

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 8th March 2012,
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 (until Item 12, minute no. 34/12)
Cllr Mrs R A Powell
Cllr M P Wood

In attendance: County Cllr Mrs Liz Eyre (until Item 6, minute no. 28/12)
District Cllr Tom McDonald (until Item 6, minute no. 28/12)
CSO Simon Hall
Clive Bostle, Parish Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(3 members of the public (Charlton Flood Committee) were present. The Flood Committee raised the matter of money donated by residents and the PCC for flood alleviation and held by the Parish Council. The Flood Committee expressed a wish for this money to be available for a subscription to the National Flood Forum. The Chairman commented that this is an Item for discussion later in the meeting. CSO Simon Hall introduced himself and said that he wished to attend events in the village, such as the Fayre and Parish Meeting; dates will be made available. He reminded the meeting that the non emergency telephone number for the Police is now 101).

23/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Grazier.

24/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2012

The draft minutes had been circulated previously and it was agreed that the following amendment be made:

Minute 3/12, line 2, first word should read "Mrs".

Subject to this amendment it was proposed by Cllr Eggleston, seconded by Cllr Davies, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

26/12 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Footpath Warden. Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that the booklet of local footpaths "in and around Charlton" is to be delivered to each household with the Parish Plan questionnaire. The Parish Walk is arranged for Saturday 21st July, starting from The Green at 2.30 pm. This will be publicized by WCC and in Five Alive. Mr Bostle explained that he is meeting the landowner regarding the footpath parallel to Boston Lane and there are still problems with FP 46 obstructed by crops. He also commented that he now comments on planning applications in the Evesham area only.

2. **Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall.** There was nothing to report.
3. **Workman Trust/Old School Room.** There was nothing to report.
4. **Current Planning issues.** The Clerk reported that the WDC Enforcement Officer has visited the land adjoining Fenn Croft, Boston Lane and viewed several matters. A planning application has been requested for the solar panels. The Enforcement Officer advises that there were no breaches of planning control at Crow Farm when it was visited.
5. **Damage to street light column no. 13, The Dovecote.** This has now been fully repaired and is working. The Clerk reported that no invoices for the work have been received and he has informed Countrywide Farmers of the current position.
6. **Painting the Lychgate.** This is currently being done.
7. **Youth Bus.** The Clerk reported that he has been told that this is supported by some 20 young people, more than half coming from Charlton.

27/12 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre reminded the Parish Council that her latest report is on the web site. Members enquired whether WCC is still committed to providing funds for flood alleviation purposes and while, it is not likely with the scrapping of the pond scheme, the funding of the Ryden Lane highway drainage work would have been funded from this source. She confirmed that funding for the Resilience Scheme has come from DEFRA. There is some concern that Charlton may be part of a rat run when Evesham bridge is closed and this will be monitored.

District Cllr Tom McDonald was invited to speak. He referred to the possible traffic problems when Evesham bridge is closed; there is concern with the proposal for affordable housing in Crothorne; and WDC has increased the budget for the Economy by some £750,000

28/12 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 02.12.11 – 03.02.12

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

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

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.02.12 – 31.03.12	£506.39
	expenses, 01.11.11 – 29.02.12	£ 44.00
	HMRC (fourth quarter)	£169.20
	Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery, stamps (January/February)	
	(2 invoices) £55.11 + £10.16 VAT	£ 65.27
	Steve Gwilliam (February)	£176.00
<u>Confirmation of payment made 09.02.12:</u>		
	Steve Gwilliam (January)	£176.00

29/12 CEMETERY FEES

This Item was deferred meanwhile Cllr Mrs Jack and Cllr Davies agreed to discuss the fees and to report back at the next meeting.

30/12 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllr Davies, the Flood Warden, reported that the flooded properties have been re-visited and work has been started on flood prevention. The land management scheme has been discussed with the relevant landowners and work on Brook maintenance and clearance is progressing. There will be an event at the end of the current work for the village residents to see the current position. It was noted that WCC has cleared under the Canada Bank bridge and this has made a considerable difference. An alarm system in the village is likely to cost some £600 pa maintenance. The Flood Action Group has written to Peter Luff MP regarding the position of insurance companies over the coming year or so.

31/12 FLOOD ALLEVIATION MONIES

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Parish Council had banked money it had received from Cllr McDonald (£70); Charlton PCC (£270); Brenda Bowley (£170) and Charlton Fair (£37.50); totaling £547.50p. The Chairman has spoken to Rob Miller at the EA who confirmed that the REA would not be requiring these donations, as the pond scheme for Charlton will not proceed, although there is other work being undertaken. Therefore, it was agreed that the Parish Council should contact the donors to ascertain what they would like done with their donation or held for another purpose in connection with flood alleviation, eg the alarm system, subscribing to the National Flood Forum. It was agreed that a meeting of the Flood Working Group be arranged, when the draft letters to the donors can be discussed.

It was noted that a grant towards flood alleviation had been received from Wychavon DC and the Clerk was asked to write to the Deputy Manager at WDC to ascertain the future of this sum.

32/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

(1) Land between The Dovecote and the Church. The Clerk has discussed this with Roy Fullee at WCC and he is looking at the possibilities to improve this strip of land. He will report back to the Clerk in due course.

(2) Badger damage, Canada Bank. It was noted that the badgers have been very active on the north bank of the Canada Bank hill, with significant quantities of soil being deposited on the highway. The Clerk was asked to report this for advice to WCC, as this is in a dangerous location.

33/12 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Clerk gave details of the current procedure regarding liaising with the lengthsman and how the monthly return to the Council is made. The Clerk confirmed that the contract with the lengthsman is a year on year contract, which is has been automatically renewed at the same time as the contract with WCC is renewed. Cllr Wood and Cllr Davies reported on a meeting they had had with Steve Gwilliam regarding aspects of his workload. It was accepted that the Parish Council Members had reviewed Steve Gwilliam's contract and agreed that it be reviewed again in March 2013.

It was agreed that the lengthsman's monthly worksheet is attached to each agenda, for Members to view and the Clerk was asked to report at each meeting a record of complaints made to the PC, not only with highway matters but all matters reported.

34/12 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, after which the Clerk and Cllr Davies will liaise. Cllr Davies confirmed that he still has to arrange a meeting with residents.

35/12 PARISH PLAN

Cllr Davies reported that the questionnaire will be distributed to all households in the Parish later this month and there will be an Open Forum between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 24th March, in the church. Reports of meeting are on the parish web site.

36/12 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 9th February 2012, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

37/12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will be held on Thursday 19th April 2012. The Chairman confirmed that the usual format be followed, and he had invited representatives of local organizations to give reports.

38/12 WORCESTERSHIRE AGREEMENT

This was circulated with the agenda, and discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

39/12 ITEMS FROM CALC

The Chairman reported that Ian Marshall, the Monitoring Officer at WDC, spoke on the changes to the Standards Board and on the impact of Localism.

40/12 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Democracy and Elections Scrutiny Team re examination of number of uncontested elections in 2011
2. Wychavon CAB – offer to talk at PC meeting
3. S Verrinder – seeking information on the war memorial
4. Magazines, etc, including Clerks and Councils Direct; Newslite

41/12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

None.

42/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 19th April 2012, at 7.30 pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday, 10th May 2012, at 7.30 pm