon as some amendments have been made, this will be printed and distributed to each household in the Parish, probably during February.

17/12 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 15th December 2011, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

18/12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will be held on Thursday 19th April 2012. It was agreed that the usual format be followed, with representatives of local organizations invited to give reports.

19/12 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported on the New Homes Bonus scheme, details of which had been circulated by the Clerk of the Wychavon Area Meeting of CALC, and were enclosed with the agenda. It seems that the Parish Council will receive £256 from WDC for 6 years because of the information held about empty properties. The Clerk will ascertain how this money is sent to parish councils.

20/12 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Register of Electors 2011/2012
2. WCC - Waste Core Strategy Development Plan document, submitted on 28.11.11
3. WCC – Budget consultation briefing, 18.01.12 at 6.30 pm
4. WDC Community Grants 2012
4. Magazines, etc, including Clerks and Councils Direct;

21/12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

The Chairman reported that the mobile Police Station will be in Charlton on Saturday, 14th January 2012, between 2 pm and 3 pm.

22/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be on Thursday, 8th March 2012, at 7.30 pm

8th March 2012